

today, he said, "show that the C.I.A. was well-apprised of the vicious nature of the Chilean regime."

The public affairs office at the C.I.A. did not respond to phone calls early this evening.

The documents released today date from 1973 to 1978, "the period of the most flagrant human rights abuses in Chile," said James Foley, a State Department spokesman.

The White House said in a statement that "a limited number of documents have not been released at this time, primarily because they relate to an ongoing Justice Department investigation" of the murder of Mr. Letelier and Ms. Moffitt.

Administration officials, speaking on condition that they not be identified, said that the inquiry was active, in part as a result of information available to the United States from Spanish prosecutors seeking to try General Pinochet.

In April, they said, a senior criminal prosecutor from the Justice Department, Mark Richard, traveled to Spain to meet with Spanish authorities to discuss whether Washington and Madrid could swap information in their investigations. Prosecutors here have long been interested in whether there is evidence that General Pinochet or his deputies ordered the murders in Washington because Mr. Letelier was an opponent of the Pinochet regime.

The killings here are believed to have been part of an orchestrated campaign of violence known within the Pinochet Government as Operation Condor, in which opponents of the junta were targeted for assassination in and out of Chile.

A State Department document dated Aug. 18, 1976, only a month before Mr. Letelier's murder, shows that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and other senior department officials were warned of "rumors" that Operation Condor might "include plans for the assassination of subversives, politicians and prominent figures both within the national borders of certain Southern Cone countries and abroad."

Reed Brody of Human Rights Watch, who unearthed the document, said it "shows the United States was very aware of the terrorist activities that General Pinochet and his colleagues were engaging in there, as well as abroad."

[From the Washington Post, July 1, 1999]

DOCUMENTS SHOW U.S. KNEW PINOCHET
PLANNED CRACKDOWN IN '73

(By Karen DeYoung and Vernon Loeb)

Days after the bloody 1973 coup that overthrew Chilean President Salvador Allende, the CIA mission in Chile reported to Washington that the new government of Gen. Augusto Pinochet planned "severe repression" against its opponents. A month later, the agency noted that "the line between people killed during attacks on security forces and those captured and executed immediately has become increasingly blurred."

The CIA cables are among nearly 6,000 newly declassified government documents released yesterday related to human rights and political violence in Chile during the first five years of Pinochet's rule.

In addition to indications that the CIA and the U.S. Embassy in Santiago had detailed information on the extent of repression and rights abuses there soon after the coup, the documents provide new insights into disagreements within President Richard M. Nixon's administration over policy toward Pinochet's Chile.

The Clinton administration agreed to review and release selected documents from the State and Defense departments, the CIA and the FBI after Pinochet was arrested last

October in London in response to a Spanish extradition request on charges of alleged human rights violations committed during his 17-year rule. The extradition trial is scheduled for September.

The redacted documents made public yesterday cover the years of the worst excesses of the Chilean military government, from 1973 to 1978, when at least 3,000 people were killed or "disappeared" at the hands of government forces. Additional documents—including some from 1968 to 1973 covering the election of Allende, a Marxist, as president and the events leading up to the coup and his death—are scheduled for later release.

The documents are primarily status overviews and intelligence reports on the situation inside Chile, and add little of substance to scholarly and congressional reviews of the period, as well as investigations conducted by the democratically elected Chilean governments that followed Pinochet. Nor are the documents likely to be useful in the Pinochet extradition case.

For example, information concerning the 1976 car bomb assassination in Washington of former Chilean diplomat and Pinochet opponent Orlando Letelier and his assistant Ronni Karpen Moffitt were left out, the State Department said, because aspects of the case are still being investigated by the Justice Department.

Human rights organizations commended the Clinton administration for the release but expressed disappointment at its selective nature. Peter Kornbluh of the National Security Archives, who is compiling information for a book about Pinochet, said of the released documents: "The CIA has much to offer here, and much to hide. They clearly are continuing to hide this history."

Embassy reporting from Santiago reflected the Nixon administration's support of the 1973 coup, although the administration consistently denied helping to plan or carry it out. In late September that year, the embassy reported, the new Pinochet government appealed for American advisers to help to set up detention camps for the thousands of Chileans it had arrested.

Worried about the "obvious political problems" such assistance might cause, the embassy suggested in a cable to the State Department that it instead "may wish to consider feasibility of material assistance in form of tents, blankets, etc. which need not be publicly and specifically earmarked for prisoners."

Ambassador David H. Popper wrote the State Department in early 1974 that in conversations with the new government "I have invariably taken the line that the U.S. government is in sympathy with, and supports, the Government of Chile, but that our ability to be helpful . . . is hampered by [U.S.] Congressional and media concerns . . . with respect to alleged violations of human rights here."

