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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

DECAPTIONED

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SECRET/SENSITIVE

TO: The Secretary

FROM: ARA - Viron P. Vaky

SUBJECT: Letelier/Moffitt Assassination Case:
Related Foreign Policy Issue

Among the extradition documents being presented on September 20 to the Government of Chile is Government Exhibit No. 116, a copy of which is attached. This is an FBI statement, based upon FBI information and sources, and it was not submitted to State (or CIA to our knowledge) for clearance or comment before being included in the extradition submission.

"Operation Condor" was established in 1975, as the statement notes, and includes Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Bolivia. Brazil and Peru have had marginal connection with the system. Information available to State confirmed Condor as essentially information exchange, but it has been generally accepted that at least some of the countries involved used the mechanism to capture and exchange opposition exiles. Cooperation in assassinations, as charged here, has not to our knowledge been proved, but is not unlikely. We have no basis upon which to question the FBI assertion that international assassinations were part of the Condor system, and do not ask to have this document withdrawn or modified.

This material will be available to the Government of Chile, to its Courts, and probably to the press and public after September 20. When the significance of this document, with its allegation that the cooperating governments

Chile Project (#S199900030)

U.S. Department of State

Release ☒ Excise ☐ Deny ☐

Declassify: In Part ☐ In Full ☒

Exemption(s) ☐

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contemplated or carried out systematized international assassinations, is appreciated by those governments and the public, there may be both press attention and vigorous protests from the parties accused. We propose to have no comment and to refer protests and inquiries to Justice and the FBI.

Attachment:

Government Exhibit No. 116

Drafted: ARA/AND/CH: RSSteven:mms
ext. 22575 9/16/78

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