

Process Paper
Word Count: 489

The past three years when researching History Day projects, our focus has been on social movements such as the Quiet Revolution, the trade union Solidarność, and the Third World Liberation Front. When we heard this year's theme, we were compelled to expand our perspective of communication and research a topic that we didn't know a lot about. As we researched historical events that related to the theme, we remained interested in social movements. Using this interest to guide our search, we came upon Salvador Allende and the Chilean coup. We knew a little about the coup and Pinochet's regime mainly through Isabel Allende's book, *Of Love and Shadows*, and it seemed like a topic that would interest us. As we dug deeper into the historical event, we found the US's involvement fascinating and wanted to learn more. It was intriguing for us to learn about the back-channel communications conducted by the CIA and we thought it would be interesting to center these declassified communications as our project's focus.

This year pushed our research skills. Because we are attending school online and many events are virtual, we have been challenged to find a wide variety of sources. We started our research by requesting books from the library and looking into reliable databases. We were able to use the National Security Archive's website as a great resource for looking at the declassified communications, and found the books *The Pinochet File* by Peter Kornbluh and *The Chilean Spring* by Fernando Algría both extremely helpful. We attended multiple virtual help sessions at the East Side Freedom Library to receive research materials and feedback on our writing. We were able to interview the Director Of J2 Intelligence at US Southern Command, Army Brigadier General Timothy Brown. This interview was insightful and helped us understand the evolution of the US military's involvement in Latin America.

In the past, when participating in History Day, we have created documentaries. This year, we wanted to try something new and find another way to present our research creatively. Creating a website intrigued us because we could still have a larger word count and be able to play with creating a unique and creative design. Although learning how to use the website creator has proved to be challenging, we have had a lot of fun designing our website and finding multimedia to back up our main argument.

Our project relates to this year's theme, *Communication in History*, because it takes an in-depth look into documented communications (mainly phone and cable) from an impactful historical event: the declassified communications between US government officials and members of the Chilean military that led to the 1973 Chilean coup. These communications had a lasting impact on the entire nation of Chile and its citizens, an impact that is still felt today. Our project takes a look at this year's theme through the lens of focusing on how people have used communication to shape history.