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Chile Project (#S199900006)

U.S. Department of State

Release Excise Deny Declassify

Exemption(s) _____

(E780)

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ACTION ARA-10

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-08 SY-04 NIC-01 USSS-00 /066 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0810

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11(52: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CI, AR

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL PRATS

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 5955; (B) BUENOS AIRES 7421

1. SANTIAGO PRESS OCT 24 PUBLISHED WIRE SERVICE REPORT FROM BUENOS AIRES ON COMMUNIQUE FROM CHILEAN EMBASSY IN BA ENERGETICALLY DENYING COMPLICITY OF ANY EMBASSY MEMBER IN PRATS' DEATH. EMBASSY REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN TOLD BY PRATS THAT HIS LIFE HAD BEEN THREATENED AND INFORMED GOA, WHICH PUT SPECIAL PROTECTION ON HIM. COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCED ANTI-CHILEAN CAMPAIGN. REPORT SAID ARGENTINE PRESS HAD PUBLISHED NEWS FROM ABROAD INDICATING PRATS WAS KILLED BY CHILEAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN ARGENTINA ON ORDERS FROM CHILEAN NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (DINA).

2. COMMENT: RADIO MOSCOW BROADCASTS RECEIVED HERE PUSHED THE THEME OF DINA INVOLVEMENT, ON BASIS OF RATIONALE THAT CHILEAN MILITARY LEADERS WERE AFRAID PRATS WOULD ATTRACT LOYALTY OF CHILEAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL DISAFFECTED WITH PERFORMANCE OF JUNTA.

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3. THIS EXPLANATION MAKES NO SENSE TO US, NOR DO WE SEE SIGNIFICANT INTEREST IN KILLING PRATS OF ANY OTHER CHILEAN GROUP WITH CAPABILITY OF DOING SO.

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