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The Washington Star

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LETELIER'S ORDER FOR TWO GUNS

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Washington Star Staff Writer

On March 7, 1973, a short letter was sent to a Washington-area firearms dealer by Ambassador Orlando Letelier of Chile on embassy stationery.

It read:
"Please enter my order for two Ingram M11 Systems .380 ACP cal. for test and evaluation. Very truly yours, Orlando Letelier, Ambassador of Chile."

In less than two days, the State Department's Office of Munitions Control had signed the export license, and the transfer was also signed by Rex Davis, director of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol,

Tobacco and Firearms. Both documents are dated March 9, 1973.

Late that afternoon, a messenger from the firearms company arrived at the Chilean embassy residence, where he received a check from an administrative officer named Hernan Navarro in the amount of \$476.80. The check was signed by Letelier.

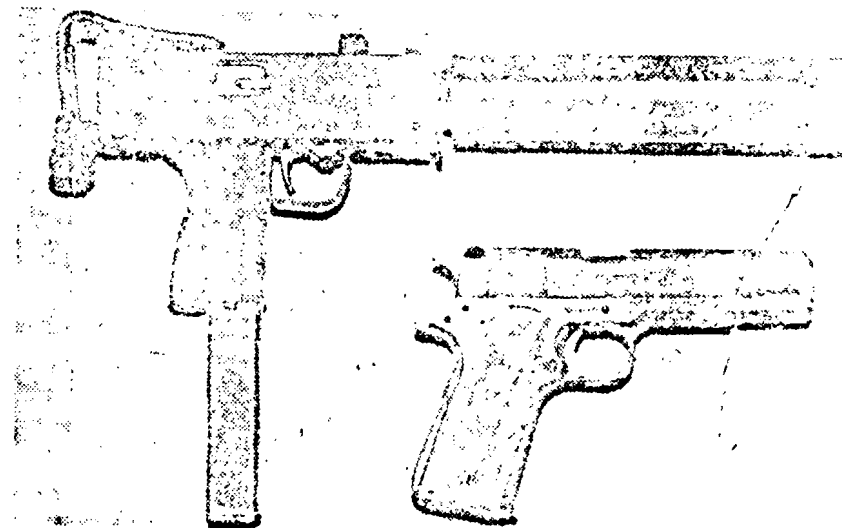
THE CHILEAN ambassador then left for a 10-day visit in Santiago via LAN Chile Airlines Flight 451 with his luggage and, apparently, the package from the Washington-area arms dealer. The package contained two Ingram 9mm submachine guns. These weapons are equipped to fire a 32-cartridge clip, effective at 100

meters single-shot and more if sprayed at the full-automatic setting.

With the sound suppressor, or silencer, the Ingram is described by U.S. authorities as a lethal counterinsurgency weapon that has no other purpose than killing by stealth. With the silencer and clip removed and the wire shoulder stock folded inside the gun, the weapon is no larger than a .45-caliber pistol of the standard American make.

The reason for the purchase of two of these submachine guns with silencers, plus 200 rounds of ammunition, by Letelier — six months before his Marxist Unidad Popular government was overthrown by the Chilean

See LETELIER, A-12.



—Washington Star Photographer Ray Lustig
The type of submachine-gun purchased by Letelier, equipped with silencer and with 32-round clip in place. With stock folded as shown and silencer removed it is about the same size as Colt .45 automatic in picture.

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LETELIER

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armed forces — is as much a mystery today as his murder here last Sept. 21 when a bomb exploded under his car.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS and Washington police investigating the murders of Letelier and his associate, Ronni Karpen Moffitt, discovered that he had bought the weapons. The Washington Star began checking the same ground last week after Letelier's widow, Isabel Letelier, told a Georgetown University audience that her husband had been falsely accused by the military junta of involvement in drug trafficking and weapons smuggling.

Dets. Stanley R. Wilson and John R. Chaillet of the Metropolitan Police homicide squad, assigned to the Moffitt-Letelier case, were asked about the junta accusations and Mrs. Letelier's response. Although they refused to discuss any aspects of their investigations, the detectives said there was no evidence of any kind that Letelier had been involved in drug trafficking.

They did confirm, however, that Letelier had bought two weapons before he was recalled from his ambassadorship here in May 1973, but declined to disclose any further details of the purchase. But The Star located the arms dealer, who also insisted on anonymity, and has obtained a copy of Letelier's order for the submachine guns.

The dealer insisted that the sale was legal and showed the U.S. government documents he obtained at the State and Treasury departments before making the delivery to the ambassador. The dealer said he hand-carried the documents to State and Treasury for the necessary signatures. A State Department source said the transaction apparently was expedited by officials because normally the necessary approvals could not be obtained in a two-day period.

THE SILENCERS, according to Deputy Director James D. Hataway, could not be exported now under State Department policies established since Letelier bought the silencers and submachine guns.

The Ingram submachine gun was designed for use with a silencer and is out of balance without it. Without the silencer and with the stock at full extension, the weapon is easily concealed inside a suit coat. It has little recoil and, with the silencer, is almost noiseless.

