

~~SECRET~~

1018

OIR/DB
OUTGOING

SECRET
PRIORITY

FRP: . . . 3
BRIEF

[REDACTED]

PAGE 001
TOT: 03 [REDACTED] APR 91 DIRECTOR [REDACTED]

SECRET
BRIEF
TO: PRIORITY LATIN AMERICA BRIEF. [REDACTED] DIRECTOR [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: HERewith SUPPORT CABLE FOR LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED]
FOR WEDNESDAY, 03 APRIL 1991.

////
[REDACTED]

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR WEDNESDAY, 03
APRIL 1991.

ITEM

- 1. CHILE: ASSASSINATION FUELING POLITICAL TENSION [REDACTED]
- 2. [REDACTED] NR

- 1. CHILE: ASSASSINATION FUELING POLITICAL TENSION [REDACTED]

THE ASSASSINATION ON MONDAY BY LEFTIST TERRORISTS OF A
PROMINENT CONSERVATIVE ALLY OF ARMY COMMANDER PINOCHET WILL FUEL
CONCERNS ON THE RIGHT ABOUT PRESIDENT AYLWIN'S COUNTERTERRORISM
POLICY AND EXACERBATE POLITICAL TENSION OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN
RIGHTS STRATEGY. [REDACTED]

THE MANUEL RODRIGUEZ PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR
ASSASSINATING SENATOR JAIME GUZMAN, FOUNDER OF A MAJOR FAR-RIGHT
PARTY. THE CHILEAN PRESS HAS LINKED THE KILLING TO A RECENT
GOVERNMENT-COMMISSIONED REPORT THAT DETAILS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY
SECURITY FORCES UNDER THE PINOCHET REGIME BUT DOES NOT CHARGE

~~SECRET~~

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

257

OUTGOING MESSAGE
OUTGOING MESSAGE
OUTGOING MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

██████████ PAGE 002

TOT: 03 ████████ APR 91

DIRECTOR ██████████

INDIVIDUAL PERPETRATORS. THE AYLWIN ADMINISTRATION HAS REQUESTED THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL JUDGE TO INVESTIGATE THE MURDER AND HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR AN ANTITERRORIST COORDINATING GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO POLICE FORCES. ██████████

COMMENT: GUZMAN WAS THE FOURTH AND MOST PROMINENT VICTIM ASSASSINATED BY THE LEFT SINCE THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT WAS FINISHED. HIS DEATH IS LIKELY TO DEEPEN FEAR OF LEFTIST RETRIBUTION AMONG FORMER HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS. THE MILITARY'S FAR-RIGHT POLITICAL ALLIES, ON THE DEFENSIVE SINCE THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT WAS RELEASED, MAY TRY TO RECUPERATE BY CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT'S COUNTERTERRORISM PROGRAM. PINOCHET MAY SEIZE ON PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT TERRORISM TO CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT AND PLAY UP THE LAW-AND-ORDER RECORD OF HIS REGIME. ██████████

AYLWIN MAY ALSO COME UNDER RENEWED PRESSURE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE FROM LEFT-LEANING PARTIES IN HIS OWN COALITION. THE SOCIALISTS, FOR EXAMPLE, MAY TRY TO SEIZE ON THE ASSASSINATIONS AS FURTHER TESTIMONY TO THE NEED TO TRY HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS, ARGUING THAT AYLWIN'S MODERATE STRATEGY HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE JUSTICE OR ENCOURAGE RECONCILIATION. ██████████

AYLWIN'S DECISION TO PUT THE POLICE IN CHARGE OF ANTITERRORIST COORDINATION SHOWS HIS DETERMINATION TO AVOID GIVING THE ARMY THE INTERNAL SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES IT HAD UNDER PINOCHET'S REGIME. DESPITE THE SERVICE'S SUPERIOR CAPABILITIES. ALTHOUGH THE PARAMILITARY NATIONAL POLICE HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS IN WRAPPING UP TERRORIST LEADERS RECENTLY, THE FORCE IS INEXPERIENCED IN COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING ON EXTREMIST GROUPS. THE INVESTIGATIVE POLICE IS UNDERGOING A PURGE TO RID IT OF CORRUPTION AND CAN OFFER LITTLE SUPPORT. ██████████

2. ██████████

NR

DECL OADR DRV MULTIPLE ██████████

END OF MESSAGE ██████████

~~SECRET~~

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~