

SANFO 003/16

DD F C O 161530Z DEC 83

GRS 280

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 161530Z DEC 83

FM SANTIAGO 161445Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 946 OF 16 DECEMBER

INFO SAVING WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK.

RESIGNATION OF CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. IT BECAME KNOWN LAST NIGHT THAT PROFESSOR MIGUEL SCHWEITZER'S RESIGNATION "FOR PERSONAL REASONS" HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY PINOCHET WITH EFFECT MONDAY 19 DECEMBER : AND IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE JAIME DEL VALLE THE PRESENT MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

2. BOTH SCHWEITZER AND OTHERS CLOSE TO HIM TELL ME THAT THE PREPONDERANT REASONS FOR HIS RESIGNATION AFTER ONLY 10 MONTHS ARE INDEED PERSONAL. HE HAS BEEN CONSIDERING RESIGNATION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BECAUSE HE FEELS HE IS EXPENDING GREAT EFFORT ON AN IMPOSSIBLE JOB. HE WANTS TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIS FAMILY AND HIS HEALTH HAS SUFFERED RECENTLY. ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT ADMIT IT TO ME, I GUESS ALSO THAT HE AND HIS LAW PARTNERS, ALL OF WHOM HAVE SERVED AND TWO OF WHOM ARE STILL SERVING IN PINOCHET'S GOVERNMENT, ARE CONCERNED NOT TO BE TARRED WITH THAT BRUSH FOR TOO MUCH LONGER.

3. THERE IS MUCH SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE POLITICAL REASONS FOR THE RESIGNATION, EG



- A) PINOCHET'S ANNOYANCE OVER CERTIFICATION OF ARGENTINA AND THE  
LATEST UN VOTE ON HUMAN RIGHTS SEMI COLON  
B) ANNOYANCE OF MERINO (AND POSSIBLY OTHERS) ABOUT SCHWEITZER'S  
REFUSAL TO SUPPORT THE US INVASION OF GRENADA AND ACCEPTANCE OF  
COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL FOR TALKS WITH BOLIVIA SEMI COLON  
C) DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN SCHWEITZER AND OTHERS IN THE CABINET  
ABOUT THE PACE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL ADVANCE.

SOME OF THESE FACTORS MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECISION, BUT I  
DOUBT WHETHER ANY WAS PREDOMINANT.

4. THERE ARE ALSO RUMOURS OF OTHER IMMINENT CABINET CHANGES,  
MAINLY INVOLVING THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR (JARPA) AND FINANCE  
(CACERES). JAIME DEL VALLE IS AN AGREEABLE BUT RATHER COLOURLESS  
LAWYER WHO IS LOYAL TO PINOCHET, BUT WHO WILL PROBABLY NOT BE  
NEARLY AS EFFECTIVE AS SCHWEITZER IN DEFENDING THE REGIME. A  
PERSONALITY NOTE WAS SENT TO S A M D ON 22 FEBRUARY.

5. SEE ALSO MY M I F T .

6. F C O PLEASE PASS SAVING TO WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK.

NNNN

SENT AT/RECD AT 161522ZP L N //

PSE????KK

GS





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister.

To be aware.

20 December 1983

A.S.C. 22.

Dear John,

As you may have heard, the Chilean Foreign Minister, Professor Miguel Schweitzer, has just resigned. The Prime Minister may like to see the enclosed copy of our Ambassador's telegram from Santiago, number 946, which gives the background.

The Foreign Secretary has sent Professor Schweitzer a short personal message.

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street