

Chile Says Briton Lied On Torture

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From News Dispatches

LONDON, Jan. 1—Chilean Ambassador to Britain Kaare Olsen said last night that British physician Dr. Sheila Cassidy was lying about being tortured in a Chilean prison but that the Chilean government would investigate.

Olsen said Cassidy, whose report of her torture has led Britain to recall its ambassador from Santiago, signed a statement when released from prison saying she had not been tortured or mistreated.

But British Ambassador to Chile Reginald Seconde, who arrived here today, said he knew of Cassidy's torture two weeks after her arrest in November for alleged links to leftist guerrillas. He denied a statement by Olsen that he had thanked Chilean authorities for their treatment of Cassidy.

The British Foreign Ministry reiterated its "absolute belief" in Cassidy's story.

Cassidy, who arrived here from Chile Tuesday, said she was stripped naked, tied to a bed and given severe electric shocks by Chilean security men. Members of the ruling Labor Party here called for retaliation against Chile's military government and Foreign Secretary James Callaghan has demanded Chile investigate the "uncivilized, brutal" treatment.

A Labor member of Parliament, Neil Kinnoce, demanded that Olsen be expelled. Other militant Labor

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Party members called for trade sanctions that could halt delivery of British-made submarines to Chile.

Robert Kilroy-Silk, another Labor member, said he would formally request that Defense Secretary Roy Mason withdraw British support from a program that trains Chilean military personnel.

At the center of the diplomatic storm is 37-year-old Cassidy, who said she plans to become a nun. She flew home from Chile after spending 59 days in jail after treating a wounded leftist guerrilla leader.

Cassidy charged yesterday that Chile is a "dictatorship with organized, widespread killing and torture."

"I hope the immense publicity this case has had will draw the attention of the world to the suffering of the people of Chile," she told a news conference.

"I felt compassion for the people who tortured me," she said. "They are sick."

Cassidy, a worker in a Roman Catholic mission hospital, said she was arrested and sent to Tres Alamos prison Nov. 1 after treating a guerrilla leader who had been wounded in a shootout with authorities in Santiago.

The Chilean junta, which toppled Marxist President Salvador Allende in 1973, has denied Cassidy was tortured or mistreated. Olsen, Chile's ambassador in London, said she was linked with the outlawed Revolutionary Left Movement opposed to the junta. But she denied she was politically active in Chile.

The recall of the British ambassador brought sharp criticism from newspapers in Chile. A red, front-page headline in the Santiago daily La Segunda read: "The Hypocrisy of the Government of England."

The paper said Britain had "magnified an isolated and absolutely false fact, based only on the testimony of the person allegedly affected and without even awaiting a reply from the Chilean government."

The Chilean government newspaper El Cronista said neither Cassidy nor her Chilean lawyer ever filed an official complaint of torture while the doctor was detained. Commenting on statements by her critics, Cassidy said, "The methods of torture are such that they leave no physical marks. If people don't believe me, I'm sorry."

denied knowledge of any present cooperation by their organizations with the CIA, though several cautioned that there may have been relationships in the past.

Officials at NBC and CBS said that in the early 1960s they permitted the CIA to view and buy film shown on the air which their cameraman had shot overseas. Spokesmen for both networks said that service was available to anyone.

Editors of The Washington Post, the Washington Star, Baltimore Sun, New York Times, Chicago Sun-Times and Los Angeles Times said they never cooperated with the CIA in providing cover for agents overseas.

The same reply came from presidents of NBC, CBS and ABC news organizations, executives of the nation's two major wire services, the Associated Press and United Press International, as well as three weekly news-magazines, Time, Newsweek, and U.S. News & World Report.

Most of those contacted agreed with the statement of Christian Science Monitor editor John Hughes: "I'm flatly opposed" to CIA-press relationships, "for the obvious reason that it completely undermines the value of the press."

