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FOR UNDERSECRETARY ARMACOST

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, CI
SUBJ: KENNEDY VISIT: RECOMMENDATION THAT CHILEAN
- AMBASSADOR BE CALLED IN

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 302
- (B) 85 SANTIAGO 9029

1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.

2. RECOMMEND THAT YOU CALL IN THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS OUR SURPRISE AND DISPLEASURE AT THE INABILITY OF THE CHILEAN POLICE TO MAINTAIN ORDER DURING SENATOR KENNEDY'S ARRIVAL, DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF POLICE, WARNINGS FROM THE EMBASSY THAT DEMONSTRATIONS WERE BEING PREPARED, AND ASSURANCES FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED. TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE, OUR PROTEST SHOULD BE REGISTERED ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, BOTH BECAUSE THE INCIDENT WILL STILL BE FRESH AND BECAUSE AMBASSADOR ERRASURIZ MAY BE COMING BACK TO SANTIAGO AGAIN SOON.

3. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT KENNEDY WAS OUTRAGED, NOT ONLY BY THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST HIM, BUT BY THE FACT THAT IT VERY LIKELY RECEIVED ENCOURAGEMENT AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FROM THE GOC. HE HAD BEEN SHOWN IN BUENOS AIRES SIRO REPORTS THAT SUCH ENCOURAGEMENT WAS BEING GIVEN. FROM EYEWITNESS REPORTS WE HAVE HAD, THE SAME THOUGHT CLEARLY CROSSED THE MIND OF THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE POLICE DETACHMENT AT THE AIRPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR HIS HESITATION IN CLEARING OUT THE MOB. KENNEDY TOLD ME HE WAS CONSIDERING CALLING THE SECRETARY ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND ASKING HIM TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE CHILEANS HOW SERIOUSLY WE TAKE THIS KIND OF THING.

4. I HAD TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER DEL VALLE THAT WE HAD RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT AN ORGANIZATION CLOSELY LINKED TO THE GOC WAS PLANNING DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE SENATOR, AND THAT WE WERE CONCERNED THAT THESE COULD GET OUT OF HAND, AND RECEIVED EXPLICIT ASSURANCES IN TWO SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS ON JANUARY 13, THAT ALL NECESSARY SECURITY MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT VIOLENCE DURING THE SENATOR'S VISIT. [REDACTED] SAME ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN ME THREE WEEKS EARLIER (REF B), AND ERRASURIZ

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MADE SIMILAR PROMISES TO KENNEDY IN WASHINGTON. DEL VALLE TOLD ME INSTRUCTIONS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE HAD EMANATED FROM THE PRESIDENT, AND HE REPEATED THAT PUBLICLY YESTERDAY.

5. CONVERSATION WITH ERRASURIZ SHOULD ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THE POLICE DID FINALLY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE SENATOR AND ME TO LEAVE THE AIRPORT BY MAKING TWO HELICOPTERS AVAILABLE AND THAT THEY RESPONDED VERY COOPERATIVELY TO OUR REQUEST THAT THEY BE MADE AVAILABLE AGAIN FOR THE SENATOR'S DEPARTURE. (AIR FORCE TOLD US THEY HAD ONLY ONE HELICOPTER IN SANTIAGO AND IT WAS DOWN FOR LACK OF U.S. PARTS.) POLICE SEEMED TO GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER AS THE DAY PROGRESSED, POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF MY CALL TO GENERAL STANGE, AND THERE WAS NO JANUARY 16, TO EXPRESS THE SENATOR'S AND MY THANKS THAT AFTER THE DEPLORABLE BEGINNING, THINGS DID GET PULLED INTO SHAPE

6. I KNOW THIS IS VERY SHORT NOTICE AND THAT IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO TAKE THIS ON GIVEN YOUR OTHER CONCERNS. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF YOUR TWO CONVERSATIONS WITH DEL VALLE, THE LIKELIHOOD OF GOVERNMENT CONNIVANCE IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS, AND THE SENATOR'S CONCERNS, I THINK IT MAKES SENSE FOR YOU TO DO IT. BARNES

END OF MESSAGE

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