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I-09370/79

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

#119

Box 10

9 OCT 1979

Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: DEC 28 2017

Dear Cy:

The recent decision by the Supreme Court of Chile to deny our extradition request in the Letelier case is lamentable and a most unfortunate turn of events. Some voices, both on the Hill and within the Administration, are not only decrying the decision but suggesting counter-measures which I fear will merely erode further our ability to influence political developments in the Southern Cone area as well as Chile's attitude on such potentially troublesome issues as the Beagle Channel and Bolivia's outlet to the sea.

Given the serious problems we have in Central America and the instability in the Caribbean, this is scarcely an opportune time to signal a further disengagement from the Hemisphere by precipitately cutting our military representation in Chile. I think it is particularly important at this time to keep our attaches and MILGP in Chile to support our intelligence requirements and maintain some communication with their military services. Even so, the size of our presence will decline somewhat because of Congressional legislation that has cut off Foreign Military sales to Chile.

Our estrangement with Argentina has permitted the Soviets to acquire some access to that regime particularly in the military area; it would be especially unfortunate if we were to present the Soviets with new opportunities in Chile by cutting our military representation even further.

cc: Dr Brzezinski

Harold

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Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 28 DEC 2017 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: ☒ Deny in Full: ☐
Declassify in Part: ☐
Reason:
MDR: 17 -M- 2013

5 U.S.C. § 552

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092 Chile

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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

08 OCT 1979

In reply refer to:
I-9370/79

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: U.S. Response to Supreme Court Decision in Chile

I recommend that you sign the attached memo to Cy Vance concerning the future of our security relations with Chile.

As you know, the Supreme Court of Chile recently denied our extradition request for the three Chilean officers implicated in the Letelier/Moffitt assassination here in 1976. This decision places us at a crucial point in our bilateral relations, which if we further isolate Chile, would create additional problems for us in this hemisphere. We need to clearly state our concerns now, before the administration's decision is made concerning our response toward Chile.

The decline of our security ties with Latin America in the past decade has been dramatic. We cannot afford to let this trend continue. We may find many of the Latin regimes distasteful. But it would be folly to react with petulance toward them in ways which merely diminish our influence further.

I will also have my staff prepare a paper on this subject for your next VBB lunch on Friday, 12 October.

Attachment
a/s

David E. McGiffert
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

~~CLASSIFIED BY DIRECTOR, IA (SASD/ISA)~~
~~DECLASSIFY ON 8 October 1985~~

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Prepared by:
LtCol Briggs/IA
8 Oct 79/4C800/79301

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✓ R&C

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
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Washington, D.C. 20520

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~~Exempt from automatic declassification~~
~~EO 13526, recommended by [signature]~~
~~Section 2.4.1(1)(2) 2005-0-212~~
~~Date of Review Dec 21, 2020~~

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