While it could not be ascertained whether Letelier took the weapons with him to Chile on March 9, 1973, the messenger who delivered the package to the chancery was told that the ambassador needed the package for his journey. Bringing the weapons out of the United States and into Chile would not have been smuggling because Letelier had all the necessary permission from U.S. authorities. There would have been no difficulty in getting the weapons past customs since Letelier could either have carried them in his luggage or in the Chilean diplomatic pouch.

THE ARMS DEALER said he had no idea whether Letelier wanted the weapons for his own use, was taking them to Chile for someone else or whether the "test and evaluation" motivation was genuine. Officials say the normal procedure for any government acquiring weapons for test and evaluation is through military attaché channels. In any case, it is not known what Letelier did with them.

The Chilean Embassy here, now representing the military junta, said it would have to ask Santiago if the Ingrams and the silencers were captured when the armed forces took power. The serial numbers of the weapons bought by Allende are 3-300819 and 3-3001047. The silencer numbers are S-3-2000379 and S-3-2000460, according to the records of the arms dealer here.

Letelier returned to Chile in May 1973 and became successively foreign minister, minister of interior and defense minister. He was taken prisoner by the armed forces on Sept. 11, 1973, when the coup d'état was carried out by the armed forces under Gen. Augusto Pinochet, and spent much of the next year on bleak Dawson Island near the Straits of Magellan.

About a week after the coup, a Star reporter visited Mrs. Letelier in her Santiago home and was asked if her husband had had any weapons. She said he had a pistol that was given to him by fellow employes when he was leaving the Inter-American Development Bank. Mrs. Letelier, who now lives in Bethesda, said she turned this souvenir pistol over to the Chilean national police as soon as the junta issued a decree requiring that all weapons be handed in.

The Ingram submachine gun and silencer were made by the Military Armament Corp. of Powder Springs, Ga. The local arms dealer said the company since has gone out of business.

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By JACK ANDERSON:

Slain Chilean tied to Havana

Secret papers found in Chilean exile leader Orlando Letelier's attache case after his assassination show he had been collecting a mysterious \$1,000 a month through a "Havana connection." The papers also reveal that Letelier's office had been in close contact, perhaps innocently, with a top Cuban intelligence agent named Julian Torres Rizo.

The respected Letelier, a former Chilean foreign minister, was blown to oblivion on Sept. 21 as he was driving down Washington's tranquil, tree-shaded Embassy Row. Accompanying him in his blue Chevrolet were two passengers, Mike Moffit and his wife, Ronni. The bomb blast also killed Ronni, but Mike miraculously survived.

He telephoned us afterward in anguish and pleaded with us to investigate the assassination. Our preliminary findings indicated that Chile's dread secret police, known as DINA, probably had been behind the bombing. Now our investigation has turned up some unexpected developments.

The blast that killed Letelier, we have learned, revealed that he had been leading a strange double life. The evidence was locked in a Samsnite attache case, which investigators salvaged from the wreckage.

The briefcase was returned to the murdered man's family. But first, intelligence agents copied the contents for possi-



ble clues that might lead to the assassins.

They found some unexpected clues that were even more fascinating. The briefcase contained papers so sensitive that Letelier probably carried them to prevent their theft by CIA housebreakers. We have now seen some of these hush-hush papers.

They show that Letelier received \$1,000 a month through a "Havana connection." His contact was none other than Beatrice (Tati) Allende, daughter of Salvador Allende, the Chilean president who was slain in 1973 by a military junta. Tati now lives in Havana with her husband, who is a Cuban official.

In a May 8, 1975, letter to Letelier, she notified him that he will receive \$5,000 as an advance payment "para apoyar tu trabajo" — "to support your work." This was to be followed by the monthly \$1,000 payments. The money would come, she said, from the Chilean Socialist Party in exile. The disbursement had been approved, she explained, by the party's leader, Carlos Altamierano, who is reported to be living in exile in East Berlin.

The Chilean Socialist Party has offices in East Berlin, Havana and Rome. Intelligence sources contend that money couldn't have been transmitted to Letelier without the Cuban government's approval.

Another letter in Letelier's briefcase was written on Sept. 14, 1976, by one of his young colleagues. It tells of a meeting in Havana with Emilio Brito, a Communist Central Committee functionary. According to our intelligence sources, Brito is affiliated with the Cuban planning group that directs the subversion of Puerto Rico and the United States.

The letter thanks Brito for some scholarly material "received from the hands of Julian Rizo." The writer promises to send other academic information to Brito through "la Mision," meaning the Cuban mission at the United Nations.

Officially, Rizo was listed as the first secretary of the Cuban mission. But as early as March 1, 1976, we identified him as a spy in diplomatic disguise. "His mission at the United Nations," we wrote, "is to develop contacts with radicals in this country."

We have omitted the name of Letelier's young colleague, because he has received an assassination threat. But we questioned him for an hour. The young man contended persuasively that he was totally unaware of the intelligence roles of Brito and Rizo.



Dead Chilean exile had link to Cuba

By Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

WASHINGTON — Secret papers found in Chilean exile leader Orlando Letelier's attache' case after his assassination shows he had been collecting a mysterious \$1,000 a month through a "Havana connection."

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Letelier, at the time of his death, was affiliated with the Institute for Policy Studies. The Institute's director, Marcu Raskin, said he had no knowledge of Letelier's secret payments. "What he did for his Chilean concerns was totally outside his Institute work," Raskin told us.