

UNCLASSIFIED

SERIAL: (U) IIR 6 817 0058 89.

BODY

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/
PASS: (U) DIA PASS TO AIG 11848.

COUNTRY: (U) CHILE (CI).

SUBJ: IIR 6 817 0058 89/CHILEAN JUNTA MEETING -
THE NIGHT OF THE PLEBISCITE (U)

WARNING: THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 881027.

SUMMARY: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THE CHILEAN PRESIDENT AND CINC
OF THE ARMY GEN AUGUSTO PINOCHET WAS PREPARED ON THE
NIGHT OF 5 OCT TO OVERTHROW THE RESULTS OF THE
PLEBISCITE, ONLY THE REFUSAL OF THE JUNTA MEMBERS TO
SUPPORT SUCH ACTION STOPPED HIM.

TEXT: 1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ REPORTS THAT THE CHILEAN
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE JUNTA, ADM MERINO, GEN
MATTHEI, GEN STANGE AND GEN GORDON HAD BEEN CUT-OFF
BY THE GOVERNMENT EARLY IN THE EVENING OF 5 OCT FROM
RECEIVING THE GOC'S OFFICIAL PLEBISCITE RESULTS VIA
THE ARMY'S NETWORK. FROM THIS TIME UNTIL THEIR
JUNTA MEETING AT 0105 THE MORNING OF 6 OCT IN LA
MONEDA WITH GEN PINOCHET THEY HAD TO RELY ON THE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassified by DIA per EO 12958

UNCLASSIFIED

"NO" COMMAND RESULTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. AT AROUND MIDNIGHT ADM MERINO WAS ABOUT TO GO TO BED BUT THE OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS INSISTED ON MEETING WITH PINOCHET. GEN MATTHEI'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS UPON ARRIVING AT LA MONEDA THAT IT APPEARED THAT THE NO HAD WON WAS A DELIBERATE PRONOUNCEMENT INTENDED TO LIMIT GENERAL PINOCHET'S OPTIONS

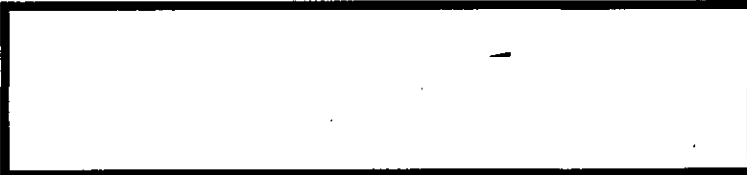
MATTHEI TOLD

THAT HIS MISSION WAS TO DEFUSE THE BOMB AND THAT MATTHEI DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS VERY TOUGH. MATTHEI HAD PREVIOUS GENERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH STANGE ABOUT THE POTENTIAL THAT PINOCHET MIGHT ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW A NO WIN BUT THEY HAD NOT TALKED WITH MERINO.

2. (C/NOFORN) IN THE JUNTA MEETING, PINOCHET WAS DESCRIBED AS VERY ANGRY AND INSISTENT THAT THE JUNTA MUST GIVE HIM EXTRAORDINARY POWERS TO MEET THE CRISIS OF THE ELECTORIAL DEFEAT. HE HAD A DOCUMENT PREPARED FOR THEIR SIGNATURES AUTHORIZING THIS. THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, FERNANDEZ WAS PRESENT AND TRYING TO ESTABLISH THAT 43 PERCENT WAS ACTUALLY A WIN, A POINT HE LATER PEDDLED IN PUBLIC. PINOCHET SPOKE OF USING THE EXTRAORDINARY POWERS TO HAVE THE ARMED FORCES SIEZE THE CAPITAL.

AT THIS POINT MATTHEI STOOD UP TO BE COUNTED. MATTHEI TOLD PINOCHET HE WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES AGREE TO SUCH A THING. PINOCHET ASKED AGAIN FOR SPECIAL POWERS AND AGAIN MATTHEI REFUSED SAYING HE HAD HIS CHANCE AS THE OFFICIAL CANDIDATE AND LOST. PINOCHET THEN TURNED TO THE OTHERS AND MADE THE SAME REQUEST AND WAS TURNED DOWN BY STANGE AND GORDON. TENSION IN THE ROOM WAS SO HIGH AT THIS MOMENT THAT BGEN SERGIO VALENZUELA, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT, COLLAPSED FROM WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE THE FIRST STAGE OF A HEART ATTACK. AT THIS POINT, WITHOUT JUNTA SUPPORT TO OVERTHROW THE "NO" WIN PINOCHET WAS LEFT WITHOUT ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ACCEPT A "NO" WIN.

COMMENTS: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ VARIOUS VERSIONS OF THE EVENTS OF THE NIGHT OF THE PLEBISCITE HAVE MADE THEIR WAY INTO THE PRESS.



**NATIONAL
SECURITY
ARCHIVE**

This document is from the holdings of:

The National Security Archive

Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University

2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu