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Case Number: S199900030

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ACTION ARA-00

Project: S199900030
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INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00
	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/044 W		

-----331737 130029Z /70

P 122147Z AUG 88
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7796
 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY LIMA
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY MADRID
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
 USCINCLANT NORFOLK
 SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 SANTIAGO 05779

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
 SUBJ: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP TWO
 (AUGUST 7 - AUGUST 12)

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1. (U) THIS IS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF WEEKLY SITREPS REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT TO THE UPCOMING CHILEAN PLEBISCITE WHICH WILL APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE AN EIGHT YEAR TERM FOR AN AS YET UNIDENTIFIED GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT. THE CANDIDATE -- CURRENT PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET IS THE HEAVY FAVORITE -- IS TO BE SELECTED AUGUST 30 AND THE PLEBISCITE IS GENERALLY EXPECTED TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 5.

2. (C) SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS: THE BIG NEWS THIS WEEK WAS APPROVAL OF THE LONG-AWAITED VOTING LAW WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ALLOCATES THIRTY MINUTES OF FREE TELEVISION TIME TO OPPOSING SIDES IN THE PLEBISCITE CAMPAIGN. FINANCIALLY STRAPPED OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE COUNTED HEAVILY ON FREE ACCESS TO TELEVISION TO HELP COMPENSATE FOR PRO-GOVERNMENT FORCES' VIRTUAL MONOPOLY OF THAT KEY MEDIUM. THE OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO COMPLAIN OVER HOW TOUGH IT IS TO CONDUCT THEIR CAMPAIGN, AND WITH MANY OF THEIR LEADERS TRAVELLING THE NO CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT LACKLUSTRE IN RECENT DAYS. MODERN TELEVISION SPOTS ARE BEING PREPARED TO LIVEN UP THEIR EFFORT WHEN THE ELECTORAL PERIOD FORMALLY OPENS. LEANWHILE, PRESIDENT PINOCHET, WITH THE USUAL BOUNTIFUL MEDIA COVERAGE, CONCENTRATED ON MEETING WITH SMALL GROUPS OF SUPPORTERS, PROJECTING A WARM IMAGE THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT. NEXT WEEK HE WILL ATTEND LARGE GATHERINGS IN SOUTHERN CHILE. THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE ISSUED A TARDY CALL FOR A CONSENSUS

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CANDIDATE WHICH A MAJORITY OF CHILEANS COULD SUPPORT. THIS INITIATIVE BY THE CHURCH MAY HAVE HAD SOME IMPACT IF IT HAD BEEN TAKEN SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER. THE POLLS INDICATE A BROAD CROSS SECTION OF CHILEANS WOULD PREFER A CONSENSUS CANDIDATE. BUT AS JUNTA CHIEF ADMIRAL MERINO STATED IT IS NOW PROBABLY "TOO LATE." NOT

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ONLY ARE GOVERNMENT FORCES COOL TOWARD SUCH A COMPROMISE, BUT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE COME TO AN IMPASSE ON THE SUBJECT.

3. (C) GOVERNMENT AND PRO-GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE INDICATED THAT THE STATES OF EXCEPTION WILL LIKELY BE LIFTED FOR THE PLEBISCITE. ANOTHER STRAW IN THE WIND FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ELECTORAL ENVIRONMENT CAME WHEN THE GOVERNMENT TELEVISION CHANNEL GAVE A STATEMENT BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT PATRICIO AYLWIN 44 SECONDS IN ITS NEWS COVERAGE. THE OPPOSITION IS NORMALLY SHUT OUT FROM SUCH PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

RULES OF THE GAME

4. (U) ON AUGUST 11 THE CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL APPROVED THE AMENDED LAW ON VOTING AND VOTING SCRUTINY IN ITS ENTIRETY (SANTIAGO 5598). THE BULK OF THE DECISION WAS DEVOTED TO A DEFENSE OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR FREE TV TIME TO BE DEVOTED TO ELECTORAL PROPAGANDA, WHICH CHANNEL 13 HAD CHALLENGED AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. THE JUSTICES EXPRESSED THE

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00
	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/044 W		

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P 122147Z AUG 88
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7797
 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
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 AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
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 SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 07 SANTIAGO 05779

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
 SUBJ: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP TWO

OPINION THAT NOT ACCEPTING THE NORM WOULD MEAN THAT
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IN THIS AND FUTURE ELECTIONS THE CANDIDATES OR
PARTIES WITH MORE ECONOMIC RESOURCES AT THEIR COMMAND
WOULD HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO DOMINATE PUBLIC

