



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535

Date: December 9, 1981

To: Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D. C. 20591

From: " William H. Webster
- Director

Subject: GUILLERMO NOVO SAMPOL; ALVIN ROSS DIAZ; VIRGILIO PABLO PAZ ROMERO; JOSE DIONISIO SUAREZ ESQUIVEL; IGNACIO ROBERTO NOVO SAMPOL; MICHAEL VERNON TOWNLEY; JUAN MANUEL CONTRERAS SEPULVEDA; ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS; PEDRO ESPINOSA BRAVO; VICTIMS - ORLANDO LETELIER; RONNI KARPEN MOFFITTI
PROTECTION OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS - MURDER;
EXPLOSIVES AND INCENDIARY DEVICES; CONSPIRACY;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE; PERJURY

Enclosed for each recipient are two copies of a self-explanatory memorandum which contains information concerning the manufacture and projected utilization of nerve gas by components of the Chilean Government. The enclosed memorandum discloses that the nerve gas, which had been manufactured by DINA, the Chilean Intelligence Service, was transported to the United States during September, 1976, by DINA agent Michael Vernon Townley in connection with the assassination of Orlando Letelier. The nerve gas was not used in the Letelier assassination and, according to Townley, it was returned to Chile.

- 1 - Managing Director
Civil Aeronautics Board - Enclosure
- 1 - Assistant Secretary of State
for Latin American Affairs - Enclosure
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division - Enclosure
- 1 - Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency - Enclosure
- 1 - Director, Defense Intelligence Agency - Enclosure
- 1 - Director, U. S. Secret Service - Enclosure
- 1 - Honorable Charles Ruff, U. S. Attorney, Washington, D.C.
Attention: Mr. E. Lawrence Barcella
Major Crimes Unit - Enclosure



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Eugene M. Propper, the former Chief United States Prosecutor in the Letelier assassination, and author Taylor Branch are collaborating in writing a book detailing the United States investigation of captioned matter, which book is to be published in early 1982. In connection with extensive research to develop material for their book, Propper and Branch interviewed numerous individuals connected with captioned matter, including former officials of DINA, the Chilean Intelligence Service. They traveled extensively and Branch visited several foreign countries, including Chile. Propper and Branch advised that they secured a number of

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letters which were sent from the United States by self-admitted DINA agent Michael Vernon Townley to his DINA "cut-out" Gustavo Etchepare in Chile. According to Propper and Branch, Townley made references in several of his letters to a highly secret DINA undertaking known as "Project Andrea." Propper and Branch advised that in his letters, Townley expressed concern that the United States Government would ascertain details of "Project Andrea," which would be highly embarrassing to the Chilean Government. Propper and Branch indicated that Townley also expressed apprehension that the United States Government would be able to determine details related to "Project Andrea" through the Gallenkamp Company in London, England, and through companies in Miami, Florida, that sold a microwave oven to **Townley** and rented a number of gas storage cylinders to Townley. Propper and Branch also indicated that Townley, in his letters, expressed concern that the United States Government would be able to ascertain details concerning "Project Andrea" through an individual in Miami, Florida, identified as Sam McIntoch, who sold Townley unidentified electronic components bearing the brand name "Sierra." Propper and Branch reported that Townley's father, J. Vernon Townley, also assisted his son and Etchepare in liquidating outstanding bills in the respective amounts of 350 pounds sterling, \$525.00, \$160.00 and \$325.00 to the Gallenkamp Company, the company which sold the microwave oven to Townley and the company which rented the gas storage cylinders to Townley and to Sam McIntoch. Propper and Branch noted that Townley also expressed concern in his letters that the Federal Bureau of Investigation would trace payments to the aforementioned companies and McIntoch through a checking account in the name of Prosin Limited at the Southeast First National Bank, Miami, Florida, which Townley utilized in connection with his official DINA responsibilities.

According to Propper and Branch, "Project Andrea" involved the manufacture of nerve gas by DINA, which was to be utilized against Argentina and Peru in the event of hostilities between these countries and Chile. Propper and Branch advised that Townley, acting as a DINA agent, manufactured and stored a quantity of nerve gas at a laboratory located at Townley's residence in Santiago, Chile, during 1975 and 1976 and utilized chemicals purchased through the Gallenkamp Company, the microwave oven and the rented gas cylinders in the process. Propper and Branch advised that Townley created a substance known as isopropylruthenylphosphonofluoridate, a clear liquid organophosphate commonly known

GUILLERMO NOVO SAMPOL, ET AL

as sarin, which vaporizes on being exposed to the atmosphere, producing droplets that enter the body through the skin or lungs to interdict the neurochemistry that permits the respiratory muscles to function. Propper and Branch advised that Eugenio Berrios, a chemical engineer who was known by his DINA code name "Hermes," worked with Townley and also was involved in a parallel project on behalf of the Chilean Army for the manufacture of the same nerve gas. Propper and Branch advised that when Townley traveled to the United States in September, 1976, via LAN-Chile on his mission to assassinate Orlando Letelier, he carried a quantity of the nerve gas with him on board the aircraft in his shirt pocket in a Chanel No. 5 perfume atomizer. Propper and Branch advised that Townley was considering the utilization of this nerve gas to assassinate Letelier, but decided against using this method. Propper and Branch advised that, according to Townley, Guillermo Novo Sampol and Virgilio Pablo Paz Romero, leaders of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, an anti-Castro terrorist organization, who assisted Townley in the planning and execution of the assassination of Orlando Letelier, were aware of Townley's possession of the nerve gas in the United States and also had witnessed the preparation of the nerve gas at Townley's laboratory at his residence in Santiago, Chile, during the period April, 1976, through June, 1976, when both Novo and Paz visited Townley in Chile.

According to Propper and Branch, the following LAN-Chile personnel assisted Townley and PINA in transporting materials between Chile and the United States:

Ronnie Berger	Bernardo Lacasia
Alejandro Fornes	Ronnie Lowery
Eugenio Herrera	Pocho Acevedo
Guillermo Neira	Jorge Nordenflycht

Subsequent to the receipt of the above information from Propper and Branch, arrangements were made to have Townley brought to Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters from the place of his incarceration in a Federal penitentiary, where he was interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Townley confirmed Propper's and Branch's information regarding the manufacture and intended use of the nerve gas by the Chilean Government. Townley, however, denied that he personally carried the nerve gas with him from Chile to the United States on a LAN-Chile aircraft. Townley claimed to have had the nerve gas sent from Chile to the United States through LAN-Chile flight personnel who were unaware that they were transporting nerve gas. Townley did confirm that the nerve gas was transported

GUILLERMO NOVO SAMPOL ET AL

to the United States by LAN-Chile flight personnel in a Chanel No. 5 perfume atomizer. Townley advised that Novo and Paz requested that the Cuban Nationalist Movement be furnished a supply of nerve gas to utilize in their terrorist activities; however, Townley claimed that because of the unstable nature of Novo and Paz and other members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, he refused their request. Townley advised that he insured that the nerve gas transported to the United States by LAN-Chile flight personnel was returned to Chile to the custody of DINA by the same method.