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	3	6	9	12

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SUBJECT: DEATH OF CHILEAN DEFENSE MINISTER BONILLA

REF : [Redacted]

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GENERAL OSCAR BONILLA REPORTEDLY WAS KILLED TODAY IN A HELICOPTER CRASH. HE WAS A CLOSE CONFIDENT OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND HIS DEATH REMOVES AN INFLUENTIAL VOICE OF MODERATION FROM THE PRESIDENT'S INNER CIRCLE.

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE CRASH WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT, BUT THERE UN<sup>D</sup>EN<sup>B</sup>DEDLY WILL BE SOME SPECULATION IN SANTIAGO THAT FOUL PLAY WAS INVOLVED.

GENERAL HECTOR BRAVO NOW BECOMES THE ARMY'S SECOND RANKING OFFICER, AND HE MAY INHERIT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. BRAVO HAS

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BEEN SERVING AS ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF AND HAS NOT BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED IN GOVERNMENTAL MATTERS SINCE THE MILITARY TAKEOVER.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

DATE: 3 MARCH 1975

[Redacted]

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