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EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT THE PRE-PLEBISCITE PERIOD SHOULD HAVE NO STATES OF EXCEPTION, WHILE CONFEDERATION OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT MANUEL FELIU URGED PUBLICLY THAT THE GOC END ALL STATES OF EXCEPTION IN ORDER TO GIVE GREATER LEGITIMACY TO THE PLEBISCITE. ON AUGUST 10 DEFENSE MINISTER SAID THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD GUARANTEE PUBLIC ORDER AND THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE ELECTORAL ACT, AND SAID THAT IF THERE WERE NO VIOLENCE -- A BIG IF -- "WE CAN HAVE A PLEBISCITE WITHOUT ANY STATE OF EXCEPTION."

THE NO CAMPAIGN

6. (C) LAST WEEKEND THE NO CAMPAIGN HELD A NUMBER OF YOUTH FESTIVALS AND MOCK ELECTIONS IN THE SANTIAGO AREA, AND LEADERS OF CAMPESINO, MAPUCHE AND COOPERATIVE FEDERATIONS, WHICH REPRESENT SOME 120,000 MEMBERS, ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CAMPAIGN. PDC GENERAL SECRETARY GUTEMBERG MARTINEZ TOLD US THAT HIS

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00

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H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00
PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/044 W		

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P 122147Z AUG 88
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7798
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
SECDEF WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 07 SANTIAGO 05779

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
SUBJ: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP TWO

PARTY CANNOT RENT OFFICE SPACE FOR LOCAL
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CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS AND STADIUMS FOR LARGE
PUBLIC GATHERINGS, DUE TO PROPERTY OWNERS'
FEAR OF RETRIBUTION AND GOC PRESSURE. AS AN
EXAMPLE, HE NOTED THAT THE INTENDENT OF
CONCEPCION HAD INTERVENED TO PREVENT THE LOCAL
CAMPAIGN FROM LEASING SPACE FOR A MASS MEETING.

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7. (C) JUAN GABRIEL VALDES, A DIRECTOR OF THE NUNEZ SOCIALISTS WHO IS COORDINATING THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR TELEVISION ADVERTISING, INFORMED US THAT THE CAMPAIGN PLANS TO USE "EVERY PROVEN TECHNIQUE" TO TRY AND LIVEN UP THE 27 HOURS OF TV TIME PERMITTED UNDER THE VOTING LAW. THE MAIN THEMES WILL BE THE GOOD TIMES DEMOCRACY WILL BRING, PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING THEY SEE AROUND THEM, AND A RESONANT "NO" TO MORE ABUSE AND POLARIZATION. ONE MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW IF THE TV COUNCIL WILL CENSOR THEIR MATERIAL.

8. (C) COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ITS MEMBERS ARE WORKING HARD, THE NO CAMPAIGN COULD USE SOME LIVENING UP. PERHAPS BECAUSE SO MANY OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE BEEN TRAVELING ABROAD -- A LARGE DELEGATION WAS IN QUITO THIS WEEK FOR THE BORJA INAUGURATION -- THE CAMPAIGN HAS NOT HAD MUCH ZIP OF LATE. SYMPTOMATIC OF THIS LACK OF SPARK, ROCK STATIONS IN SANTIAGO ARE NOW PLAYING THE GOC CAMPAIGN THEME, WHICH OPPOSITIONISTS CONCEDE IS SET TO A LIVELIER BEAT THAN THEIR OWN
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FOLK WALTZ TEMPO. DESPITE THESE SHORTCOMINGS, NO CAMPAIGN LEADERS WE HAVE SPOKEN TO REMAIN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ULTIMATELY WINNING THE PLEBISCITE. END COMMENT.

THE SI CAMPAIGN

9. (C) IN ITS SUNDAY (AUGUST 7) EDITION, EL MERCURIO RAN A MAJOR PIECE ECHOING A CENTRAL CAMPAIGN THEME OF PINOCHET FORCES, THE GOVERNMENT IS THE KEY TO MODERNITY. THE

