7/24/76

Department of State

TELEGRAM

φ 3-1 UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION INRD-98

FROM AMBASSADOR TO SFC/STATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1000

SANTIAGO 8210

CHANNEL

SUBJECT: OPERATION CONDOR

REF: STATE 209197

1. WHILE I APPRECIATE IMPORTANCE OF OBJECTIVE SOUGHT IN
   PELTEL, I RESERVLY DOUBT THAT AN APPROACH TO PRESIDENT
   PINOCHET IS THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE IT.

2. IN MY JUDGMENT, GIVEN PINOCHET'S SENSITIVITY REGARDING
   PRESSURES BY USG, WE MIGHT WELL TAKE AS AN INSULT ANY
   INFERENCE THAT HE WAS CONNECTED WITH SUCH ASSASSINATION
   PLOTS. FURTHERMORE, COOPERATION AMONG SOUTHERN CONE NATIONAL
   INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IS HANDLED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF
   NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (DINA), APPARENTLY WITHOUT MUCH
   REFERENCE TO ANY ONE ELSE. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE, EVEN
   PROBABLE, THAT PINOCHET HAS NO KNOWLEDGE WHATEVER OF
   OPERATION CONDOR, PARTICULARLY OF ITS MORE QUESTIONABLE
   ASPECTS.

3. PURPOSE OF INSTRUCTION WILL BE BEST ACHIEVED IF HE CONVEYS
   THE MESSAGE TO WE CAN DO IT IN THE CONTEXT OF HAVING HEARD A STORY WHICH
   HE CANNOT RELIEVE, BUT WHICH IF SUBSTANTIATED WOULD BE DISASTROUS
FOR THE PERPETRATORS, I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS WITHOUT UNDESIRABLE COMPLICATIONS.

4. I NOTE THAT THE INSTRUCTION IS CAST IN URGENT TERMS. HAS DEPARTMENT RECEIVED ANY WORD THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT ASSASSINATION ACTIVITIES ARE IMMINENT? THE ONLY SUCH INFO WE HAVE SEEN IS ONE REPORT FROM [REDACTED] UNCONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.

DOPPER