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Case Number: S199900030

10/6/87

(JCO61)

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	H-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09
	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-02	OMB-01	INRE-00	OCS-06
	CA-02	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01
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 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8523
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8755
 AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
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 AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PRIORITY
 USCINCLANT NORFOLK PRIORITY

Chile Project (#S199900030)
 U.S. Department of State
 Release Y Excise _____ Deny _____
 Declassify: In Part _____ In Full ✓
 Exemption(s) _____

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, PINS, CI
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SUBJ: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP FOUR

GENERAL ASSESSMENT

1. (U) THE GOC IS OBVIOUSLY SITTING ON VOTING RESULTS AND RELEASING THEM VERY SLOWLY, AND THIS HAS SPARKED CONCERN BY THE OPPOSITION WHICH CONTINUES TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF A MAJOR VICTORY FROM ITS VOTING TABLE REPRESENTATIVES. AFTER 1930 RETURNS, NEXT READING OF RESULTS CAME AT 2200. THE GOC PROMISED ITS NEXT BULLETIN FOR 1115, BUT THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN RELEASED. PROJECTING FROM PARTIAL RESULTS REPORTED BY THE OPPOSITION IT APPEARS THAT WELL OVER NINETY PERCENT, PERHAPS AS MUCH AS NINETY EIGHT PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS HAVE GONE TO THE POLLS. CITY OF SANTIAGO AND OTHER MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS ARE REPORTED QUIET, A FACT WHICH GENERAL JORGE ZINCKE, COMMANDER OF THE ARMY TROOPS IN SANTIAGO, CONFIRMED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE. HE CONGRATULATED THE CITIZENRY ON ITS BEHAVIOR, SAYING IT HAD "RESPONDED MAGNIFICENTLY" TO CALLS TO AVOID VIOLENCE.

POLLING RESULTS/PROJECTIONS

2. (U) AT 2340 THE "NO" COMMAND ANNOUNCED ITS COUNT HAD REACHED 1,301,201 (39.87 PERCENT) FOR THE "YES" AND 1,887,664 (57.83 PERCENT) FOR THE "NO"; WITH 1.3 PERCENT VOID AND 0.9 PERCENT BLANK. OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER LA EPOCA HAS RELEASED RESULTS SUPPOSEDLY REFLECTING RETURNS FROM 1,423 VOTING TABLES. THE TOTALS WERE 264,763 (58.8 PERCENT) FOR THE "NO" AND UNCLASSIFIED

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168,230 (37.3 PERCENT) FOR THE "SI;" 10,848 NULL VOTES AND 6,753 BLANK.

3. (U) SERGIO MOLINA OF THE COMMITTEE FOR FREE ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED AT 2220 THAT BASED ON REPORTS FROM 33 PERCENT OF THE TABLES IN ITS SAMPLE OF 2,200 TABLES IT IS PROJECTING A RESULT OF 55.2 PERCENT FOR

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THE "NO" AND 42.6 PERCENT FOR THE "SI." MOLINA CALLED EMBASSY AT 2330 TO SAY HE EXPECTS SHORTLY TO HAVE RETURNS FROM 1500 VOTING TABLES AND SEES ALMOST NO WAY THAT ADVANTAGE FOR THE "NO" COULD BE TURNED AROUND. MOLINA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CEL APPEARED ON CHANNEL 13 AT 2345 FOR THE FIRST TIME ALL DAY LONG AND ANNOUNCED HIS ONE-THIRD SAMPLE PROJECTION. HE TOLD THE VIEWERS THAT NO WAS LEADING IN LARGE CITIES, AS EXPECTED; THAT SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, IT WAS AHEAD 52 TO 40 IN MEDIUM CITIES, AND THAT IN SMALL TOWNS IT WAS A VIRTUAL TIE.

NO AND SI CAMP DEVELOPMENTS

4. (U) NO COMMAND LEADER PATRICIO AYLWIN EMPHASIZED IN HIS 2230 STATEMENT THAT THEIR TALLIES ARE BASED ON OFFICIAL VOTING RECORDS OF THE TABLES AND, SINCE THE GOC HAS ANNOUNCED RESULTS THAT DIFFER MARKEDLY, DEMANDED THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RELEASE INFORMATION ON THE SOURCES OF ITS TALLIES. HE SAID THAT THE "NO" COMMAND IS PREPARED TO SHARE ALL ITS INFORMATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND REQUESTED THAT THE MINISTRY RECONCILE ITS DATA WITH THE INFORMATION POSSESSED BY THE "NO" COMMAND. FINALLY, HE CALLED ON THE SUPPORTERS OF THE "NO" AND OTHERS TO REMAIN CALM

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AND TO AWAIT FINAL RESULTS.