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ARTICLE PROJECTS THAT CHILE WILL BE A DEVELOPED COUNTRY BY THE YEAR 2000, AND SOON WILL MATCH THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN AUSTRALIA, TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA AND SINGAPORE. THE GOC HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLOIT THE PROSPERITY ISSUE IN THE COMING CAMPAIGN, AND WILL LIKELY USE ITS CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC POWERS TO ENHANCE FURTHER CHILEAN VOTER' SENSE OF ECONOMIC WELL-BEING. AS REPORTED SANTIAGO 5680, THE GOC SEEMS TO BE USING THE EXCHANGE RATE TO BOLSTER ITS REPORTED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE PLEBISCITE. IN THE NEAR TERM, THIS CAN MEAN LOWER INFLATION, CHEAPER IMPORTS, AND HIGHER REAL EARNINGS FOR ALL INCOME GROUPS, AND STRONGER (MEASURED) REAL GROWTH. THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON CHILE'S EXPORTS, IF ANY, WILL BE FELT ONLY AFTER THE PLEBISCITE.

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INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00
	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/044 W.		

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P 122147Z AUG 88
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7799
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
SUBJ: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP TWO

10. (C) THIS WEEK PRESIDENT PINOCHET SEEMED

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TO BE GIVING HIS BANDWAGON A NUDGE IN A
SERIES OF LUNCHEON MEETINGS WITH PRO-GOVERNMENT
POLITICAL PARTIES. AFTER THEIR MEETINGS, THE
RIGHT-WING NATIONAL ADVANCE PARTY ANNOUNCED
THAT IT WOULD DELIVER 23,000 POLLWATCHERS TO
MONITOR THE VOTING PROCESS AND ONE MILLION
VOTES FOR PINOCHET, WHO AN INSISTED SHOULD
RUN IN UNIFORM. THE NEXT DAY, ANOTHER
SMALL PARTY, RADICAL DEMOCRACY, URGED THE

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MILITARY JUNTA TO GIVE PINOCHET THE
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. RENOVACION NATIONAL
MEETS WITH THE PRESIDENT ON FRIDAY. THE
PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO EXUDE CONFIDENCE AND
SEEKS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL CONTACT WITH
VOTERS, PARTICULARLY SWING GROUPS. HE WAS
SEEN SMILING AMONG THE YOUNG COMPETITORS AT
A BICYCLE RACE. HE TOLD A GROUP OF 100
WOMEN "IF I GOVERN, YOU GOVERN." PINOCHET'S
VISIT NEXT WEEK TO CONCEPCION AND CHILLAN IS
EXPECTED TO PRODUCE BIG GATHERINGS.

INDEPENDENTS

11. (C) ON AUGUST 11, THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE
OF THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE URGED
THE COMMANDERS IN CHIEF TO PROPOSE A
CANDIDATE WHO COULD "PRESIDE IMPARTIALLY" OVER
THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY AND "INSPIRE THE
RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE OF THE MAJORITY OF
CHILEANS" (SEPTEL). THE BISHOPS STATED THAT
THE CANDIDATE SHOULD BE AGREED UPON BY THE
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GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION. IN THE BISHOPS'
VIEW, THE TRANSITION SHOULD BE BASED ON THE
PRESENT CONSTITUTION, BUT SHOULD MAKE ROOM
FOR THE NECESSARY REFORMS. AN EFFORT BY THE
CHURCH TO PROMOTE A CONSENSUS CANDIDATE HAD
BEEN ENCOURAGED FOR SOME TIME BY MANY
CONSERVATIVES AND INDEPENDENTS WHO WERE
CONCERNED ABOUT THE DANGERS OF INCREASED
POLARIZATION AND POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY,
WHATEVER THE RESULTS OF THE PLEBISCITE.
JUNTA CHIEF ADMIRAL MERINO PRONOUNCED IT
"TOO LATE." UNFORTUNATELY, HE IS PROBABLY
RIGHT. FRUSTRATED BY THEIR INABILITY TO
AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES, THE POLITICAL PARTIES
HAVE PRETTY MUCH ABANDONED EARLIER EFFORTS
TO PROMOTE A CONSENSUS CANDIDATE.

