

A TRIBUTE TO THE RECIPIENTS  
OF THE 1999 "TRAIL BLAZING  
FOR CHILDREN" AWARDS WEEK-  
END AND THE RASHEED A. WAL-  
LACE FOUNDATION

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both the Rasheed A. Wallace Foundation, host of the 1999 "Trail Blazing for Children" Award, and the recipients of the named award. Both the recipients and the Rasheed A. Wallace Foundation have been instrumental in improving the lives of children throughout Philadelphia. In addition, I would also like to extend congratulations to the Police Athletic League of Philadelphia and Mr. Sonny Hill of the Sonny Hill Basketball League on their outstanding accomplishments to youth in the Philadelphia community.

Central to the focus of the Rasheed A. Wallace Foundation has been "Enhancing the Quality of Life for All People." The commitment of the foundation is seen each year during its Annual Coat Drive for the Homeless and a series of contributions targeting youth recreation programs in the area. Such charitable efforts have been seen throughout his professional basketball career.

The Rasheed A. Wallace Foundation is truly blazing trails for young people and the less fortunate in Philadelphia. I salute Rasheed on his charitable contributions to our great city and give my best wishes for continued success to both the foundation and the award recipients.

NEW REVELATIONS ON GENERAL  
PINOCHET AND THE UNITED  
STATES

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will recall, I have worked for several years now, along with Mr. CONYERS of Michigan and others here, to have the United States declassify documents concerning Gen. Augusto Pinochet's 1973 military coup in Chile and its aftermath and what the United States knew about Pinochet's connection to human rights violations and acts of terrorism both in Chile and abroad.

A Spanish court is trying to extradite General Pinochet to stand trial in Spain for international human rights violations. The documents held by the United States are expected to shed important light on Pinochet's activities that will help clarify his personal role in this bloody period of history.

Yesterday, the first significant release of documents took place. I commend to my colleagues the articles below, from the New York Times and the Washington Post concerning the 5,800 documents released at the National Archives. As you will note from the articles below, it is suspected that there are still many more relevant documents that have not been released, particularly from the Central Intelligence Agency, which only contributed 490

documents to yesterday's release. I applaud the Administration for releasing yesterday's documents but I strongly urge them to continue to release documents on a timely basis from all branches of the Administration, including the CIA.

The search for the truth is important not only for the historic case against General Pinochet, but for Americans too who wish to know what role their government may have played in a violent period of history and how we may avoid playing such a role in the future.

The New York Times notes also that not only will the documents help Spain, but that Spain has already helped provide information to the United States that might help the Justice Department complete its still open case against those responsible for the assassination of Chilean exile Orlando Letelier and his American assistant Ronnie Karpen Moffitt in Washington, D.C. in 1976. It is widely believed, but has not yet been proven, that General Pinochet personally ordered Letelier's execution.

The documents released yesterday further demonstrate that the United States was well aware of atrocities taking place during and after the coup and that despite this knowledge the Nixon Administration sought to maintain close ties to General Pinochet.

"U.S. Releases Files on Abuses in Pinochet Era," The New York Times, July 1, 1999, Page A11.

"Documents Show U.S. Knew Pinochet Planned Crackdown in '73," The Washington Post, July 1, 1999, Page A23.

[From the New York Times, July 1, 1999]

U.S. RELEASES FILES ON ABUSES IN PINOCHET  
ERA

(By Philip Shenon)

WASHINGTON, June 30—The C.I.A. and other Government agencies had detailed reports of widespread human rights abuses by the Chilean military, including the killings and torture of leftist dissidents, almost immediately after a 1973 right-wing coup that the United States supported, according to once-secret Government documents released today.

The 5,800 documents which the Clinton Administration decided last year to declassify and make public could provide evidence to support the prosecution of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who seized power in the coup and was arrested in Britain last October. Spain is seeking his extradition, charging that his junta had kidnapped, tortured and killed Spanish citizens.

The documents were released as Clinton Administration officials confirmed that the Justice Department has been conferring with Spanish authorities, in part to exchange information about General Pinochet, including his possible involvement in the 1976 car-bomb assassination in Washington of the Chilean Ambassador to the United States, Orlando Letelier, and a colleague, Ronni Moffitt, of the Institute for Policy Studies. Because the Justice Department considers the Letelier investigation to be ongoing, the Government withheld documents related to the murders, officials said today.

Historians and human rights advocates, who were busily trying to sort through the nearly 20,000 pages released today by the National Archives, agreed that the documents did not offer startling revelations about American ties to the Chilean junta under General Pinochet.

Instead, they said, the documents provide rich new detail to support the long-held view

that the United States knew during and after the coup about the Chilean military's murderous crackdown on leftists.

On Sept. 21, 1973, 10 days after the coup, one C.I.A. report said: "The prevailing mood among the Chilean military is to use the current opportunity to stamp out all vestiges of Communism in Chile for good. Severe repression is planned. The military is rounding up large numbers of people, including students and leftists of all descriptions, and interning them."

The report noted that "300 students were killed in the technical university when they refused to surrender" in Santiago, the capital, and that the military was considering a plan to kill "50 leftists" for every leftist sniper still operating.

In a summary of the situation in Chile a month after the coup, a C.I.A. report dated Oct. 12 found that "security considerations still have first priority with the junta."

"The line between people killed during attacks on security forces and those captured and executed immediately has become increasingly blurred," the report continued. It said the junta "has launched a campaign to improve its international image; the regime shows no sign of relenting in its determination to deal swiftly and decisively with dissidents, however, and the bloodshed goes on."

However, a C.I.A. report dated March 21, 1974, insisted that "the junta has not been bloodthirsty."

"The Government has been the target of numerous charges related to alleged violations of human rights," it said. "Many of the accusations are merely politically inspired falsehoods or gross exaggerations."

An estimated 5,000 people were killed in the coup, including Chile's democratically elected President, Salvador Allende, whose body was recovered from the bombed remains of the Presidential Palace, which had been attacked by military jets.

Thousands more died or were tortured at the hands of the military during General Pinochet's 17-year rule. Last week, the Chilean College of Medicine reported that at least 200,000 people had been tortured by Government forces at the time.

Under the Nixon Administration, the Central Intelligence Agency mounted a full-tilt covert operation to keep Dr. Allende from taking office and, when that failed, undertook subtler efforts to undermine him. The C.I.A.'s director of operations at the time, Thomas Karamessines, later told Senate investigators that those efforts "never really ended."

The C.I.A. has never provided a full explanation of what it knew about human rights abuses carried out by the Chilean military during and after the coup. But internal Government documents released since have shown that the agency's knowledge of the violence was extensive.

The Clinton Administration announced last December that, as a result of the arrest of General Pinochet, it would declassify some of the documents.

The Administration described the move as an attempt at Government accountability, and it was the first sign that the United States intended to cooperate in the criminal case being built against General Pinochet.

The vast majority of the documents released today—5,000 of the 5,800—came from the files of the State Department. The C.I.A. released 490 documents, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 100, and the Pentagon, 60.

Human rights groups said they were surprised by the paucity of documents declassified by the C.I.A.

"The C.I.A. has the most to offer but also the most to hide," said Peter Kornbluh of the National Security Archive, a public-interest clearing-house for declassified documents. The documents that were released