CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State LC 121 INCOMING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01079 311257Z 2307

ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	IMR-07	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00
	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SMP-01
	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/040 W		

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 01079

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, CJAN, CI, GE
SUBJ: MICHAEL TOWNLEY CONNECTION WITH COLONIA DIGNIDAD

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. MAXIMO PACHECO IN ADDITION TO BEING AMONG CHILE'S MOST PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST CRIMINAL LAWYERS. IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE ATTORNEY FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IN THE COLONIA DIGNIDAD CASE, HE CALLED ON CHARGE TO ASK FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS ACTING OFFICIALLY AT THE REQUEST OF, AND ON BEHALF OF THE FRG AMBASSADOR.

3. THE COLONIA DIGNIDAD CASE HAS BEEN MOVING RAPIDLY WITH THE RECENT NAMING OF A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR/JUDGE (MINISTRO DE VISITA). AMONG OTHER THINGS, THEY HAVE DEVELOPED INFORMATION (STILL UNCONFIRMED) THAT MICHAEL TOWNLEY OF LETELIER CASE FAME WAS EMPLOYED BY COLONIA DIGNIDAD AT ONE POINT TO PERFORM SPECIAL SERVICES, PERHAPS IN CONNECTION WITH THAT INSTITUTION'S ELABORATE ELECTRONIC SECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATIONS. PACHECO ASKED IF WE COULD REVIEW TESTIMONY AND OTHER ANTECEDENTS IN THE LETELIER CASE FOR ANY INFORMATION WHICH WOULD LINK TOWNLEY TO COLONIA DIGNIDAD. IF SUCH INFORMATION EXISTS, PACHECO WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE OUR JUDGEMENT AS TO WHETHER, AND IF SO, HOW IT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FRG FOR ITS USE IN PURSUING THE CASE AGAINST COLONIA DIGNIDAD. GIVEN THE QUICK PACE OF EVENTS, HE ASKED THAT WE PROCEED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE ON THIS REQUEST. CHARGE UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY THE REQUEST IMMEDIATELY TO WASHINGTON. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT TOWNLEY HAD TALKED TO U.S. AGENTS AND PROSECUTORS ONLY ABOUT LETELIER CASE, AND HAD SO FAR RESISTED ALL EFFORTS TO ELICIT INFORMATION ABOUT HIS NON-LETELIER RELATED ACTIVITIES WHILE EMPLOYED BY CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE. CHARGE THEREFORE DOUBTED THAT TRANSCRIPTS OF HIS TESTIMONY WOULD SAY ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT ABOUT COLONIA DIGNIDAD.

4. COMMENT: THE FRG IS AGGRESSIVELY PURSUING THE COLONIA DIGNIDAD CASE TO EXTEND CONSULAR PROTECTION TO GERMAN NATIONALS WHOM IT HAS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OVER THE YEARS OF THEIR LIBERTY AND OTHERWISE ABUSED AND EXPLOITED ON THE PREMISES OF THE CONTROVERSIAL SETTLEMENT. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT WE BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN RESPONDING TO THE FRG'S REQUEST. PACHECO'S INTEREST IN TOWNLEY IS PART OF A BROADER EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A DINA CONNECTION WITH COLONIA DIGNIDAD IN BUILDING A CASE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HAVING BEEN PERPETRATED AT THE SETTLEMENT. FORMER DINA CHIEF MANUEL CONTRERAS ALLEGED TO HAVE HAD A LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH COLONIA DIGNIDAD. TO THE

SANTIA 01079 311257Z 2307

EXTENT FRG CASE IS ABLE TO SHED LIGHT ON THE DINA CONNECTION WITH COLONIA DIGNIDAD, IT COULD SERVE TO DEVELOP NEW INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE LETELIER CASE AND/OR SHAKE GOC DISPOSITION TO PROTECT CONTRERAS FROM PROSECUTION JONES

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

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