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THE SECURITY FORCES

12. (C) THE ISSUE OF PINOCHET THE CANDIDATE IN UNIFORM VS. CIVILIAN CLOTHES HAS ONCE AGAIN SURFACED. IN AN INTERVIEW IN EL MERCURIO ON AUGUST 7, GENERAL STANGE SAID HE THOUGHT THE CANDIDATE SHOULD STEP DOWN AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES TO RUN IN THE PLEBISCITE. JUNTA MEMBERS ADMIRAL MERINO AND GENERAL GORDON SAID THEY EXPECTED THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO ASSUME OFFICE AS A CIVILIAN. GENERAL MATTHEI TOLD THE CHARGE THAT PINOCHET HAD PROMISED THE OTHER COMMANDERS HE WOULD RETIRE FROM THE ARMY ON HIS INAUGURATION

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00
	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/044 W		

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P 122147Z AUG 88
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7800
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 07 SANTIAGO 05779

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
SUBJ: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP TWO

(SANTIAGO 5667). ASKED ABOUT THIS ISSUE AT
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A LUNCHEON FOR WOMEN JOURNALISTS LAST WEEK,
PINOCHET SAID "I WILL STEP DOWN AS COMMANDER
IN CHIEF WHEN I DECIDE, NOT BEFORE."

U.S. FUNDED GROUPS

13. (C) SERGIO MOLINA TELLS US THAT THE
COMMITTEE FOR FREE ELECTIONS (CEL) MAY NOT
BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS PLANNED INDEPENDENT
VOTE COUNT PROJECT. CIVITAS PERSONNEL ARE

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APPARENTLY UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE OF TERMS OF THEIR GRANT FROM CAPEL, AND HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO RECRUIT ELSEWHERE THE 10,000 OR SO VOLUNTEERS NECESSARY. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, MOLINA IS CONSIDERING AN EFFORT BY CEL TO PROVIDE VOTING RESULTS BASED ON REPORTS FROM OTHER GROUPS, HOPEFULLY TO INCLUDE BOTH NO AND SI COMMANDS. THESE RESULTS, FROM A SCIENTIFICALLY-SELECTED 10 PERCENT SAMPLE OF THE 20,000 VOTING TABLES, WOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE OPPOSITION, FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND OBSERVERS, AND THE CHURCH - BUT NOT TO THE PRESS. CHARGE TOLD MOLINA HE THOUGHT AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF VOTING TRENDS WOULD BE HIGHLY VALUED BY FOREIGN OBSERVERS, AND URGED MOLINA TO FIND A WAY TO KEEP A ROLE FOR CEL ON ELECTION NIGHT.

14. (U) LAST WEEKEND THE CIVIC CRUSADE (CIVITAS) HELD A CONCERT IN A HIGH SCHOOL IN ANTOFAGASTA WHICH DREW 3000 YOUNG PEOPLE. ITS "MUSICAL CARAVAN" IS

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CONTINUING TO ATTRACT A LARGE FOLLOWING IN PROVINCIAL TOWNS AND CITIES. IN A RADIO INTERVIEW, CIVITAS DIRECTOR MONICA JIMENEZ SAID THAT THE REGISTRATION OF NEARLY SEVEN MILLION VOTERS AND THE PARTICIPATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES ASSURED THE POSSIBILITY OF A CLEAN ELECTION. HOWEVER, SHE NOTED AS NEGATIVE FACTORS THE USUAL OPPOSITION LITANY, THE CONTINUATION OF STATES OF EXCEPTION, LACK OF EQUAL ACCESS TO THE MEDIA, AND POLITICAL PRESSURES BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. AS EXAMPLES, SHE MENTIONED A FARM WORKER IN OSORNO WHO WAS FIRED FOR ATTENDING A CIVIC CRUSADE FORUM, AND THE MAYOR OF MONTE PATRIA WHO STOOD AT THE ENTRANCE OF ONE OF THEIR SEMINARS TO IDENTIFY THOSE ATTENDING.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

15. (C) UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON CHILE FERNANDO

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YOLIO HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO COME TO CHILE FOR THE PLEBISCITE. IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS, FOREIGN MINISTER GARCIA WAS NOT PARTICULARLY NEGATIVE ABOUT THE VISIT BUT STOPPED SHORT OF SAYING HE COULD COME. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS INDICATED TO US THAT VOLIO WILL LIKELY RECEIVE PERMISSION.

