

<DIST>SIT: EOB VAX

HORMAN

<PREC> IMMEDIATE<CLAS> CONFIDENTIAL<OSRI> RUEHC #<DTG> 140201Z MAY 87  
<ORIG>FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
<TO>TO RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE 0000  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE 0000

<SUBJ>SUBJECT: [REDACTED] REPORTS ON DEATH PRA 1; FOIA B-1  
OF CHARLES HORMAN EOI 2958 1.5c 3.461463

<TEXT>

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 146544

EXDIS, MONTEVIDEO ALSO FOR LEGATT

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, CASC, CI

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] REPORTS ON DEATH PRA 1; FOIA B-1  
OF CHARLES HORMAN EOI 2958 1.5c 3.461463

REF: SANTIAGO 3059

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

"BEGIN SUMMARY"

2. SUMMARY: WITHOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] DIRECTLY, WE ARE UNABLE TO ADEQUATELY ASSESS HIS CREDIBILITY. EMBASSY IS THEREFORE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM [REDACTED] THAT BEFORE WE COULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES, WE WOULD HAVE TO INTERVIEW HIM MORE THOROUGHLY. THIS CANNOT BE DONE IN CHILE. IF [REDACTED] IS WILLING TO TRAVEL AT HIS OWN EXPENSE TO MONTEVIDEO, US OFFICIALS STATIONED THERE WILL INTERVIEW HIM AND MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO HIS CREDIBILITY. [REDACTED] SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT IN ANY CASE THE USG CANNOT OFFER HIM SPECIAL ASSISTANCE, FINANCIAL OR OTHERWISE. END SUMMARY.

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"END SUMMARY"

3. GIVEN THE LONG PERIOD ELAPSED SINCE CHARLES HORMAN'S DEATH IN 1973, WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE IMMEDIATELY IF [REDACTED] ACCOUNT TO EMBOFFS TRACKS ACCURATELY WITH PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE CASE. ESPINOZA'S ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN HORMAN'S MURDER IS NEW TO THOSE DEPTOFFS FAMILIAR IN GENERAL TERMS WITH THE CASE. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY [REDACTED] REGARDING GOC ROLE IN MURDER OF HORMAN IS CERTAINLY PLAUSIBLE AND POSSIBLY ACCURATE. WE HAVE ASKED FAIM TO PROVIDE RETIRED FILES AND WILL SEND COPIES AS APPROPRIATE TO POST. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER EXPLANATION AS TO THE BASIS FOR REFTEL'S JUDGMENT THAT HIS INFORMATION SEEMED ACCURATE, AS WELL AS ANY ASSISTANCE EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE IN RECOUNTING PUBLIC POSITIONS TAKEN BY US CONCERNING GOC COMPLICITY IN HORMAN'S DEATH.

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4. EVEN ASSUMING THAT [REDACTED] INFORMATION IS FACTUAL, BASED ON OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, HIS STATEMENTS WOULD NOT ENHANCE OR OPEN NEW PROSECUTORIAL POSSIBILITIES IN THE US REGARDING THE LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE OR CONCERNING HORMAN'S MURDER. THEREFORE DOJ OFFICIALS SEE NO PROSECUTORIAL ADVANTAGE TO PURSUING FURTHER CONTACTS WITH [REDACTED]

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5. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO APPARENT PROSECUTORIAL BENEFIT TO [REDACTED] INFORMATION, THE DEPARTMENT HAS A FUNDAMENTAL INTEREST IN DETERMINING CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATHS ABROAD OF US CITIZENS, EVEN THIRTEEN YEARS AFTER THE FACT. MOREOVER, WE WOULD CONSIDER IT A VERY SERIOUS MATTER IF

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: State, CIA, DOJ, FBI, AEC

SENIOR GOC OFFICIALS HAD BEEN AWARE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HORMAN'S DEATH AND ATTEMPTED TO CONCEAL THIS INFORMATION FROM THE USG AND HORMAN'S FAMILY.

6. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT IF [REDACTED] ACCOUNT IS CORRECT, THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE SHARED WITH HORMAN'S FAMILY, AS WELL AS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE US AND CHILEAN PUBLICS. BUT WE HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT [REDACTED] CREDIBILITY. AS REPTTEL SUGGESTS, HE COULD BE A GOC PLANT INTENDED TO ENTRAP EMBASSY PERSONNEL, A SOPHISTICATED VISA-SHOPPER OR ABSOLUTELY LEGITIMATE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE IN ANY POSITION TO ESTABLISH HIS BONAFIDES, AND GIVEN HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY OF EMBASSY FOLLOWING FERNANDEZ-LARIOS' DEPARTURE FROM CHILE, CANNOT RISK SENDING A TEAM TO CHILE.

7. WE ARE PREPARED, HOWEVER, FOR US OFFICIALS STATIONED IN MONTEVIDEO (LEGATT AND CONSUL) TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] THERE. IF WE FIND [REDACTED] IS FULLY TRUTHFUL AFTER QUESTIONING IN MONTEVIDEO, [REDACTED], WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS SUBSEQUENT TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES.

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9. YOU MAY INDICATE TO [REDACTED] THAT WHILE WE DO NOT INTEND TO PUBLICIZE HIS APPROACH TO US AT THIS TIME, UNDER US LAW WE MAY BE OBLIGED TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. WE CAN PROVIDE NO GUARANTEE THAT THE INFORMATION HE PROVIDED AND THE FACT OF HIS APPROACH WILL NOT BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

10. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY IF [REDACTED] ANSWERS POSITIVELY REGARDING A MEETING WITH US REPS IN MONTEVIDEO, AND PROVIDE ANY BACKGROUND MATERIAL AVAILABLE AT POST ON [REDACTED] THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS TO MONTEVIDEO.

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11. FOR LEGATT MONTEVIDEO: THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH FBI HDQTRS. PLEASE ADVISE BY TELEGRAM

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[REDACTED] DEPARTMENT WILL POUCH TO LEGATT COPIES OF RELEVANT BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON HORMAN CASE AND REPEAT [REDACTED] REPTTEL TO YOU. [REDACTED] ARMACOST

<SECT>SECTION: 01 OF 01<SSN> 6544<TOR> 870514152950 MSG000169313389