

Development in Letelier Case

SANTIAGO, Chile—The prosecutor for the Chilean Supreme Court said he has recommended against extraditing three former secret police officials to the United States for trial in the Orlando Letelier murder case.

The prosecutor delivered the recommendation to the court president in private but told reporters what it contained as he went into the judge's chamber. He said he was also recommending against trying the men in Chile on the U.S. charges.

U.S. officials have sought the extradition of the three, who include Gen. Juan Manuel Contreras, the former head of DINA, the officially disbanded Chilean secret police.

[Assistant U.S. Attorney E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., a prosecutor in the Letelier case, said it "might be precipitous to say anything" about the recommendation before the court responds to it, but added, "Obviously it would be disturbing and distressing if that recommendation were followed."]