

CONFIDENTIAL

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SANTIAGO 6682

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PASS TO S/AL
ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/16/87 (WALTERS, VERNON A.)
TAGS: PBOR, AR, CI, VT
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET

1. C- ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THIS MORNING PRESIDENT PINOCHET PULLED ME ASIDE FOR A PRIVATE MEETING AFTER AMBASSADOR LANDAU AND I HAD BREAKFAST WITH HIM AND VARIOUS CHILEAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS. RECUPERATING FROM A COLD, PRESIDENT PINOCHET SPOKE HOARSELY BUT APPEARED IN GOOD SPIRITS THROUGHOUT.
3. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ARGENTINE RIGIDITY OVER THE PAPAL DECISION ON BEAGLE CHANNEL. ARGENTINA'S "ENORMOUS MILITARY EXPENDITURES" ARE FAR BEYOND WHAT CHILE CAN AFFORD AND WORRY HIM INTENSELY. WAR WOULD DISCREDIT THE POPE, WEAKEN BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND DEMONSTRATE THE INABILITY OF MILITARY GOVERNMENTS TO KEEP THE PEACE, AND ENCOURAGE COMMUNIST ELEMENTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES. HE SAID CHILE ACCEPTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 06682 161710Z

THE PAPAL DECISION, IS NOT SEEKING U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THE MATTER, BUT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOVIET EFFORTS TO EXACERBATE THE CONTROVERSY. PINOCHET EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ECONOMY AND WILL MEET NEXT WEEK TO DECIDE

Declassified by Oscar J Olson
Senior Reviewer
Declassified on 20111117

WHETHER TO RESTRICT IMPORTS.

4. I RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE UPON THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE BEAGLE DISPUTE. ARGENTINA WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO REJECT THE PAPAL DECISION. CHILE HAS WON. THE CHILEANS SHOULD, HOWEVER, SHOW PATIENCE AND, PERHAPS, MAGNANIMITY TO ALLOW THE ARGENTINES TO FIND A FACE SAVING FORMULA FOR ACCEPTANCE. U.S. INTERVENTION WOULD ONLY ALLOW THE ARGENTINES TO CLAIM THAT THEY ARE RESISTING U.S. PRESSURE. PINOCHET AGREED.

5. PINOCHET SAID HE APPRECIATED THE NEED FOR "TRANQUILITY" IN CHILE FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WHILE THE REPEAL OF HUMPHREY-KENNEDY MOVES THROUGH THE HOUSE. I POINTED OUT THAT HE COULD BE HELPFUL BY NOT OFFERING FURTHER AMMUNITION TO HIS ENEMIES IN THE U.S. PINOCHET UNDERSTOOD THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROBLEM. HE BROACHED THE SUBJECT HIMSELF.

6. HE ASKED ME TO SEND HIS BEST WISHES TO PRESIDENT REAGAN AND SECRETARY HAIG.

7. VARIOUS CHILEAN OFFICIALS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE HEALTH OF AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK AND SEND THEIR BEST WISHES FOR HER RECOVERY. I ASSURED THEM THAT THERE ARE NO GROUNDS FOR CONCERN AND THAT SHE IS BACK IN HER OFFICE ALREADY.

LANDAU

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