

S E C R E T 072327Z MAY 76 STAFF

8 MAY 76 03 57z

CITE DIRECTOR

TO: PRIORITY TEHRAN.

RYBAT

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING EYES ONLY TO AMBASSADOR HELMS.
2. FYI, AGENCY HAS RECEIVED DRAFT OF SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE (SSC) ADDENDUM TO NOVEMBER 1975 SSC REPORT ENTITLED "ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOTS INVOLVING FOREIGN LEADERS." SECTION WHICH DEALS WITH COVERT ACTION IN CHILE BETWEEN 4 SEPTEMBER AND 24 OCTOBER 1970 QUOTES FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESPONSES TO WRITTEN INTERROGATORIES FROM SSC AS FOLLOWS.
3. THE PURPOSE OF 15 SEPTEMBER 1970 WHITE HOUSE MEETING ATTENDED BY MR. HELMS, DR. KISSINGER AND ATTORNEY GENERAL MITCHELL WAS TO DISCUSS "THE PROSPECT OF ALLENDE'S ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF CHILE." NIXON SAID HE WANTED CIA "TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR A POLITICAL OPPONENT OF ALLENDE TO BE ELECTED PRESIDENT BY THE CHILEAN CONGRESS." "SPECIFIC MEANS" WERE NOT DISCUSSED; "GENERAL MEANS" WERE, INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ALLENDE'S OPPOSITION, TERMINATION OF U.S. AID AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND "EFFORTS TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF VARIOUS FACTIONS, INCLUDING THE MILITARY, BEHIND A CANDIDATE WHO COULD DEFEAT ALLENDE IN CONGRESSIONAL CONFIRMATION PROCEDURE." NIXON STATED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT FROM 15 SEPTEMBER TO MID-OCTOBER THE CIA WAS ATTEMPTING TO PROMOTE A MILITARY COUP IN CHILE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A MID-OCTOBER DISCUSSION WITH DR. KISSINGER, "I DO NOT PRESENTLY RECALL BEING PERSONALLY CONSULTED WITH REGARD TO CIA ACTIVITIES IN CHILE AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERIOD 15 SEPTEMBER THROUGH 24 OCTOBER 1970." IN MID-OCTOBER NIXON WAS INFORMED BY DR. KISSINGER "THAT THE CIA HAD REPORTED TO HIM THAT THEIR ATTEMPTS TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF VARIOUS FACTIONS IN ATTEMPTS BY ALLENDE'S OPPONENTS TO PREVENT ALLENDE FROM BECOMING PRESIDENT HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND LIKELY WOULD NOT BE." ACCORDING TO NIXON, KISSINGER INFORMED HIM THAT "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE HAD INSTRUCTED CIA TO ABANDON THE EFFORT." NIXON STATED HE INFORMED KISSINGER HE

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008

HR70-14
(U)

PAGE 2 DIRECTOR [] S E C R E T

"AGREED WITH THAT INSTRUCTION." NIXON ALSO STATED THAT HE DID NOT RECEIVE INFORMATION "CONCERNING PLANS FOR A MILITARY COUP INVOLVING THE KIDNAPPING OF GENERAL RENE SCHNEIDER" AND ALSO SAID HE WAS "UNWARE THAT CIA PASSED MACHINE GUNS OR OTHER MATERIAL TO CHILEAN MILITARY OFFICERS KNOWN TO CIA TO BE PLANNING A COUP ATTEMPT."

4. SSC COMMENTS ON ABOVE AS FOLLOWS. "NIXON'S STATEMENTS CONTRAST WITH EVIDENCE RECEIVED PREVIOUSLY BY THE COMMITTEE. ALL CIA OFFICIALS STATED THAT THEY INTERPRETED NIXON'S 13 SEPTEMBER INSTRUCTION AS A DIRECTIVE TO PROMOTE A MILITARY COUP IN THE FALL OF 1970. BOTH CIA DOCUMENTS AND DR. KISSINGER'S TESTIMONY ARE CONSISTENT WITH THIS INTERPRETATION....OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE IS THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING WHETHER THE WHITE HOUSE KNEW OF CIA'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A COUP AFTER MID-OCTOBER..... KISSINGER TESTIFIED, AND HIS FORMER DEPUTY, GENERAL ALEXANDER HAIG AGREED, THAT AFTER 15 OCTOBER THE WHITE HOUSE NEITHER KNEW NOR SPECIFICALLY APPROVED CIA COUP PLANS IN CHILE. CIA OFFICIALS TESTIFIED HOWEVER THAT THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT OF COUP PLOTTING BY CHILEAN MILITARY WAS KNOWN TO AND THUS AUTHORIZED BY THE WHITE HOUSE."

5. THIS SECTION OF ADDENDUM CONCLUDES AS FOLLOWS: "THE CLEAR IMPORT OF NIXON'S STATEMENTS IS THAT THE CIA WAS ACTING WITHOUT SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY. IN FACT, IF MR. NIXON'S STATEMENTS ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE EVENTS AND IF DR. KISSINGER UNAMBIGUOUSLY INFORMED CIA ON 15 OCTOBER TO SUSPEND ALL COUP PLANS IN CHILE AND GAVE NO INDICATION OF SUPPORT FOR RENEWED COUP PLOTTING BEFORE 24 OCTOBER, THEN CIA WOULD HAVE BEEN ACTING IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION OF WHITE HOUSE POLICY. ON THE CONTRARY IF, AS CIA OFFICIALS TESTIFIED, THE COUP ACTIVITY WAS AUTHORIZED FROM THE BEGINNING AND THE WHITE HOUSE WAS KEPT INFORMED UNTIL THE END, THEN THE ACCOUNTS OF NIXON AND KISSINGER ARE CALLED INTO QUESTION." E2 IMPDET.

S E C R E T