

UNCLASSIFIED

RA 88
P
B1

September 4, 1970

MEMORANDUM

TO: ARA - Mr. Charles A. Meyer
FROM: INE/DDC - Wymberley Coerr
SUBJECT: Chile -- Post-September 4 Operations
A Personal View

Chile Project (#S199900030)
U.S. Department of State
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Exemption(s) B1

1. Our basic problem, if the popular election of September 4 places Allende in close competition for the presidency in the congressional election of October 24, is to weigh the alternative risks to the U.S. that would be posed by

- a) an Allende government, and
- b) our attempt to block his presidency [

2. The case [] has been well argued. In essence: Allende hopes to establish a Marxist state, to expropriate U.S. investment, to follow a foreign policy friendly to Cuba and inimical to the U.S. I believe we have not given enough weight to forces in Chile that might frustrate his plans -- an intact military that has not oppressed or been defeated by the people (unlike Cuba when Castro took power); and powerful groups in labor, business and industry and on the land. Nevertheless, the penalties of an Allende victory would obviously be heavy.

3. In attempting to assess the penalties of being caught in our presently proposed operation, I believe it helpful to compare them with our hitherto most costly Latin American failure in covert operations -- Pigs' Bay. The American President was able to assume responsibility for that operation. I doubt he could do so for []

Such action is beyond the pale, and evidence of our involvement would hurt our prestige and effectiveness in Latin America (not to mention the United States Government's reputation with its own citizens) even more than did Pigs' Bay. I assess the potential penalties [] as greater than those of an Allende victory.

Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. **SECRET**
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4. [_____]

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5. We can always deny accusations, whether false or true, but if accusations in this case were supported by evidence our denials could not avert the heavy penalties involved. The only sure way to do so is to refrain []

Ref: TDCS 314/09784-70
dat 9/17/70 Cline

(See JRC)

cc: LNR - Mr. Cline

LNR/DCC:WCoerr:ksm

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