



6-2-87

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# Department of State

## UNCLASSIFIED

# TELEGRAM

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ACTION L-03

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 H-01 NSCE-00  
ARA-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 INRE-00 DS-01 DSE-00 SCT-02  
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*FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1685  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES*

Chile Project (#S199900030)  
U.S. Department of State

Release  Excise \_\_\_\_\_ Deny \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify: In Part \_\_\_\_\_ In Full   
Exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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DEPARTMENT FOR DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISOR KOZAK

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, CI

*SUBJ: PRATS FAMILY AGAIN SEEKS INFORMATION*

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 1312 ✓

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1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON MAY 28 THE TWO DAUGHTERS OF THE LATE GENERAL CARLOS PRATS, WHO WAS ASSASSINATED WITH HIS WIFE IN A CAR BOMB EXPLOSION IN SEPTEMBER, 1974 IN BUENOS AIRES, AGAIN APPROACHED EMBOFF TO SEEK ASSISTANCE. THEY NOTED THAT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN ASKED BY THE JUDGE IN BUENOS AIRES WHO IS INVESTIGATING THEIR PARENTS' DEATHS TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS WHICH MIGHT PERTAIN TO THEIR PARENTS. THEY REITERATED THEIR EARLIER REQUEST FOR STATE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM OTHER U.S. AGENCIES AND FROM FERNANDEZ LARIOS. EMBOFF STATED THAT HE WOULD

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PASS THEIR REQUEST ON TO THE DEPARTMENT BUT

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THAT WE HAD NO INFORMATION OTHER THAN THAT MENTIONED IN THEIR LAST VISIT REGARDING WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, FERNANDEZ LARIOS MIGHT HAVE HAD IN THE ASSASSINATION OF THEIR PARENTS.

3. THEY INDICATED THEY BELIEVE FERNANDEZ LARIOS PROBABLY PLAYED A MINOR ROLE, IF ANY AT ALL, IN THIS MURDER, BUT THEY WANTED TO EXPLORE ALL AVENUES AVAILABLE TO THEM. THEY ALSO ASKED IF WE HAD ANY INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ASSIST IN HAVING THE ARGENTINE JUDGE PRESENT LETTERS ROGATORY TO MICHAEL TOWNLEY, AS THEY ACCEPT THAT HE CANNOT BE EXTRADICTED TO ARGENTINA TO TESTIFY. EMBOFF ASKED THEM IF THIS ROUTE HAD NOT BEEN ATTEMPTED BEFORE, AND THEY RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE NOT CERTAIN.

4. TURNING TO THE ON-GOING EFFORTS BY THE ARGENTINE JUDGE TO PRESENT LETTERS ROGATORY TO SEVERAL CHILEANS, MOST OF THEM APPARENTLY RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS WHO MIGHT HAVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PRATS MURDERS, THE WOMEN STATED THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE INTEREST ON THE PART OF THESE CHILEAN OFFICIALS TO COOPERATE IN THIS MATTER. THEY NOTED THAT ONE OFFICIAL, RETIRED GENERAL LUIS RAMIREZ PINEDA, WHO IS PRESENTLY THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LA SERENA AND WHO WAS CHILE'S MILITARY ATTACHE IN ARGENTINA AT THE TIME OF THE PRATS ASSASSINATION, HAS RESPONDED TO LETTERS ROGATORY FROM THE ARGENTINE COURTS. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT IT CONTAINS NO NEW

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INFORMATION. THEY DOUBT IF THE OTHER CHILEANS BEING CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE WRITTEN TESTIMONY WILL ACTUALLY COMPLY.

5. COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER TOWNLEY HAS ALREADY ANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM ARGENTINE COURT; IF NOT, WHETHER ARGENTINA HAS THAT OPTION STILL OPEN TO IT; AND WHAT IS STATUS OF QUERIES TO FERNANDEZ ON THE PRATS CASE.  
BARNES

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