

10/4/88

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Foreign Minister Garcia-Ambassador Barnes Discussion [ ]

Background: After Foreign Minister Garcia pressed Ambassador Barnes to provide more information on the basis of our concerns, the following talking points were [ ]

Used by the Ambassador in a conversation with Garcia late on 10/4//88. They appear to have convinced Garcia that we are serious.

Points Used by Ambassador Barnes:

--Our information comes from senior army generals. It (the plan) has been approved by the highest levels of government to use violence as a pretext to disrupt the plebiscite process, closing the polls, and nullifying the election.

-- A decision regarding the plan will be made in the early afternoon of October 5.

--If the Communist left does not generate sufficient violence to justify the closing of the polls, the CNI is prepared to foment additional violent incidents.

--the USG recognizes the plans and intentions of the Communists to challenge the Government on 5 October, but it is also confident that the Chilean armed forces are fully capable of controlling the situation without recourse to closing the polls and in effect cancelling the plebiscite.

--This information is from reliable and concerned sources within the Chilean military; It is not a bluff by the USG, nor is it based on information from sources in the political left.

Garcia's Follow-up Questions with the Ambassador's answers:

Q. You say this comes from Generals?

A. Yes.

Q. This comes from the Army? It is an Army plot?

A. Yes.

Q. You said the CNI is a backup resource?

A. Yes.

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