

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 03/20/2000

To: FBIHQ

Attn: [redacted]

SSA [redacted]
IOS [redacted]

Santiago Chile

Attn: Legat [redacted]

WFO

Attn: SAC James T. Caruso

ASAC [redacted]
SSA [redacted]

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From: WFO [redacted]

Contact: SA [redacted] 202-278-4464

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

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Case ID #: 185A-WF-184222 (Pending) - 3525

Title: CHILBOMB

00: WF

Synopsis: Request for authorization to travel to Santiago, Chile related to Letelier and Moffitt investigation.

Details: On September 21, 1976, Orlando Letelier, former Chilean ambassador to the United States, and Ronnie Moffitt, an American citizen and researcher for the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., were murdered when a car bomb attached to their vehicle exploded in the Sheridan Circle area of Northwest, Washington, D.C. Despite a painstaking and wide ranging investigation of this terrorist incident, the case remained unsolved for 2 years.

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As a direct result of [redacted]

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All of the co-conspirators were prosecuted in the United States, with the exception of [redacted] whom the United States sought, unsuccessfully, to extradite from Chile. All defendants were convicted for their roles in the bombing. Over a decade later, after the fall of the military junta and the restoration of democratic rule, Chile prosecuted [redacted] for their parts in the assassinations of Letelier and Moffitt. Their U.S. indictments remain open in the District of Columbia.

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On February 8, 1999, the Attorney General authorized a renewed investigation into the Letelier and Moffitt murders. The goal of the investigation is to determine whether or not sufficient admissible, credible evidence exists which shows that one or more persons in addition to those presently charged or convicted are also culpable for the Letelier and Moffitt murders.

Since February 8, 1999, the investigative team has reviewed over ten (10) thousand documents that are being held by other government agencies. The purpose of this review is to seek information which would lead to either new witnesses or evidence. The team has filed requests for evidence with Spain, Argentina and Chile respectively. All countries have agreed to assist in this investigation. Argentina invited the team to travel to Argentina and review files of their ongoing investigation. The team completed this task in September of 1999.

Argentina is investigating the murders of General Prats, former Army Chief of Staff in the Allende government, and his wife in Buenos Aires in 1975, which has been attributed to DINA.

During this portion of the investigation it was discovered that a public archives exists in Santiago, Chile. Contained within this archives are approximately 29 volumes of material related to the 1991-1993 Chilean criminal trials of [redacted] for the Letelier/Moffitt murders.

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In January of 2000, investigators from the Terrorism Task Force traveled to Santiago, Chile and conducted a full file review of the archival documents.

The United States Attorney's Office, AUSA [redacted] with the approval of Attorney General Janet Reno, filed Letters Rogatory in Chile, for the United States Government. The Letters Rogatory request the interview of approximately 50 persons involved with the Pinochet Junta during 1973-1990, who may have information pertinent to the Letelier / Moffitt investigation.

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The Chilean Supreme Court ruled on these matters on March 16, 2000. The interviews will take place starting March 28, 2000. [redacted]

[redacted] where they are being held after being found guilty on Chilean criminal charges related to the Letelier / Moffitt murders. Further, the active duty military personnel who are to be questioned have been allowed by the court to be interviewed at designated military installations in Chile. The remaining civilian persons are to be interviewed at the Chilean Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of Chile, has advised the United States Attorney's Office that the work week and hours of these interviews are scheduled for Monday - Friday, 8AM-2PM.

The Chilean court has advised that Attorney [redacted] (Chilean Attorney working for the United States Government) will be allowed to ask the approved questions of the interviewees. Neither the AUSA's nor the Agents will be allowed to be present during the questioning. Instead, it has been cleared for a closed circuit television set up to be arranged between the courtroom and an adjoining room.

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It is requested that three (3) investigators be sent to Santiago, Chile to conduct this tasking. Agents will assist with questioning as well as conduct follow up investigations and coordinating logistical matters. Additionally, one (1) TSS agent will be needed to set up the closed circuit television system. Additional TSS agents may be requested if it is found that they are needed. Initially, one language specialist is requested to accompany the team. If additional language specialist assistance is needed, a request will be made for the additional personnel.

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It is therefore requested that the following WFO investigative team members be authorized to travel to Santiago, Chile to conduct this portion of the investigation.

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Language Specialist)

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A request is also being submitted for a Language Specialist and TSS agent to assist the team.

Arraignments are being made for the team to travel to Chile on March 25, 2000. A return date will be coordinated after further information is determined.