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Backchannel Message From the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs (Johnson) to the Ambassador to Chile (Korry)

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1. Today (22 Sept.) we considered what we understand is concept that the military take over the government, control the militant leadership of the UP, and offer the Chilean people a general election with Frei as the candidate.

2. You are authorized to indicate clearly to Frei, through such channels as you deem most appropriate and trusthworthy, that while the decision to undertake such a course must be entirely Chilean, if the above concept of action is undertaken Frei can count on our financial support in his campaign, and that if the effort to block Allende from taking office is successful the Chilean military can continue to count on us for MAP support and a maintenance of our close relationship.

3. I continue to be concerned that you keep your profile on this matter as low as possible and that you keep strictly within your instructions unless and until they are modified. We are prepared promptly to act on any recommendations you may have. Slug all messages on this subject for my eyes only for me and Kissinger. I will assure that Charlie Meyer and others who need to be are kept informed.