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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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SECRET

Ref 1 NSC P B1

(RA51

EXCISE

TO : ARA - Mr. Crimmins

DATE: December 16, 1969

FROM : ARA/BC - Frederic L. Chapin FLC

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

SUBJECT: Chilean 1970 Presidential Election and Related Political Action

I had been involved with Jim Gardner in commenting on the secret paper for the 303 Committee and had reviewed his memorandum for Ambassador Johnson, making a suggested change on page 1.

The action recommended in the memorandum to the 303 Committee is in accord with the discussions in which Ambassador Korry participated. [ ] comments recorded onpage 4 of the minutes of the weekly meeting of December 2 are a new element which I had not seen until today. I have no reason to differ with [ ] evaluation of the propaganda mechanism. He is close to it and I am not. If it is in fact [redacted] it poses a serious and potentially damaging problem to us. Townsend Friedman of our Political Section in Santiago is currently here, and I have had extensive discussions with him. His evaluation, and apparently that of the Embassy at large, is that Alessandri is so far ahead in the Presidential race that he cannot be headed. [

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

] Townsend has compared the polls conducted at similar times in advance of the 1964 election by a variety of different pollsters and concludes that there was very little change in the orders of magnitude and in the projected proportionate votes for the candidates at the final election. On this basis, we may be running an unnecessary risk in continuing to finance the propaganda mechanism. I was relying on the assurances contained in the CIA document that the propaganda mechanism was tested in the March elections, that the CIA was confident of its security, and that the security risks involved appeared low.

ARA/BC:FLChapin:dlc

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