EXCISE

RA37

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

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MEMORANDUM

December 26, 1968

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
( ) Classify as (✓) Extend as (S) Downgrade to ____
Date 1/31/01 Declassify on ____ Reason 25X1

TO : G - Ambassador Bohlen
THROUGH: INR/DDC - William C. Trueheart
FROM : ARA - Viron P. Vaky

SUBJECT: Chilean Congressional Election: Progress Report

Attached is a CIA report 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 recognition that the elections might very well produce a Congress dominated by Socialists and Communists, and that such an event would materially increase the possibility that in 1970 the country might choose a president who either was pro-Communist or uncomfortably dependent on Communist and Socialist support. Because a number of candidates of the major parties are disposed toward cooperation with the Communist and Socialist parties, it was decided that support should flow to individuals rather than to party organizations as such. The candidates to be supported were to be chosen by an Embassy election team, composed of representatives from the regular political section and from CIA and chaired by the Ambassador. An initial allotment of $350,000 was approved.

According to the attached memorandum, the election committee thus far has approved ten candidates for support and is seriously considering the merits of five more. [redacted]

[redacted] will be spent in support of these candidates.

In addition some [redacted] is being given to the United Socialist Party, a break-away element of the Socialist Party, in an effort to maintain a divisive influence among the traditionally radical Socialists. [redacted] is also being allotted to [redacted] which is run by Chileans, and whose purpose is to enhance the prospects of moderate candidates irrespective of party affiliation. [redacted]

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[redacted]. You may wish to raise this question in the 303 Committee, but I do not regard it as one serious enough to affect our attitude toward the report as a whole. I therefore recommend that you note your approval of the report in the Committee.

Attachment:

As stated.