

Intelligence Information Cable



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Authority_NSC

By 9867

NARA, Date 8/16/00



The Company of the Co

INITIATE A MOVE TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SALVADOR

A L L E N D E IN VALPARAISO AT 8130 A.M. ON 10 SEPTEMBER.

SAID THAT THE AIR FORCE (FACH) WOULD SUPPORT THIS

SAID THAT THE AIR FORCE (FACH) WOULD SUPPORT THIS NAVY INITIATIVE AFTER THE NAVY TAKES A POSITIVE ACTION, SUCH AS

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TAKING OVER THE PROVINCE OF VALPARAISO, ISSUING AN ULTIMATUM

DEMANDING ALLENDE'S RESIGNATION, OR THREATENING TO MOVE AGAINST

SANTIAGO, NOTED THAT ADMIRAL JOSE ME'R I NO.

COMMANDER OF THE FIRST NAVAL ZONE IN VALPARAISO, IS ATTEMPTING

UNSUCCESSFULLY TO DELAY THIS ACTION UNTIL 12 SEPTEMBER WHEN HE

EXPECTS TO BE NAMED AS NAVY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF (CINC).

- THAT AFTER THE NAVY TAKES A

 POSITIVE ACTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, THE FACH WILL MOVE TO

 SILENCE ALL GOVERNMENT RADIOS. AT THE SAME TIME THE FACH PLANS

 TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL RADIO NETWORK USING EXISING OPPOSITION

 RADIO STATIONS SUCH AS RADIOS BALMACEDA, MINERIA AND AGRICULTURA.
- THAT FACH CINC GENERAL GUSTAVO

 LEJGH HAS CONTACTED ARMY CINC GENERAL AUGUSTO PINOCHET

 ON THIS MATTER, AND PINOCHET HAS SAID THAT THE ARMY WILL NOT

 OPPOSE THE NAVY'S ACTION.

 BELIEVES THAT ARMY

 UNITS WILL JOIN IN THE COUP AFTER THE FACH LENDS ITS SUPPORT TO

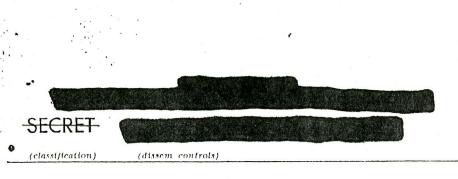
 THE NAVY. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE ARMY GENERALS WOULD

 ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE NAVY AND FACH EFFORT TO OVERTHROW ALLENDE.

 GENERAL LEIGH, HOWEVER, PLANS TO CONTINUE HIS CONTACT WITH

 PINOCHET AND OTHER ARMY GENERALS THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF 8-10

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SEPTEMBER.

- THAT GENERAL ARTURO Y O V'A NEW OF THE CARABINEROS (UNIFORMED NATIONAL POLICE), HAS PROMISED TO SUPPORT THE COUP AND HAS GUARANTEED THE SUPPORT OF THE CARABINERO NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS SCHOOL, THE SPECIAL SERVICES GROUP AND THE
 PALACE GUARDS.

 ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SEIZE
 THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND ALLENDE'S RESIDENCE, BUT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CARABINEROS, THE ARMED FORCES SHOULD BE ABLE TO GAIN
 CONTROL OF THESE STRATEGIC LOCATIONS.
- BELIEVES THAT A COUP COULD OCCUR ON 10

 SEPTEMBER OR AT LEAST DURING THE WEEK OF 10 SEPTEMBER.

 THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH COULD

 STOP A COUP ATTEMPT.

 THAT IF ALLENDE RESIGNS, CALLS A

 PLEBISCITE OR ANNOUNCES THE FORMATION OF AN ALL MILITARY CABINET,

 THIS COULD LEAD TO A POSTPONEMENT IN THE NAVY'S PLANS.

 THAT ADMIRAL MERINO, WHO IS WELL RESPECTED BY JUNIOR NAVAL OFFICERS

 IN VALPARAISO, MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE PLOTTERS IN VALPARAISO

 TO DELAY THEIR PLANS FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
 - 7. COMMENT: PRESIDENT ALLENDE IS UNQUESTIONABLY CONFRONTED WITH THE MOST BERIOUS THREAT FROM THE ARMED FORCES TO HIS CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE SINCE HIS ELECTION THREE YEARS AGO. AT THE SAME TIME IT HAS

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TO BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE PRESIDENT STILL HAS SOME ROOM TO MANEUVER. HE COULD THROW OFF THE TIMING OF THE PLOTTERS OR STOP THEM COMPLETELY BY AN INITIATIVE ON HIS PART WHICH WOULD MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND/OR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. TO AVERT THIS PRESENT THREAT, THE PRESIDENT SHOULD TAKE SOME KIND OF ACTION ON " 8 OR 9 SEPTEMBER. HE ALREADY HAS HAD ONE MEETING ON 8 SEPTEMBER WITH LEADERS OF HIS COALITION AND ANOTHER IS SCHEDULED FOR 5300 PM ON THE SAME DATE. ACCORDING TO RADIO PORTALES, NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PRESENT CRISIS DURING THE FIRST MEETING. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER OR NOT THE POPULAR UNITY LEADERS. ESPECIALLY THE SOCIALIST PARTY, WILL GIVE HIM THE SUPPORT NECESSARY TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE MILITARY/OPPOSITION. THUS, TIME COULD RUN OUT ON THE PRESIDENT, ESPECIALLY IF HE IS NOT AWARE THAT HE IS FACING A 10 SEPTEMBER DEADLINE. IT ALSO SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED. THAT AT A CERTAIN POINT IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO STOP A MOVE BY THE NAVY NO MATTER WHAT CONCESSIONS HE MIGHT MAKE DEPENDING ON THE MOMENTUM THE COUP ACTION HAS DEVELOPED AT THE TIME THE MAKES HIS VIEWS KNOWN.

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