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U.S. Department of State
Release Excise Deny
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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, CI
SUBJ: LETELIER CASE: MARIANA CALLEJAS CALLS ON
POLITICAL SECTION

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: MARIANA CALLEJAS MADE A SURPRISE
VISIT TO THE EMBASSY ON MARCH 31. SHE EXPRESSED
A WILLINGNESS TO TESTIFY BEFORE A U.S. GRAND JURY
IN ORDER TO CORROBORATE THE TESTIMONY OF FERNANDEZ
LARIOS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CALLEJAS' VISIT AND

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THAT OF A FORMER CHILEAN ARMY OFFICER INVOLVED IN
THE CHARLES HORMAN INVESTIGATION ARE PART OF A
CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES PLAN TO GAIN
INFORMATION ON THE U.S. EMBASSY OR TO ENTRAP
EMBASSY PERSONNEL. END SUMMARY.

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3. MARIANA CALLEJAS, THE FORMER WIFE OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY, DROPPED BY THE EMBASSY AT CLOSING TIME ON MARCH 31 AND ASKED TO SEE POLCOUNSELOR MICHAEL DURKEE (HE DEPARTED POST IN 1984. CURRENT POLCOUNSELOR WAS IN ANOTHER MEETING.) AFTER BEING ESCORTED TO THE POLITICAL SECTION, SHE IDENTIFIED HERSELF TO POLOFF, DECLINED TO TAKE A SEAT AND STATED THAT SHE HAD COME TO LET THE EMBASSY KNOW THAT SHE COULD CORROBORATE THE TESTIMONY OF ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS AND THAT SHE WAS WILLING TO TESTIFY BEFORE A U.S. GRAND JURY IF NECESSARY. SHE THEN SAID THAT HER ONLY MOTIVE WAS TO GET THIS OFF HER CHEST AND SHE TURNED TO LEAVE. POLOFF SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING HER TO STAY BY ASKING A SERIES OF QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CASE.

4. CALLEJAS IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE U.S. WILL REOPEN THE INVESTIGATION AND THUS EXPECTS THAT ADDITIONAL GRAND JURY TESTIMONY WILL BE REQUIRED. SHE FEELS THAT THE GOC WILL CONTINUE TO PROSECUTE THE PASSPORT FRAUD CASE AGAINST CONTRERAS AND ESPINOZA BUT THAT IN THE END THEY WOULD BE FOUND INNOCENT. SHE EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT SHE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY THREATS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, SINCE SHE HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND HAD EXPRESSED HER SUPPORT

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FOR FERNANDEZ AND HER DISTRUST OF THE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, SHE SAID, THE LEFT WOULD NEVER FORGIVE HER FOR HER ADMITTED ROLE AS AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT IN THE 1970'S.

5. CALLEJAS IS WORKING AS A WRITER AND LIVES ON A LARGE ESTATE IN THE FASHIONABLE LO CURRO SECTION OF SANTIAGO. SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING TWO BOOKS PUBLISHED BUT ONLY AFTER GREAT DIFFICULTY. ONE BOOK, SHE SAID, HAD ONLY BEEN PUBLISHED AFTER IT HAD RECEIVED A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD, AND EVEN THEN IT WAS ONLY GIVEN LIMITED DISTRIBUTION. SHE BLAMED THE GOC FOR HER PROFESSIONAL DIFFICULTIES. CURRENTLY SHE IS WRITING IN ENGLISH IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH A WIDER AUDIENCE AND TO AVOID GOC CONTROLS.

6. THERE IS NO READY EXPLANATION FOR CALLEJAS' VISIT. A CONSPIRATORIAL MIND MIGHT DEDUCE THAT

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SHE IS STILL WORKING FOR CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE FORCES AND IS ATTEMPTING TO FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON AT THE EMBASSY. AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION, SHE REFERRED TO HER EARLIER WARM RELATIONSHIP WITH FEDERAL PROSECUTOR BARCELLA AND ASKED IF HE WAS IN TOWN. SHE SAID THAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO CALL HIM, AS IN THE OLD DAYS, IF ONLY TO SAY HELLO. BEFORE DEPARTING, SHE INSISTED ON GIVING US HER TELEPHONE NUMBER AND ASKED THAT WE KEEP HER INFORMED.

7. THREE WEEKS AGO A GENTLEMAN NAMED [RAUL MENESAS] CALLED THE EMBASSY AND ASKED FOR A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE CHARLES HORMAN CASE. [MANESAS] TOLD POLOFF THAT [HE] HAD BEEN AN ARMY OFFICER ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE THE HORMAN "DISAPPEARANCE" AND [KNEW FOR A FACT THAT THE OFFICIAL GOC REPORT

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WAS A WHITEWASH. HE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO SET THE FACTS STRAIGHT AND TO "NAME NAMES." [MANESAS] SUBSEQUENTLY MET WITH THE CONSUL GENERAL AND A REPORT ON THAT MEETING IS UNDER PREPARATION. POST CONSIDERS IT POSSIBLE THAT CALLEJAS AND/OR [MANESAS] ARE WORKING ON BEHALF OF CHILEAN

INTELLIGENCE IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN HOW MUCH WE KNOW OR TO ENTRAP THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN A CNI-DIRECTED REPLAY OF THE FERNANDEZ LARIOS DEFECTION.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: IS THERE INTEREST IN PURSUING CALLEJAS' APPROACH? PLEASE ADVISE.

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UNQUOTE SHULTZ

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