

1. IT IS REASONABLY CLEAR, IN EXPLORING AVENUES TO PREVENT AN ALLENDE GOVERNMENT FROM EXERCISING POWER, THAT (A) THE POLITICAL/CONSTITUTIONAL ROUTE IN ANY FORM IS A NON-STARTER AND (B) THE ONLY PROSPECT WITH ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS WHATSOEVER IS A MILITARY GOLPE EITHER BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER ALLENDE'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER. THIS CABLE IS ADDRESSED TO THE OPERATIONAL TASK OF ESTABLISHING THOSE DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE CHILEAN MILITARY WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO EVALUATE POSSIBILITIES AND, AT LEAST EQUALLY IMPORTANT, COULD BE USED TO STIMULATE A GOLPE IF AND WHEN A DECISION WERE MADE TO DO SO.

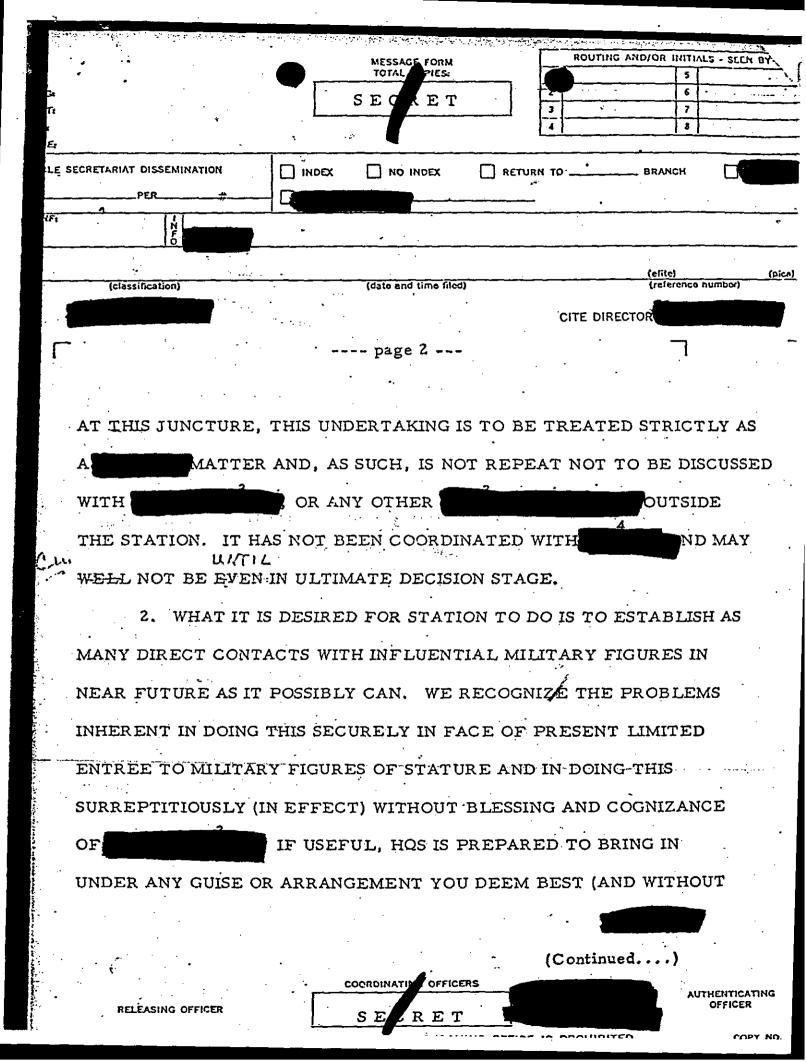
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4. HQS IS QUITE AWARE OF THE DELICACIES, RISKS, AND OTHER PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM. DESPITE THESE FACTORS, WE -- AND THIS INCLUDES PROFESSION PLACE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON IT AS IS OBVIOUS FROM THE FOREGOING. WITH RESPECT TO REF PROGRAM, FOR THE RECORD WE ARE TO PROCEED WITH OUR FAIR SHARE OF THE BURDEN IN THOSE DELIBERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES AS THOUGH NOTHING ELSE IS ON THE DRAWING BOARD.

5. FINALLY, ALL OF US CERTAINLY RECOGNIZE WHAT A BURDEN YOU HAVE CARRIED OVER THE PAST MONTHS AND WHAT FINE JOB YOU HAVE DONE UNDER, CERTAINLY, LESS THAN IDEAL CONDITIONS. THIS, WE KNOW, IS ASKING UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST DIFFICULT SERIES OF MANEUVERS YET IN THE FINAL STAGES OF THIS OPERATION. IF THERE

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