In a December 1974 secret cable, the agency reported on information it had received concerning a briefing in which Chile's interior minister and the head of the Directorate of National Intelligence noted that the junta had detained 30,568 people, of whom more than 8,000 still were being held. The two also agreed that an unspecified number of people were being secretly held because "they are part of sensitive, ongoing security investigations."

The Pinochet government never publicly acknowledged secret detentions. According to Chilean government reports in 1991 and 1996, a total of 2,095 extrajudicial executions and death under torture took place during the military regime, and 1,102 people disappeared at the hands of government forces and are presumed dead.

By July 1977, U.S. policy under the new Carter administration had turned sharply

against Pinochet. Yet the embassy expressed irritation over being asked to write "still another human rights report" on Chile and noted the "strong and varied views" inside the mission.

In its own report, the embassy military group complained: "We [the United States] do not appear to be visionary enough to see the total picture; we focus only upon the relatively few violation cases which occur and continue to hound the government about past events while shrugging off demonstrated improvements."

WARTIME VIOLATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, late in the night of December 7, 1941, only hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Filippo Molinari heard noises outside his San Jose home. When Molinari went to investigate, he found three policemen at his front door. They told him that by order of President Roosevelt, he must come with them.

Molinari had served in the Italian army during World War I, fighting alongside American troops. He was well-known within his community as a door-to-door salesman for the Italian language newspaper *L'Italia*. He was the founding member of the San Francisco Sons of Italy. And now, he was under arrest. Shortly thereafter, Molinari would be shipped to a government detention center in Fort Missoula, Montana.

Filippo Molinari's story is not unique. He was one of hundreds of Italian Americans arrested in the first days of the war and sent to internment centers or excluded from California. In 1942 over ten thousand Italian Americans across the nation were forcibly evacuated from their homes and relocated away from coastal areas and military bases. Additionally, some 600,000 Italian nationals, most of whom had lived in the United States for decades, were deemed "enemy aliens" and subject to strict travel restrictions, curfews, and seizures of personal property.

These so-called "enemy aliens" were required to carry photo-bearing ID booklets at all times, forbidden to travel beyond a five mile radius of their homes, and required to turn in any shortwave radios, cameras, flashlights and firearms in their possession. In California 52,000 Italian residents were subjected to a curfew. In Monterey, Boston, and elsewhere Italian American fishermen were grounded. Many fishermen who were naturalized citizens had their boats impounded by the navy—all this while half a million Italian Americans were serving, fighting, and dying in the U.S. armed forces during World War II.

It has long been a historical misconception that President Roosevelt's infamous Executive Order 9066 applied only to Japanese and Japanese-Americans living in the western states. Clearly this was not the case. There is another chapter to this sad story, "Una Storia Segreta"—a secret story. The bill I am introducing today is an attempt to start setting the record straight.

The Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act calls on the Department of

Justice to prepare and publish a comprehensive report detailing the government's unjust policies and practices during this time period. A part of this report would include an examination of ways in which civil liberties can be safeguarded during future national emergencies.

This legislation would also encourage relevant federal agencies to support projects such as exhibitions and documentaries that would heighten public awareness of this unfortunate episode. Further, it recommends the formation of an advisory committee to assist in the compilation of relevant information regarding this matter and related public policy matters.

Finally, the Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act calls upon the President to acknowledge formally our government's systematic denial of civil liberties to what was then the largest foreign-born ethnic group in the United States.

I am pleased to say that I am joined today in introducing this important piece of legislation by 62 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, including fellow-New York Representative ELIOT ENGEL, who has led the way on this issue. The diversity of this list of original cosponsors, is indicative of both the national scope of the injustices that took place and the widespread interest—interest across ethnic and geographic lines—that justice is finally done. We owe it to the Italian American community and the American public to find out and publicize exactly what happened. A complete understanding of the ethnic persecution that took place in this sad chapter of American history is the best guarantee that it will never happen again.

“A NOTE OF THANKS TO THE
“GREATEST””

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, looking forward toward July 4th, Independence Day, I believe it is absolutely appropriate that this country reflect on the sacrifices made to keep this country independent. Towards that goal, I would like to submit for the RECORD an essay by Philip Burgess which most eloquently makes the point.

A NOTE OF THANKS TO THE “GREATEST”

A few days ago I received an e-mail from a friend, an attorney who reads a lot and is thoughtful about what he reads. He had a good idea for Memorial Day.

“Like many other Americans,” he began, “I have been reading Tom Brokaw's *The Greatest Generation*. As you know, it is a book of short stories about how ordinary Americans (farmers, factory workers and store clerks) came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and, in Brokaw's words, ‘went on to build modern America—men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement and courage gave us the world we have today.’ They sought no praise or glory; they simply did a job they had to do.”

