

2-2-1989

Chile: Notes On Evidence, 1978 Letelier Assassination

John Neagle

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur>

Recommended Citation

Neagle, John. "Chile: Notes On Evidence, 1978 Letelier Assassination." (1989). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/2687>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Chile: Notes On Evidence, 1978 Letelier Assassination

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General

Published: Thursday, February 2, 1989

Retired diplomat, Jose Miguel Barros, filed documents with the Chilean Supreme Court on Jan. 24 stating that in conversations in 1978, high-level officials acknowledged responsibility of Gen. Juan Manuel Contreras for the killing of Orlando Letelier and Ronni Moffitt in Washington in 1976. Letelier was a cabinet minister and Ambassador to Washington in the government of Salvador Allende, who died in the 1973 coup that brought Gen. Augusto Pinochet to power. Barros, a former ambassador to Washington, said he had been told in a meeting at the Interior Ministry on April 27, 1978, that the Letelier killing was ordered by Contreras, head of the military intelligence unit known as DINA. He said the comment was made by Enrique Montero Marx, a retired air force brigadier general who was then Interior Undersecretary. Montero participated in a group within the government that had conducted the initial investigation of the crime. In late December, the US asked to question in writing seven current and former Chilean officials, including Barros and Gen. Montero. None were reportedly implicated in the case but they had been involved in the subsequent investigations or in dealings with the US on the subject. On Jan. 10, the Chilean Supreme Court ordered a criminal court judge to carry out the questioning of the seven. Their responses to more than 100 questions were filed with the high court on Jan. 24, and were to be relayed to the US on Jan. 25. Although the Supreme Court did not make the responses public, a Chilean newspaper obtained and published a large part of the text and another published extensive excerpts. Barros confirmed the accuracy of the statements attributed to him to the New York Times. (Basic data from New York Times, 01/26/89)

-- End --