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DIST 20 AUGUST 1974

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1. IN HID-AUGUST, GENERAL GUSTAVO L E I G H. AIR FORCE

THAT HE WAS PRESSING FOR A QUICK REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE ASSEMBLED AGAINST THE DETAINED OFFICIALS OF THE FORMER POPULAR UNITY (U.P.) GOVERNMENT. LEIGH BELIEVES THAT THOSE U.P. LEADERS, AGAINST WHOM THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO WARRENT A TRIAL, SHOULD BE RELEASED AND EXILED FROM CHILE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

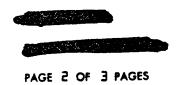
2. LEIGH SAID THAT ADMIRAL JOSE MERING, NAVY MEMBER OF THE JUNTA, IS IN ACCORD WITH THE ABOVE SUGGESTION. JUNTA PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET IS STILL UNDECIDED AND.

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ACCORDING TO LEIGH, PINOCHET IS BEING PRESSED BY SOME ARMY
GENERALS TO REJECT LEIGH'S PROPOSAL. GENERAL CESAR

M E N D O Z A, CARABINERO MEMBER OF THE JUNTA: ALSO HAS NOT
COMMITTED HIMSELF ON THE PROPOSAL.

THAT SINCE PINOCHET'S APPOINTMENT
AS CHIEF OF STATE, RELATIONS SETWEEN PINOCHET ON THE ONE HAND
AND MERINU AND LEITH ON THE OTHER HAVE SECOME SLIGHTLY STRAINED.
AS EXAMPLES HE CITED A RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW IN WHICH PINOCHET
SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN PLANNING THE OVERTHROW OF FORMER PRESIDENT
SALVADOR A L L E N D E FOR A YEAR PRIOR TO THE 11 SEPTEMBER
1973 COUP D'ETAT. LEIGH AND MERINO CONFRONTED PINOCHET REGARDING
THE STATEMENT AND SAID THAT TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE HIS COMMITMENT
AND PARTICIPATION DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL
HOVE. ACCORDING TO LEIGH, PINOCHET HAS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED HITH THE CRITICISM AND SAID THAT IN THE FUTURE HE WOULD
CLEAR SIMILAR PRESS RELEASES HITH THE OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS.

4, LEIGH SAID THAT HE AND HERING WERE ALSO OPPOSED TO PINOCHET'S DECISION TO REPLACE THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL. PINOCHET TOLD THE OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE BECAUSE THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL HAD FIRED ONLY FIVE OF 12 IDENTIFIED COM-

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MUNISTS WORKING IN HIS OFFICE. LEIGH AND MERINO ARGUED THAT
WHILE THIS MAY BE TRUE, THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL WAS PERSONALLY

DOING A VERY GOOD JOB AND WAS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE JUNTA.

COMMENT: THE PRESS OF 12 AUGUST REPORTED THAT THE

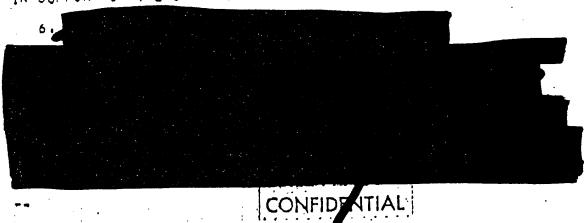
COMPTROLLER HAD SUBMITTED HIS REQUEST FOR RETIREMENT, INTER
ESTINGLY, THE PRESS OF 19 AUGUST REPORTED THAT HE WITHDREW

THE REQUEST.

5. LEIGH TOLD THE GENERALS THAT HE HAS ALSO EXPRESSED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA OF ALLOWING CIVIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE 11 SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY TAKEOVER.

LEIGH WAS

ALSO OPPOSED TO THE IDEA OF CREATING A NATIONAL CIVIC MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT.)



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