

MEMORANDUM

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MANDATORY REVIEW
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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May 24, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Eduardo Frei
11:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 25

Eduardo Frei, former President of Chile (1964-70), has just arrived from Europe where he met with Chancellor Schmidt, Willy Brandt, and Helmut Kohl in West Germany, Premier Soares in Spain, and the Belgian Prime Minister. He asked to meet with the President or you, undoubtedly to talk about the recent repression and political situation in Chile.

On March 15, 1977, General Pinochet extended the state of siege and banned all political parties, confiscating property, and prohibiting all political activity. Pinochet said he plans to continue in power indefinitely, and democratic groups in Chile are losing hope. That is why Frei, who is a cautious person, has embarked on an effort to broaden and intensify international opposition to Pinochet and perhaps build support for an alternative government.

Frei's request presented us with a difficult decision since the press became aware of it. If we refused to meet with him, Pinochet would see it as an endorsement of his regime, and human rights groups in the US would say that our policy was only aimed at the Soviet Union (e.g., your meeting with Bukovsky). By meeting with him, Pinochet may interpret it as a sign that the US is crowning his opposition, and he may accelerate the current wave of repression.

Frei and his colleagues have said that they do not anticipate very negative consequences as a result of the meeting, but they accept the risk regardless.

Clodomiro Almeyda, a leader of the Chilean Socialist Party and Foreign Minister under Allende, will be meeting with Christopher on Friday. State has notified Chilean Ambassador Cauas of these meetings, and Christopher will meet with Cauas on Thursday.

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By: [Signature] NARA, Date: 6/1/74

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Frei is probably looking for some support in an effort to crack the solidarity of the junta. There is some question whether Pinochet can survive if the US withdrew its support; some in State believe that he is prepared and capable of completely isolating himself. Others think he cannot.

The State Department prepared the following talking points:

-- What sort of political evolution do you see for Chile over the next three to five years?

-- What will be the role of the military?

-- Do you think the military can continue to turn its back on Chile's democratic tradition?

-- What chances are there that the Junta will improve its human rights record?

-- What role, if any, do you see for the US in this evolution?

-- What effect will International Financial Institutions, such as the World Bank, have on this policy?

-- What suggestions do you have as to how we can best contribute to the advancement of the cause of human rights in Chile and in Latin America in general?

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