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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: PRIORITY

Date: 03/27/2000

To: Investigative Services

Attn: [REDACTED]

Criminal Investigative

Attn: [REDACTED]

Santiago
Washington FieldAttn: SSA [REDACTED]
Attn: Legat [REDACTED]

Attn: SAC, Ken Caruso.

ASAC [REDACTED]

SSA [REDACTED]

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From: Washington Field Office

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

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(U) Case ID #: (S) 185A-WF-184222 (Pending)-3528

(U) Title: (S) CHILBOM,
MAJOR CASE;
OO:WF

(U) Synopsis: (S) To request that DTOU obtain Attorney General approval for the possible interview of potential witnesses and others in Chile in this matter.

(S) ~~Derived From: G-1~~
~~Declassify On: X-1~~

Details: (U) In March 2000, a team of DOJ Trial Attorneys, FBI agents and translators arrived in Santiago, Chile, to conduct over forty interviews of former and current high ranking civilian and military officials of Government of Chile (GOC), through a letter rogatory request made through the DOJ to Chilean authorities. These interviews which will be conducted starting 03/28/2000 and continuing for several weeks, by Chilean criminal court judge Juaquin Billard. DOJ Trail Attorney's [REDACTED] and FBI agents, will be in a nearby room when the judge will be questioning the witnesses. DOJ hired Chilean attorney [REDACTED] will be actually present when the interviews are taking place.

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(U) As receiving offices are aware the FBI has been aggressively pursuing leads in the major case relating to the assassination of former Chilean Foreign Minister, Orlando

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SEARCHED [REDACTED]

SERIALIZED [REDACTED]

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INDEXED [REDACTED]

FILED [REDACTED]

08/ [REDACTED] 02.12.00 [REDACTED]

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(U) To: Investigative Services From: Washington Field Office
Re: ~~(S)~~ 185A-WF-184222, 03/27/2000

Letelier, and his secretary Ronnie Moffit, in Washington D.C., on September 21, 1976. This assassination of Minister Letelier and his U.S. citizen assistant, was a particularly notorious and vicious criminal act committed on U.S. soil.

(U) For years this case has been a priority of the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), which has vigorously pursued the case. The actual bombers have been identified, convicted and incarcerated in the U.S. In addition,

[redacted] were indicted but efforts to extradite them were unsuccessful. [redacted] were prosecuted under Chilean law for this crime, and are still in jail in Chile. Notwithstanding such convictions, there are still unresolved aspects of the case. The intellectual authors of the crime are still being sought and this may lead to the highest levels of the former Chilean government, which at the time of the bombing was led by General Augusto Pinochet.

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(U) As stated, the DOJ/FBI has prepared a formal and sealed letter rogatory for the GOC, requesting the interview of 46 witnesses and potential targets in Chile to determine if there is any additional evidence that could shed light on these murders. This case is particularly sensitive due to the recent return to Chile of former dictator Pinochet from the United Kingdom, whose extradition was being sought by Spain in connection to human rights abuses during his regime.

(U) The case continues to make front page news in Chile. The DOJ trial attorney's and FBI agents have already been photographed by the media and their names are being quoted in the newspapers.

(U) ~~(S)~~ The Attorney General Guidelines for Extraterritorial FBI operations and Criminal Investigations requires approval from the Attorney General under sensitive circumstances. Sensitive circumstances include "other activity that may have a significant adverse impact on foreign relations with, or law enforcement activities within, any country or group of countries. In applying this section it is intended that any activity that reasonably could be expected to cause significant diplomatic, governmental or public controversy if disclosed should be treated as involving sensitive circumstances."

(U) ~~(S)~~ It is anticipated that because of the extensive publicity this case is generating and because of the anticipated

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cooperation of interested parties, that individuals and potential witnesses may reach out for Legat Santiago to cooperate in this case and/or voluntarily provide information relative to the investigation. [REDACTED]

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