NBC President Richard C. Wald, who worked overseas for the New York Herald Tribune in the 1950s, said he "understands why serious and principled journalists might have felt at that time that they could serve their country while practicing their profession."

"In hindsight," Wald added, "I think it was improper and anyone who cooperated into the 1960s and 1970s ought to have his head examined."

In the past, CIA has recruited journalists for both formal and informal relationships.

In 1960, I was offered a full-time overseas job with the CIA. At the time I was Washington correspondent for three North Carolina newspapers. I turned the job down but that year did take two trips overseas to international youth conferences. The CIA arranged and paid expenses for both trips.

In 1967, I wrote of this CIA association in The Washington Post.

Other journalists and

publications have had various kinds of financial relationships with the CIA in the past.

Several former CIA employees have become well-known full-time journalists after leaving the agency.

Philip Geyelin, since 1967 editorial page editor of The Washington Post, took a leave of absence in 1951 from his reporting job on The Wall Street Journal to work for the CIA. After 11 months in the agency, Geyelin returned to the Journal. Since that time he has had no relationship with the CIA or its officials "except to talk to them in the normal give and take of journalism," he said recently.

Columnist Tom Braden was with the CIA from 1950 to 1954 and helped organize links between the agency and several domestic organizations including the National Student Association. Since 1954, Braden has worked in the news business, first running a California newspaper and since 1968 writing a nationally syndicated column.

The publisher of The New Republic, Robert J. Myers, worked for the CIA in Asia for almost 20 years before resigning in 1966.

Two former Newsweek magazine Washington reporters, George Packard and Bruce van Voorst, worked for the CIA before joining the magazine. Packard is now

running for the Republican Senate nomination in Pennsylvania; van Voorst recently joined the staff of Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa).

In 1967 it was disclosed that the American Newspaper Guild had accepted nearly \$1 million from foundations that handled CIA funds. The money financed a union international program, but Guild officers denied knowing the agency was behind the funding.

The House committee staff has proposed that U.S. intelligence organizations not use American general circulation journals or electronic media or their employees or stringers "for cover or information gathering."

Committee members, however, doubt that such a provision could be written into law but say it could become a regulation.

CIA operating regulations

already prohibit CIA use of certain specified groups such as the recipients of Fulbright grants (who spend a year abroad as students or teachers) and members of the Peace Corps.

Colby has said, however, that he did not want to add journalists to the limitations already in effect.

While major American news organizations deny they have any covert financial or cooperative arrangements with CIA, most carry on their regular news-gathering functions using CIA officials and publications as sources — sometimes without attribution.

This non-paid relationship has also come under critical review by the House and Senate intelligence committees.

"Tell me which is more corrupting?," a Senate staff member asked recently, "Paying a stringer overseas for tid-bits or some cozy relationship between a Washington columnist and a CIA official over lunch at Sans Souci?"

CIA officials are often interviewed for stories by Washington reporters, almost always without attribution. The agency has its own public relations man to whom questions are directed.

A CIA publication, the Foreign Broadcast Information Service Reports, which presents transcripts of overseas radio broadcasts, can be purchased by news organizations.

Reporters going overseas often ask for and receive briefings from CIA area specialists. And CIA officials ask for an opportunity to debrief reporters and correspondents who have traveled in areas that interest the agency.

Richard Salant, president of CBS News, said recently that in the early 1960s when his network's correspondents overseas came back to the United States for their annual year-end program, they would "drop down to the State Department for a conversation" that turned into a debriefing. Salant stopped the practice.

The House committee, as part of its inquiry, interviewed aides to former CIA Director Richard M. Helms on how Helms, a former newsman himself, cultivated people in

the news business. They said Helms, according to a House aide, had "chummy" relationships with publishers, network executives and reporters.

He "called on their patriotism" to cover certain stories or send reporters to various areas of the world and occasionally got stories killed.

The Senate committee also plans to explore the CIA's nonfinancial relationships with the news media.