

## THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D C. 20301

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BALLO

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 2 8 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 countermeasures 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.

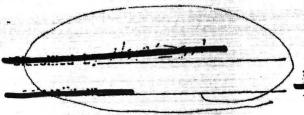
Our estrangement with Argentina has permitted the Soviets to acquire some access to that regime particularly in the military area; it would be especially unfortunate if we were to present the Soviets with new opportunities in Chile by cutting our military representation even further.

cc: Dr Brzezinski

Harold



Office of the Secretary of Defense	5 U.S. C. §552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS	
Date: 28 DEC 2017 Authority: EO	13526
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## ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

08 OCT 1979

In reply refer to: 1-9370/79

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL Authority: EO 13526

Chief, Records & Declass Div. WHS

Date: DEC 2 8 2017

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 assasination here in 1976. This decision places us at at 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

PENSON POLICE TO THE CONSTITUTE OF STREET

David E. McGiffert
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

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



## THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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

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