UNCLASSIFIED [redacted] EXCISE (RA 32)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Chile Project (#S199900030)
U.S. Department of State
Release ____ Excise X Deny ____
Declassify: In Part X In Full ____
Exemption(s) B1

MEMORANDUM

August 29, 1968

TO: G - Ambassador Bohlen

THROUGH: INR/DDC - William C. Trueheart

FROM: ARA - Viron P. Vaky

SUBJECT: Assistance to Congressional Candidates in Chile: Progress Report

Attached is a CIA memorandum that reports on the progress that has been made on the proposal approved by the 303 Committee on 12 July to influence the 1969 Chilean Congressional elections.

The Committee approval was based on a recognition that the position of President Frei and his moderate supporters had been gravely eroded over the past year, and that as a consequence Chile might very well elect in 1969 a Congress dominated by the Communists and Socialists. Such a development would in turn materially increase the possibility that in 1970 Chile would elect either a pro-Communist president or one unduly dependent on Communist and Socialist support. Committee approval was accompanied by a request for [redacted] progress reports, of which the attached memorandum is the first.

The CIA paper notes that in the mid-July to mid-August period the influence of President Frei in the Christian Democratic Party has weakened compared to that of former Ambassador Tomic, a leading presidential candidate who favors a coalition of left forces, and that the directorate of the conservative National Party is now firmly supporting former President Alessandri's candidacy. In the same period it has become increasingly clear that the Radical Party will support an alliance with the Communists and Socialists in 1970, thereby sharply reducing the number of Radical Congressional candidates that it would appear profitable for us to support.

The Embassy election-team has concluded tentatively that support should be given to [redacted] who faces both Communist and Socialist rivals and to [redacted] who is running in an important district [redacted] The team also proposes support [redacted]

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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Date 1/31/01 Declassify on ____ Reason 85X1

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of the year-old splinter Socialist group, the Popular Socialist Union, in order to maintain a divisive element within the left forces.

No part of the [ ] originally authorized by the 303 Committee has yet been spent, nor have calculations been completed as to the sums that will be required to assist the [redacted] to [ ] may be spent to help the splinter Socialist group.

ARA recommends that you note the Department's approval of the CIA memorandum in 303 Committee.

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