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SAB 11

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Chile Project (#S199900030)

U.S. Department of State 23, 1987

Release ☒ Excise ☐ Deny ☐

Declassify: In Part ☐ In Full ☒

TO: The Ambassador and DCM

Contextual transcript of tape provided.

Exemption(s) (Intelligence)

EXCISE

Major points -

1. The informer's motive for speaking is ostensibly to save a life or "many lives". He wanted to explain the events that happened about two years ago, near "Colonia Dignidad".

2. The informer says that he was part of a military patrol that patrolled the perimeter of Colonia Dignidad. "When we came to a place where there were two rivers, the patrol came across a man (subject) with a backpack, etc. He did not speak good Spanish and he did not offer any resistance. The officer-in-charge looked inside of subject's backpack and found:

- (1) An infrared night viewing device
- (2) A knife
- (3) Two pairs of mountain boots
- (4) Clothes, sleeping bag, tent
- (5) Binoculars
- (6) A map of the area."

3. "When subject was questioned it was learned that he had passed by a Carabinero post and was advised that the Carabineros had not stopped him from entering the area. Subject was told that he should not have entered the area."

4. "In continuing the search of subject we found the following documents, based on which, the officer-in-charge 'classified' subject as a 'Russian spy' and a 'Soviet'. A further search of subject produced a US passport and a letter saying that he was a professor at a US university. We then took off his shoes, tied him up and took him into Colonia Dignidad where he was turned over to the Chief of Security for Colonia Dignidad. They then brought subject to an (unintelligible) area in Colonia Dignidad where they (army officer and security officer?) interrogated subject for a long period of time."

5. "When the officer (not clear if this was the security officer) came out of the interrogation area he said that subject was not a Soviet or CIA spy but a 'Jewish spy' who was looking for a certain person. The officer said that for this reason (meaning protection of this certain individual)

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we, the military patrol, were guarding the perimeter of Colonia Dignidad. The officer said that this person was very important and he came from Brazil via Paraguay to Chile. The officer said that this man was named 'Schmith' (phonetic). Subject ~~was placed behind a fence/cage/enclosed area and began saying~~ that he knew that 'Schmith' was in Colonia Dignidad and that the military patrol were assassins and Nazis."

6. "Later in a conversation that I had with my/a nephew who has a relative in the Carabineros, he told me that on a number of occasions, the Carabineros tried to get subject out of Colonia Dignidad but they were unsuccessful because of opposition from (unintelligible/Dignidad Security?)"

7. "I was also told that there were many individuals kept prisoner in Colonia Dignidad that entered Chile clandestinely and (unintelligible - included Communist and MIR members?). These prisoners were later taken to various parts of Chile (principally to Santiago) where "enfrentamientos" (shootouts) were staged."

8. "(Unintelligible, but says something like recounting this is almost like talking about/viewing a movie)...this person who arrived from Brazil was very important for them (Colonia Dignidad) and that they were going to trick the foreign countries that were trying to find 'Schmith'."

9. "...later on two occasions I saw subject working in (unintelligible) making adobes in a (closed?) area belonging to/in Colonia Dignidad."

10. "Of subject's personal effects which were sent to Santiago, only a document showing that he was a 'Soviet' citizen was sent. (Unintelligible - possibly - subject's other documents were given to the military, but not of the local area...."

11. "I remember that individuals in the military patrol involved with subject were reassigned to various parts of Chile. The same thing happened with Carabinero personnel who were on the guard post that checked subject before he went into the Colonia Dignidad area. According to what we were told during an internal investigation of the matter (unintelligible), but they were not arrested/charged (Carabineros?). I don't know the reasons why."

12. "I know for certain that up until two weeks ago in Colonia Dignidad (unintelligible), end of May, beginning of June, there was still installed a powerful communications center that belongs to Colonia Dignidad, but I was told that it is used for direct communication to the intelligence services of Chile, Argentina and Paraguay. I also know that

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under the Colonia Dignidad there are subterranean areas and that a little more than two weeks ago an order/decision was made to clean out this area. To clean out means to remove everything that is suspicious, since only selected personnel go into this underground area, and remove the prisoners. It was then/there that I learned from an ex-member of (unintelligible) that subject was still alive after two years."

13. "After first learning of this my first intention was to go to the Israeli Embassy, but I didn't do it because of the close military ties between the Chileans and Israeli Army. ...I don't know the name of subject nor was I permitted to know, but his name was Russian because he screamed it/at us and identified himself by name. ...also only the officer-in-charge saw what subject had on his person and only the officer-in-charge spoke with the subject. ...I can't recall exactly but subject's first name was something like 'Sergio or Vasil'. It's been so long that I can't remember exactly. But I do remember a lot of the detail."

14. "...I do remember with a lot of clarity that we had to inform/transmit to/tell the U.S. Embassy that (unintelligible-head in the water-subject in the water-doesn't make sense)."

15. "According to the nephew of the Carabinero member, they could not get subject out of the Colonia. I don't know if it was because of subject's own desire (to stay), because sometimes he appeared a little (unintelligible)."

16. "I know that people arrive (at the Colonia) to have medical (surgery) operations. Additionally, these same people are given passports and documents. They therefore enter and leave the country without any problems. We also had orders not to ask these individuals for any documentation and they could leave and enter Colonia/country at will. Generally, (unintelligible) (they went) to Osorno and Punta Arenas. They have a plane and landing strip. The landings are made at night."

17. "What I do remember well is that the individuals who arrived (at Colonia) underwent medical (surgical) treatment. They were from Brazil, Paraguay, Bolovia, and a certain area of Colombia."

18. "... (unintelligible) in Venezuela and Colombia there is a university in which this man (Schmith)/individual is/are professor/s. ...other things that they did at Colonia Dignidad is that they worked a lot at night. I heard a lot of noise coming from underground. (Unintelligible)...The security was very tight and they had their own armed guards (unintelligible) ...we were prohibited from speaking with them and they with us."

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19. "I remember that at that time (two years ago) they (Colonia) had a conflict with nuns that lived nearby. I don't know if they got them out of the area..."

20. ~~Generally, ranking officers of the Chilean Army visited the Colonia. This included generals, President Pinochet, Pinochet's daughter, and Contreras.~~

Note: There is no further mention of subject on tape.

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