SECRET/WNINTEL/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/ORCON

PRESIDENTIAL EVENING READING
JULY 14, 1986

DECAPTIONED

LIKELY INVOLVEMENT OF CHILEAN ARMY IN ROJAS KILLING

The eyewitness reports of Chilean army involvement in the fatal attack on U.S. resident Rodrigo Rojas in Chile so far are holding up under closer scrutiny. According to [redacted], an investigation by the Chilean intelligence service has fingered Army personnel as clearly involved. Nevertheless, the Chilean government, following Pinochet's lead, is trying publicly to brand Rojas and Carmen Quintana (the other Chilean injured) as terrorists, supposedly victims of their own Molotov cocktails. Videotapes were broadcast on government television supposedly showing Quintana carrying explosives two weeks prior to her injuries, prompting a denial by Quintana's parents that the girl shown is their critically injured daughter. Press reports say Senator Helms is returning to the U.S. carrying this videotape.

The GOC may not persist very long with such bold misrepresentations, especially if the special investigative judge requested by the GOC turns out to be honest as reported. Chilean Foreign Minister told Ambassador Barnes he was determined to work for a thorough investigation, the need for which Elliott Abrams reinforced with the Chilean Charge last week. But Pinochet is unlikely to permit Army soldiers to be tried even should the special investigator hold them responsible. If the molotov cocktail defense folds, we should expect other explanations, such as blaming communist commandos.

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