

U.S., Chile Continue Talks Despite

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Despite recent reports of attempts by U.S. companies and the Central Intelligence Agency to interfere with Chilean politics, Chile and the United States are discreetly maintaining high-level contacts in an effort to resolve their major differences.

Chilean Foreign Minister Clodomiro Almeyda, in Washington to attend a meeting of the Organization of American States, talked briefly with Secretary of State William P. Rogers at a luncheon last Thursday, and had breakfast Monday with John M. Hennessey, assistant secretary of the treasury for international affairs, and John H. Crimmins, acting assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

In Chile, President Salvador Allende yesterday denounced the U.S. government for "collusion" with International Telephone and Telegraph Co. in efforts to prevent him from taking office in 1970.

But Chilean sources in Washington cautioned that the speech should not be interpreted as a sign of "paralysis" of the talks between the two countries or a worsening of relations. They pointed out that the activities Allende was criticizing had occurred in the past, and, although Chileans considered them a very serious matter, they were willing to move ahead in attempting to improve relations with the United States.

Both Chilean and U.S. officials drew a curtain of secrecy around the talks between Almeyda and the Americans, declining to give any details about time, place or the topics discussed.

The Chilean foreign minister's visit came immediately after two weeks of hearings by a Senate subcommittee which revealed that officials of ITT attempted to organize and finance a campaign to prevent Allende, a Marxist, from tak-

ing office as president in 1970. On Friday, the day Almeyda addressed the OAS General Assembly, the corridors were filled with talk of a report published that day by The Washington Post on efforts by the CIA and other U.S. agencies to defeat Allende in the 1964 presidential election, which he lost.

Almeyda's speech, delivered to an expectant audience, did not refer to the report, and his denunciation of "connivance" between certain U.S. officials and ITT was comparatively mild in tone.

Almeyda was pursued throughout the week by reporters eager for headline-making denunciations of ITT, the CIA and Yankee imperialism. But, despite many opportunities, he refused to go fur-

ther than he had in the speech.

In an interview yesterday, Almeyda said that although no date had been set for resuming the bilateral talks held here in December and March, he believed both countries wanted to continue the dialogue.

"Various ways of solving our problems were proposed at the bilateral talks," he said, "and now both sides are in the process of digesting these ideas."

Observers pointed out that Almeyda's repeated expressions of confidence in the goodwill of the U.S. negotiators appeared to be a hopeful sign for the resumption of the talks.

But despite the atmosphere of mild optimism, officials of both countries cautioned against minimizing the problems being discussed.

Both Chileans and Americans faithfully adhered to a solemn pledge, made before

the bilateral talks began in December, not to discuss the content of the negotiations.

It is known, however, that the major unresolved problems between the two countries are the renegotiation of Chile's debt with the U.S. government, Chile's inability to obtain credits for foreign trade and U.S. insistence that Chile pay two large U.S. copper companies for holdings in Chile which were nationalized in 1971.

Technical aspects of the

debt renegotiations are almost completed, but the issue of payment to the copper companies, Kennecott and Anaconda, appears to be holding up a settlement.

The United States maintains that the companies must be paid before the other issues can be resolved. The Chileans have ruled that the companies are not entitled to payment because they took "excess profits" out of the country during the 50 years they operated there.

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