THE MEDIA

16. (C) CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT RADIO CHAIN "COOPERATIVA" STATION "RADIO IQUIQUE" EXPECTS

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ACTION ARA-00

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	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/044 W		

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P 122147Z AUG 88
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7801
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 07 SANTIAGO 05779

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
SUBJ: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP TWO

TO BE ON THE AIR AGAIN WITHIN THE WEEK. ON
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JULY 13 ITS NEW BROADCAST ANTENNAE "FELL
OVER" UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. "IQUIQUE"
HAD ALREADY BEEN CLOSED ONCE THIS YEAR FOR
"TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS." "COOPERATIVA" IS
ANXIOUS TO GET "IQUIQUE" BACK ON THE AIR BEFORE
THE PLEBISCITE AS IT IS THE ONLY OPPOSITION
RADIO IN THE AREA. JORGE LAVANDERO, PUBLISHER
OF LEFTIST DAILY "FORTIN MAPOCHO" HAS BEEN
ACCUSED BY THE ARMY ON CHARGES AS YET UNCLEAR
BUT WHICH ARE BASED ON AN ARTICLE ENTITLED
"CNI, THE (ELECTORAL) REGISTER, AND THE
PLEBISCITE." AFTER TESTIFYING BEFORE THE
FIFTH MILITARY COURT ON AUGUST 10, LAVANDERO
WAS RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY. THERE ARE NOW
SEVEN JOURNALISTS AND COLUMNISTS OF "FORTIN"

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n/a

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INVOLVED IN LEGAL PROCESSES, MOST OF THEM IN MILITARY COURTS.

17. (U) A NEW GOVERNMENT TELEVISION AD APPEARED LAST WEEKEND, WHICH FEATURES A WELL DRESSED YOUNG MAN WHO NEARLY DROWNS IN SLOWLY RISING WATER AS HE CONTEMPLATES THE 700 PERCENT INFLATION RATE IN 1973, BEFORE THE COUP. THE AD HAS NOT APPEARED ON CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY CHANNEL 13, AND ONLY INFREQUENTLY ON THE OTHER CHANNELS. THE CLIMATIC SCENE, WHERE THE MAN IS UP TO HIS NOSE IN WATER HAS APPEARED IN LARGE COLOR ADS IN THE PRINT PRESS, WITH THE TITLE "FOR ROBERTO, 15 YEARS AGO, LIFE WAS DIFFICULT" AND "SI, YOU DECIDE." ON AUGUST 9, GOVERNMENT-OWNED CHANNEL 7 PROVIDED 44 SECONDS OF EVENING NEWS COVERAGE TO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PRESIDENT PATRICIO AYLWIN AS HE CHALLENGED THE GOVERNMENT TO A "SERIOUS, PUBLIC, RATIONAL, AND DOCUMENTED" DEBATE, WHICH WOULD BE
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"REALIZED THROUGH ALL THE MEDIA." AYLWIN ALSO SPOKE OF HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE STATES OF EXCEPTION AND SPOKE OF EQUAL ACCESS TO THE MEDIA. THIS RELATIVELY LENGTHY APPEARANCE BY AYLWIN ON CHANNEL 7, WITH VOICE-OVER, APPEARS TO BE AT LEAST A SMALL STEP TOWARD SOME COVERAGE OF THE OPPOSITION ON THE STATE-OWNED CHANNEL.

POLLS

18. (U) A NATIONAL POLL JUST RELEASED BY GALLUP/CHILE FINDS THAT CHILEANS PERCEIVE THE PLEBISCITE AS PRIMARILY A REFERENDUM ON THE CANDIDATE RATHER THAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES. FORTY-FIVE PERCENT INDICATED THAT A "SI" VOTE WAS A VOTE FOR AN EXTENSION OF PINOCHET'S PRESIDENCY, WHILE ONLY 17 PERCENT IDENTIFIED "SI" WITH "MAINTAINING THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION." A "NO" VOTE, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD INDICATE A DESIRE TO END PINOCHET'S REIGN, ACCORDING TO 35 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED, WHILE 24

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PERCENT SAID "NO" MEANT A CHANGE IN THE PRESENT
ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND ANOTHER 24 PERCENT EQUATED "NO"
WITH A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY. PINOCHET'S SUPPORTERS
HAVE BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE THE ELECTORATE THAT "NO"

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00
	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/044 W		
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P 122147Z AUG 88
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7802
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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n/a

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n/a

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
SECDEF WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ I A L SECTION 07 OF 07 SANTIAGO 05779

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
SUBJ: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP TWO

MEANS A RETURN TO THE CHAOS OF THE ALLENDE YEARS
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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WHILE A "SI" VOTE WOULD MEAN SUPPORT FOR CHILE'S VERY
REAL ECONOMIC PROGRESS. GALLUP/CHILE, AS HAVE
NUMEROUS OTHER POLLS, INDICATES THAT EVEN THOUGH THE
POPULACE RECOGNIZES THE COUNTRY'S IMPROVED ECONOMIC
SITUATION, THE MAIN ISSUE IS THE CANDIDATE HIMSELF.

JONES

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