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R 172227Z MAY 74 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8635 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AMEMBASSY BRASILIA USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A TAGS: CI, PFOR, PA, AR SUBJ: PINOCHET'S VISITS TO PARAGUAY AND ARGENTINA

REF: ASUNCION 2028

1. SUMMARY. JUNTA PRES. PINOCHET'S STATE VISIT TO PARAGUAY AND BRIEF MEETING WITH PERON IN ARGENTINA RECEIVED HEADLINE TREATMENT IN CHILEAN NEWS MEDIA, BUT VERY LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATIONS WITH STROESSNER OR PERON WAS REPORTED. ARREST OF CHILEAN EXTREMIST "COMMANDO" GROUP IN PARAGUAY FEATURED, AS CHILEANS ASSUME INTENT WAS TO KILL PINOCHET. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL REPORTING TENDS CONFIRM ASUNCION'S VIEW (REFTEL) THAT PINOCHET VISIT TO PARAGUAY MAY 13-16 INVOLVED PRIMARILY PROTCOL ACTIVITIES, WITH LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE. REVITALIZATION LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE. REVITALIZATION

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ DATE/CASE ID: 11 APR 2001 200100646

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OF THE MIXED CHILEAN-PARAGUAYAN COMMISSION FORMED IN 1957, INCREASED ECONOMIC INTERCHANGE, AND "STUDIES" CONCERNING COMPLETION OF ASUNCION-ANTOFAGASTA ROAD WERE MENTIONED. PINOCHET REFERRED TO GREAT FRIENDSHIP TOWARD CHILE WHICH HE FOUND IN PARAGUAY. NO RPT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF OPPOSITION CRITICISM IN PARAGUAY REPORTED IN REFTEL. CHILEAN NEWS COVERAGE FEATURED ARREST OF SIX-MAN "COMMANDO" OF CHILEANS WITH FALSE DOCUMENTS, AT PUERTO PRES. STROESSNER. LOCAL ASSUMPTION IS THAT THEY INTENDED ASSASSINATION OF PINOCHET OR OTHER ANTI-GOC ACTIVITIES. ONE RIGHT WING RADIO (AGRICULTURA) EMPHASIZED SIGNIFICANCE OF TWO MEETINGS IN ASUNCION OF PINOCHET WITH HIS EXILED COMRADE-IN-ARMS GENERAL VIAUX.

3 PINOCHET STATED THAT HE HAD INVITED STROESSNER TO VISIT CHILE NEXT SEPTEMBER.

4. MEETING WITH PERON AT BUENOS AIRES AIRBASE PRODUCED MUCH COLOR IN SANTIAGO PRESS, BUT EVEN LESS OF SUBSTANCE. CHILEAN FONMINISTER HUERTA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SUBJECT OF PRESENCE OF CHILEAN TERRORISTS ON ARGENTINE FRONTIER, AND IMPROVED CONTROL OF MOVEMNT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND CHILE, WOULD CERTAINLY BE DISCUSSED. INTERESTING LITTLE BY-PLAY SURFACED IN GOC-CONTROLLED PAPER LA PATRIA OVER WHO INITIATED PERON-PINOCHET MEETING. PINOCHET MAINTAINED THAT PERON INITIATED MEETING, WHILE PERON REPORTED AS HOLDING THAT PINOCHET ASKED TO MAKE TECHNICAL STOP ON FLIGHT FROM PARAGUAY AND PERON "NATURALLY" WENT TO GREET FELLOW HEAD OF STATE. PINOCHET RETURNED TO SANTIAGO AFTERNOON MAY 16. HE SAID HE HAD TO REPORT TO FELLOW JUNTA MEMBERS BEFORE DISCUSSING DETAILS OF TRIP PUBLICLY.

4. COMMENT. PINOCHET CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS SOUTHERN CONE LEADERS IN LAST MONTHS REFLECT GOC DESIRE FOR CLOSER COMMUN-ICATION WITH SYMPATHETIC NEIGHBORS AND REDUCTION OF SEMI-ISOLATION OF ALLENDE YEARS. WHILE GOC DENIES IT WANTS FORMATION OF ANTI-MARXIST BLOC, WE ARE AWARE OF AND HAVE REPORTED ON CLOSE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY POLICE TIES BETWEEN CHILE AND ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, PARAGUAY, ETC. TO COMBAT LEFTIST TERRORISM AND CHILEAN PREOCCUPATION IN THIS REGARD IS CLEAR FROM CRYPTIC REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HUERTA. POPPER

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