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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FM CIA

TO RUEHFB/FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE

BT

~~SECRET~~. CITE CIA 273561.

FBI: FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION/MR. [REDACTED]

(ONLY) (b)(6)  
(b)(7)(c)

*Chilbon*

STATE: EXCLUSIVE FOR INR//MR. WILLIAM G. BOWDLER (ONLY)

~~SECRET~~ -- WARNING NOTICE - SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

AND METHODS INVOLVED -- NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS -- [REDACTED] (b)(1)

[REDACTED] -- DISSEMINATION (b)(3)

AND EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR 2 AUG 13 1978

REC-53

*185-781-3162*

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SI-126

*185 247*

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SUBJECT: CLAIM BY THE CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY THAT IT HAS EVIDENCE

DIRECTLY LINKING THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN ITALY

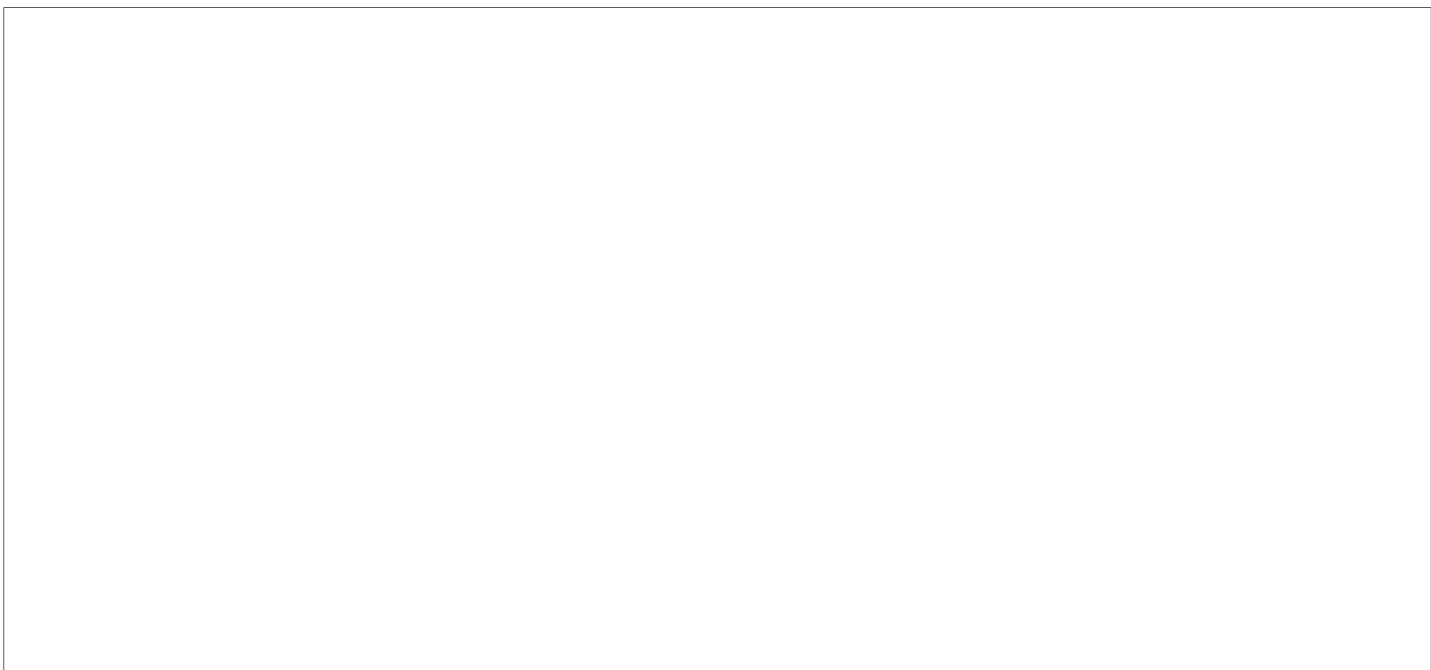
AGAINST BERNARDO LEIGHTON AND THE MURDER OF ORLANDO

57 SEP 15 1978

*8/14/78*

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LETELIER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

2. A CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCCH) DELEGATION WHICH VISITED PCI HEADQUARTERS IN ROME ON 31 JULY 1978 CLAIMED THAT THE PCCH HAS EVIDENCE WHICH DIRECTLY TIES TOGETHER THE OCTOBER 1975 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN ITALY AGAINST BERNARDO L E I G H T O N, LEADER OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) IN EXILE, AND THE MURDER OF ORLANDO L E T E L I E R, FORMER CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER. MEMBERS OF THE PCCH DELEGATION SAID THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHILEAN

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PRESIDENT GENERAL AUGUSTO P I N O C H E T IS CLEAR IN THIS CASE AS WELL AS IN THE CASE OF CHILEAN POLITICAL PRISONERS -- CASES WHICH THE PCCH BELIEVES ARE THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT CAUSES THAT SHOULD BE PROMOTED INTERNATIONALLY.

3. THE CHILEANS SAID THAT SOME MONTHS AGO THEY HAD REQUESTED THAT THE PCI ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH FRANCESCO ~~X~~ C O S S I G A. THEN ITALIAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR, SO THAT THEY COULD PRESENT THE EVIDENCE THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE COLLECTED, LINKING THE TWO ATTEMPTS. BEFORE THE PCI COULD ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW, ALDO M O R O WAS KIDNAPPED AND KILLED, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAD BECOME FULLY OCCUPIED WITH THE MORO CASE, AND THEN THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR RESIGNED.  COMMENT: COSSIGA WAS KNOWN TO HAVE HAD DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE PCI AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PCI COULD HAVE ARRANGED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PCCH.) NOW THE PCCH WANTS THE MATTER REOPENED. GIANCARLO ~~X~~ P A J E T T A, THE PCI FOREIGN Italy POLICY SPOKESMAN, SUGGESTED THAT THE PCCH TAKE ITS EVIDENCE TO THE NEWSPAPERS. OTHER PCI OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, SAID IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE EVIDENCE WERE SHOWN TO THE PCI BEFORE ANY SUCH STEP IS TAKEN.

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4.

[REDACTED]

THE WIFE OF

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(b)(3)

LETELIER'S ASSASSIN (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) HAS SAID THAT SHE IS AFRAID TO TELL WHETHER HER HUSBAND WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE LEIGHTON ATTACK BUT POSTCARDS WHICH THEY SENT FROM ROME ARE STILL IN EXISTENCE.

[REDACTED]

THE ATTEMPTED

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ASSASSINATION OF LEIGHTON WAS ORGANIZED BY THE CHILEAN DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (DINA) AND THAT THE NAMES OF THE PERSONS INVOLVED ARE KNOWN TO THE PCCH.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

COMMENT: WE

HAVE NO INFORMATION TO INDICATE THAT THE PCCH HAS ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE DINA ORGANIZED THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF BERNARDO LEIGHTON. THE PCCH IS PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO STATEMENTS MADE PUBLICLY BY ~~MARIANA CALLEJAS~~ THE WIFE OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY, THAT SHE CANNOT DENY THAT SHE AND HER HUSBAND WERE IN ROME AND BUENOS AIRES AROUND THE TIMES THAT THE LEIGHTON ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND THE ASSASSINATION OF CARLOS PRATS OCCURRED, SINCE THEY SENT POSTCARDS TO FRIENDS IN CHILE WHILE VISITING THESE CITIES. CALLEJAS DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER, BUT SHE SAID NOTHING TO DENY THE IMPLICATION THAT TOWNLEY COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THESE CRIMES.)

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5. [redacted] TO HAVE AN EYE WITNESS,  
 SOMEONE WHO LIVED NEAR THE LEIGHTON RESIDENCE IN ROME, WHO SAYS  
 THAT SHE SAW IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE LEIGHTON HOME THE PERSON  
 WHOM THE PCCH KNOWS TO BE THE LETELIER ASSAILANT. [redacted] COMMENT:  
 THE PCI/PCCH MEETING DID NOT RESOLVE HOW THE "EVIDENCE" OF THE PCCH  
 WOULD BE HANDLED.)

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6. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE FBI INFORM MR. EUGENE PROPPER,  
 ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OF THE ABOVE  
 INFORMATION AND RESTRICTIONS ON ITS USE. THE U.S. AMBASSADORS IN  
 SANTIAGO AND ROME AND THE FBI REPRESENTATIVE NOW IN SANTIAGO ARE  
 BEING INFORMED.

7. CLASSIFIED BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. XGDS-2.

BT

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