He continued, “Today, I had an interesting experience. I attended a family gathering of a new Naval Academy graduate. His grandfather was there. As a young man, the grandfather had fought in the Pacific during WW

II. Here I was, face-to-face with a member of the ‘greatest generation.’ As I visited with him, I was moved by my increasing awareness of how much he and his peers had contributed to democracy and other values I hold dear. I was also moved by the realization, that on an individual basis, I had never thanked a WW II veteran for what he or she had done for me and my family and the freedom and opportunities we now enjoy and too often take for granted.

“So, during a lull in the conversation, I approached the grandfather. I looked him in the eye and I told him that I'd been reading about and reflecting on what he and others like him had done for me and for the country during WW II. And then I said: ‘Thank you for what you did.’

“As he looked at me, the grandfather's eyes began to water and he said: ‘No one has ever thanked me for that before.’ He then reached up and put his arm around my shoulders and said: ‘Thank you. That means a lot to me.’ We embraced, and then, with a tear in my own eye, I turned around and walked away.”

My friend's idea: “As this Memorial Day approaches, I encourage you to think of WW II veterans (or any other war veteran) you know and communicate to them your personal thanks for what they did during that great war. WW II veterans are in the twilight of their lives. They will not be around forever to receive your thanks.”

I was moved by this note. I decided to start with a letter to my relatives who were part of “the greatest generation.” Uncle Bud served in the Pacific and would have been part of a Japan invasion force, but was delivered from that fate by President Truman's decision to use the atomic bomb rather than more American blood to end the war in the Pacific. Uncle Walt was a B-24 bomber pilot and a flight instructor. Aunt Betty was an Army nurse who accompanied the first infantry units in the liberation of the concentration camp at Dachau and returned with pictures and other mementos that document that many horrors that occurred there.

I have talked with them many times about their wartime experiences. But I have never thanked them for answering their call to duty nor for their many subsequent achievements, the fruits of which I enjoy today. I intend to fix that before the week is over. I've already started the letters, and with the first words last night, I began to realize that it's my spirit that will be enriched by writing these letters—at least as much as theirs will be lifted by receiving them.

A heart-felt “thank-you” always seems to work that way, but it's their spirit and their achievements that we need to remember this Memorial Day.

SIKH JOURNALIST'S MAIL IS
BEING INTERCEPTED

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that journalist Sukhbir Singh Osan, proprietor of *Burning Punjab* and a writer for several Indian newspapers, is once again being harassed by the Indian government. After he came to North America to cover the big Sikh marches in Washington, New York, and Toronto and made a speech in the United Kingdom on the human rights situation in India, he was grilled for 45 minutes by Indian intelligence officers. Now, Indian postal authorities are intercepting his mail.

In a letter to the Chief Postmaster of Chandigarh, which was brought to my attention by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, Mr. Osan noted that postal officials were handling his mail over to police constables. Several important documents were found lying on the desk of a Deputy Inspector General of Police. Mr. Osan, who is a law graduate as well as a journalist, pointed out that this action violates the Indian constitution and violates a ruling by the Indian Supreme Court in 1995.

This is not the first time Mr. Osan has run afoul of the Indian state. His mail has been diverted before and he has received telephone threats for his reporting on corruption and human rights violations.

Here is Indian democracy in action. If you criticize the government, your mail is seized, the government grills you, and you are threatened. In spite of all this, Mr. Osan goes on providing information about the situation in Punjab, Khalistan on his website and in his articles. His courage deserves our respect.

This abuse of Mr. Osan's rights is just the latest Indian violation of the basic liberties of Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan. In light of this pattern of tyranny, America should help bring liberty to the people living under Indian rule.

Let us use our influence constructively to bring freedom, peace, and stability to this troubled region before it turns into another Kosovo. If that happens, it could pose a serious danger to the entire world, given India and Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons and India's alleged use of chemical weapons in the Kargil conflict. We must act now to keep this from happening.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRIS
CAHOON

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the courageous efforts of Chris Cahoon, a resident of Warwick, Rhode Island, who recently came to the rescue of a choking child. Chris, a sixteen year-old volunteer at the Washington Fire Department in Coventry, Rhode Island, was spending Father's Day with his family at a local restaurant when he notices some commotion at another table. A father was slapping his son on the back, trying to assist his choking ten year-old. Using the quick thinking and first aid training he had learned as a Fire Scout, Chris leapt from his seat and deftly administered the Heimlich maneuver to the child, who, after being examined by the local rescue team, was able to resume his meal. For his decisive action, Chris earned the respect and gratitude of the child, his family, and the assembled emergency medical technicians.

Such mature behavior may seem uncharacteristic of a sixteen year-old, though Chris's family and acquaintances have known of his dedication to helping others since his earliest days. Like many young children, Chris once told everyone within earshot that he wanted to grow up to be a firefighter. However, unlike other youths, Chris followed his dream and joined the Washington Fire Department's Fire Scout Program at the early age of