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MEMORANDUM FOR

The Director, Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: CIA Press Comment on Chilean Army Crisis

Noting the Chilean reaction to press accounts citing a CIA spokesman as stating that CIA was aware of the army crisis for six weeks the President has asked for information as to why CIA came to make such an announcement. Would you please prepare a memorandum for the President explaining the incident.

(Signed) HENRY A. KISSINGER

Henry A. Kissinger

State Dept. review completed

NSS/NSC Review Completed.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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INFORMATION
October 23, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Viron P. Vaky
SUBJECT: CIA Press Comment on Chilean Situation

In my memo of October 22, (Tab B) I reported that a CIA press spokesman was cited in press dispatches as stating that "CIA was aware of the situation for six weeks."

As could have been predicted, we are beginning to reap the whirlwind. Attached at Tab A is a telegram reporting the formal protest on the subject from the Chilean Government. The Foreign Under Secretary told our Charge that he was speaking on behalf of President Frei and the GOC when he asked that the USG take immediate steps to prevent further statements of this kind. The Under Secretary also said that he wished to communicate to the Charge that "suspicions" existed among "high officials" of the GOC re possible CIA involvement in the recent events.

Our Charge rejected these "suspicions" energetically. The last paragraph of his cable presents his personal comments as to the uncalled for and injudicious nature of the CIA remarks.

Also attached at Tab A is a second cable citing how the Santiago press is playing up this story.

This again illustrates the need for CIA especially to refrain from unnecessary comments by press spokesmen.

Attachments

- Tab A - Cables
- Tab B - Previous memo

*Let's send query to Helms for CIA
 comment to comment
 (Pres. wants to know)*

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ACTION

November 3, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Viron P. Vaky

SUBJECT: CIA Press Comment on Chilean Army Crisis

Attached for your signature at Tab A is a memorandum to Helms pursuant to your request at Tab B.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A.

Attachments:

Tab A - Memorandum to Helms

Tab B - Request

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