

7-22-86

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TLOS3

Case Number: S199900030

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

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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 FAIM-01 (AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00
NSAE-00 INRE-00)/001 W

-----170426 221651Z /38

P 221357Z JUL 86
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7066
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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~~EXDIS~~ **DECAPTIONED**

CORRECTED COPY (PARA THREE)

E.O.: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, CI
SUBJ: INFORMATION REGARDING THE RODRIGO ROJAS
INVESTIGATION

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE RODRIGO ROJAS BURNING INCIDENT WAS RECEIVED FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE WITHIN THE CARABINEROS.
2. THE CARABINEROS CONCLUDED THEIR INVESTIGATION INTO THE ABOVE INCIDENT ON OR ABOUT JULY 9, 1986. THEIR INVESTIGATION CLEARLY INDICATED THAT MEMBERS OF A CHILEAN ARMY STREET PATROL UNIT WERE INVOLVED IN THE BURNING OF THE TWO CHILEAN YOUTHS AND THE DUMPING OF THEIR BODIES. SINCE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CARABINEROS AND THE ARMY IS ALREADY STRAINED, AS IS GENERAL STANGE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET, THE CARABINEROS DID NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS OR IN ANY ARRESTS OF ARMY PERSONNEL. GENERAL

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STANGE DECIDED, THEREFORE, TO TURN THE ENTIRE MATTER OVER TO THE ARMY SO THAT THE ARMY COULD 1) COMPLETE THE FINAL STEPS OF THE INVESTIGATION, IN PARTICULAR THE IDENTIFICATION OF ALL THE ARMY PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT, 2) ARREST THEIR OWN PERSONNEL, AND 3) MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THEIR INVOLVEMENT. IN THIS WAY, THE ARMY WOULD APPEAR TO BE "CLEANING ITS OWN HOUSE."

3. ON JULY 10, AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT WAS PREPARED BY THE CARABINERO IN CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION. THE REPORT WAS A SINGLE PAGE WITH NO COPIES. THIS REPORT IDENTIFIED THE ARMY PATROL UNIT WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BURNING/DUMPING, BUT ONLY IDENTIFIED ONE SOLDIER BY NAME. THIS REPORT WAS TAKEN TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET BY GENERAL STANGE ON JULY 11. PRESIDENT PINOCHET TOLD GENERAL STANGE THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE REPORT, AND HE REFUSED TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM GENERAL STANGE.

4. ON OR ABOUT JULY 14, GENERAL STANGE MET WITH ARMY VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SANTIAGO SINCLAIR AND HANDED HIM THE REPORT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD REJECTED. SINCLAIR ACCEPTED IT, AND TOLD GENERAL STANGE THAT HE WOULD SEND AN OFFICER FROM ARMY INTELLIGENCE TO MEET WITH THE CARABINERO IN CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION, LT. COL. EMILIO ZAMBRANO.

5. ON JULY 16, AN UNIDENTIFIED ARMY OFFICIAL MET WITH LT. COL. ZAMBRANO WHO TURNED OVER ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO THE ARMY. ARMY OFFICER TOLD ZAMBRANO THAT THE CASE WOULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN 48 HOURS. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 25 ARMY PERSONNEL WERE BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO CIVILIAN JUDGE FOR QUESTIONING WAS MADE ON JULY 18.

6. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION, AS OF YET THERE IS NO WITNESS WHO SAW ANYONE SET THE YOUTHS ON FIRE. (COMMENT: THIS CONTRADICTS OTHER REPORTS

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EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED.) THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THE ARMY IS NOT NEARLY AS CONCERNED ABOUT THE BURNING OF THE VICTIMS AS THEY ARE ABOUT THE DUMPING OF THE BODIES, WHICH THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO JUSTIFY.
BARNES