

# Former Aide Says Pinochet and a Son Dealt in Drugs

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SANTIAGO, [Chile](#), July 10 — Gen. [Augusto Pinochet](#)'s former intelligence chief, now one of his bitterest enemies, has implicated the disgraced dictator and one of his sons in a cocaine manufacturing and smuggling scheme and contends that it was one of the sources of General Pinochet's illicit \$28 million fortune.

Gen. Manuel Contreras, who ran the Directorate of National Intelligence, the Chilean secret police, during the 1970's, made the charges in a document submitted last week to an investigating magistrate here. He also accused General Pinochet of embezzling money from secret government accounts that the dictator controlled during his 17 years in power, which ended in 1990.

According to General Contreras's account, the cocaine was processed with General Pinochet's authorization at a Chilean Army chemical plant in Talagante, south of here, during the 1980's. General Pinochet's son Marco Antonio and one of his business partners then arranged for the drugs to be transported to Europe and the United States, with payoffs going into secret bank accounts the Pinochet family held abroad, General Contreras's account said.

The accusations were first reported Sunday in the Chilean newspaper *La Nación*. General Contreras has been in jail since January 2005 in connection with human rights abuses and was not available for comment. But his lawyer, Fidel Reyes, and judicial officials confirmed Monday that the account published Sunday accurately reflected the written statement General Contreras supplied to the magistrate.

During the 1970's, when the worst of the military dictatorship's human rights abuses occurred, General Contreras was one of General Pinochet's closest and most trusted associates. But the two men have fallen out in recent years, with General Contreras contending that he is being made the scapegoat for human rights violations for which General Pinochet should take responsibility.

In 1993, a Chilean court sentenced General Contreras to seven years in prison for his role in the 1976 assassination in Washington of Orlando Letelier, a former foreign minister of Chile. He has also been convicted of kidnapping a Socialist Party leader in 1974, and convicted in Argentina of the 1974 bombing assassination of a former Chilean Army chief opposed to General Pinochet.

General Contreras said, according to the account, that the drug manufacturing effort was overseen by a secret police chemist named Eugenio Berrios, accused by human rights groups of developing poisons to kill General Pinochet's political opponents. Mr. Berrios disappeared in 1991, as he faced questioning about the making of the bomb that killed Mr. Letelier, and was found dead on a beach in Uruguay four years later.

Spokesmen for General Pinochet, who is now 90, ailing and reviled even by many who once supported him, and Marco Antonio Pinochet, on Monday angrily denied General Contreras's accusations, which the Chilean Army said it would investigate. A lawyer for Marco Antonio Pinochet said he would file a libel suit on Tuesday.