MEDIA REACTION

5. (U) FOR LACK OF ELECTION RETURNS FROM THE GOC, TELEVISION COVERAGE HAS REVERTED TO REGULAR PROGRAMMING. TELEVISION CHANNELS DID NOT COVER SPEECH BY "NO" COMMAND CHIEF GENARO ARRIAGADA OR PATRICIO AYLWIN WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED PRELIMINARY RESULTS.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

6. (U) TOM HARVEY OF UPI CALLED EMBASSY AT 2015 TO REPORT THAT CROSS TALK ON THE CARABINERO RADIO BAND PROVIDED THE INFORMATION THAT ONE OF THE CARABINEROS' RECENTLY STOLEN MILITARY BUSES WAS SPOTTED ON THE PAN AMERICANA SUR QUOTE WITH INDIVIDUALS DRESSED AS CARABINEROS. AT 2040, RADIO GIGANTE ANNOUNCED THAT A GENERAL OF THE CARABINEROS WAS AWAITING ORDERS TO ENTER THE POOR SANTIAGO COMMUNITY OF LA VICTORIA. TWO BUSES THOUGHT TO BE STOLEN PAINTED TO RESEMBLE THE BUSES USED BY THE CARABINEROS HAD BEEN SPOTTED IN THE POBLACION. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT SOMEONE IN THE POBLACION IS THROWING CHAINS OVER THE ELECTRIC WIRES IN AN ATTEMPT TO CAUSE A BLACKOUT. AS STATED IN THE GENERAL ASSESSMENT SECTION ABOVE, HOWEVER, GENERAL ZINCKE HAS ADMITTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN PRACTICALLY NO VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

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GOVERNMENT/SECURITY FORCES

7. (U) OUTSIDE THE DOWNTOWN AREA THERE ARE FEW SIGNS OF ENHANCED CARABINERO PRESENCE ON THE STREETS, AND NO INDICATIONS OF MILITARY FORCE MOVEMENTS. THERE IS HEAVY CARABINERO PRESENCE IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA PROVIDING SECURITY AROUND THE LA MONEDA PALACE AND EMBASSY AREA. EMBOFFS WHO HAVE TRAVELLED AROUND THE CITY REPORT ABSOLUTE CALM IN SANTIAGO.

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REPORTS FROM PROVINCIAL CAPITALS

8. (U) ANTOFOGASTA: CITY ENVIRONMENT STILL VERY CALM. EMBOFF TOURED STREETS OF CITY BETWEEN 2000 AND 2100 AND FOUND IT EXTREMELY QUIET. INFORMATION FROM CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS INDICATE THAT OF 397 VOTING TABLES (83 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL) THE "SI" HAS 37.69 PERCENT OF THE VOTE AND 59.69 PERCENT FOR THE "NO". NDI, AFL/CIO, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIAN OBSERVER GROUPS FOUND THE VOTING PROCESS FAIR AND EFFICIENT.

9. (U) CONCEPCION: EMBOFF REPORTS FROM CONCEPCION THAT PDC COUNT SHOWS THE "NO" IS LEADING BY 70 PERCENT TO 30 PERCENT IN THE PROVINCE. EMBOFF REPORTED FROM CONCEPCION THAT THE "NO" IS IN FACT LEADING BY OVER TWO-TO-ONE AFTER A COUNT OF ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE VOTES. IN THE CONSERVATIVE INTERIOR OF THE EIGHTH REGION, THE "NO" ALSO LEADS, BUT BY A MUCH SMALLER MARGIN.

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10. (U) VALPARAISO/VINA DEL MAR: EMBOFF INFORMS
 EMBASSY THAT STREETS ARE VERY CALM. "NO" COMMAND IS
 CONFIDENT OF STRONG WIN IN THE AREA. FOUR VOTING
 TABLES' RESULTS ARE DISPUTED. THE LOCAL "NO"

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LEADERSHIP HAS REQUESTED MEETING WITH THE LOCAL
MILITARY COMMANDER TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM AND ALSO TO
REAFFIRM THEIR INTENT TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND TO
RESPECT MILITARY AUTHORITY AND THE LAW.

STATUS OF U.S. CITIZENS

11. (U) NO REPORTS OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING U.S.
CITIZENS.
BARNES

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