

Chile Drops Reporter's Expulsion

By Joseph Novitski

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SANTIAGO, Sept. 2 — The Chilean government officially informed me this afternoon that an order to expel me last Friday was rescinded today.

"The government wants you to be able to carry out your job in complete freedom here," said Lt. Col. Enrique Montero, an air force officer who is deputy minister of interior for the military government. His ministry is in charge of all of civilian police.

The officer said that police action taken over the weekend had been a result of the expulsion order and the government's reconsideration. He did not rebut or deny any story I had filed from Chile and said he could not comment on the apparent summary execution of two men near Santiago last month, which was reported in The Post Monday. The colonel said he knew nothing of the incident.

Last Friday, after the government had become aware that I had filed the story, based on the records of the Santiago court of appeal, reporting the apparent summary execution, police with arrest orders visited my apartment in Santiago.

I was not arrested, and Saturday morning a police official said no action would be taken for the moment. But on Saturday afternoon, three policemen placed me under house arrest for seven hours. That measure was lifted and I worked normally on Sunday and Monday.

Col. Montero said an expulsion order had been issued last June after the government had taken exception to some articles. He said the order was to have been carried out last Friday.

The only specific story cited was of a mother who lodged a criminal complaint against the anonymous men who she alleged had tortured her daughter. That was reported in The Post last May. He said the government had investigated the case and decided that the charges of torture were unfounded.