

CIA Role In Chile Outlined

**\$13 Million
Was Spent on
Covert Work**

Reuter

The Central Intelligence Agency spent more than \$13 million on covert operations in Chile between 1963 and 1974, most of it in a massive campaign against Marxist Salvador Allende, the Senate intelligence committee said yesterday.

The committee staff report said the operations focused on an extensive propaganda effort, ranging from support of the newspaper chain El Mercurio to painting signs to evoke the image of Communist firing squads.

The report was the second dealing with American operations in Chile to prevent Allende from becoming president and subsequent efforts to support the opposition after he was elected in 1970.

Allende remained president until Sept. 11, 1973, when he died in a military coup that brought the present rulers to power.

In an earlier report on CIA involvement in foreign assassination plots, the committee detailed efforts by the agency to foment a military coup in the months prior to Allende's election.

During the buildup toward a coup, Army Chief-of-Staff Rene Schneider was killed in an abduction attempt. The assassination report said the CIA was not directly responsible for the killing.

Yesterday's report questioned whether such a massive covert operation served U.S. interest. It noted that the cost and complexity made it unlikely the operation

could remain secret.

Referring to a \$3 million campaign that ensured the election of Christian Democrat Eduardo Frei to the presidency in 1964, the report said: "There was simply too much unexplained money, too

See CHURCH, A21, Col. 4

CHURCH, From A1

many leaflets, too many broadcasts."

When the operation became known, it said, "The United States was seen to have contradicted not only its official declarations, but its treaty commitments and principles of long standing."

The 56-page report warned: "In Latin America, particularly, even the suspicion of CIA support may be the kiss of death. It would be the final irony of a decade of covert action in Chile if that action destroyed the credibility of the Chilean Christian Democrats."

A \$7 million program to help opposition groups after Allende's 1970 election was backed up by an international credit squeeze, which, together with domestic copper strikes, crippled the Chilean economy, the report added.

It said that the Forty Committee, which approved covert operations, did not authorize money to support two lengthy strikes by truck drivers. But it said it was unclear to what extent CIA money for the opposition parties might have been siphoned for the strikers.

The report said there was no hard evidence of direct U.S. assistance in the 1973 coup that resulted in the death of Allende and brought Gen. Pinochet Ugarte to power.

In the portion dealing with the 1964 Chilean presidential election campaign, the report said that the CIA, in addition to supporting political parties, mounted a massive anti-Communist propaganda campaign using the press, radio, films, pamphlets,

posters, direct mail, paper streamers and wall painting.

"It was a scare campaign, which relied heavily on images of Soviet tanks and Cuban firing squads and was directed especially to women," the report said.

Hundreds of thousands of copies of an anti-communist pastoral letter by Pope Pius XII were distributed, and "black propaganda"—material purporting to come from the Communist Party—also was used.

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By James K.W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Former U.S. ambassadors to Chile Ralph Dungan, left, and Edward Korry flank former Assistant Secretary of State Charles Meyer before Senate hearing.

In June 1964, a CIA-funded propaganda group produced 20 radio spots a day in Santiago and on 44 provincial stations, 12-minute news broadcasts five times a day on 27 stations, and thousands of cartoons.

In the 1970 Chilean election campaign, the report said, sign-painting teams had instructions to paint the slogan "su paredon" (your wall) on 2,000 walls, evoking an image of Communist firing squads.

Both the U.S. government

and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. funneled money to the newspaper chain El Mercurio, it said. The paper, largest in Chile, printed CIA editorials and the CIA exerted substantial control over the paper's international news section, the report said. According to the report, the CIA gave the newspaper a total of \$1.5 million.

When Allende criticized the paper in the 1970 election campaign, the CIA "or-

chestrated cables of support and protest from foreign newspapers, a protest statement from an international press association, and world press coverage of the association's protest," the report said.

The report said the CIA gave "inside" briefings to U.S. journalists at their request.

It said that Time magazine changed the thrust of a report on Chile following a CIA briefing.

The report also detailed disagreements between the Forty Committee and the State Department.

At a September, 1970, meeting of the Forty Committee, Thomas Karamessines, the CIA's deputy director for plans, outlined possible economic pressure that could be brought to bear on Chile in the hopes of paving a way to a military coup.

Under Secretary of State U. Alexis Johnson said the move was economic warfare and tantamount to a change in foreign policy. Assistant Secretary of State Charles Meyer also opposed the move.

The CIA won the argument, however, as economic pressure was applied, the report said.

California Sues USDA

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 4 (AP)—California has filed suit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture in an effort to halt federal fines against the state-run food stamp program.

The U.S. Agriculture Department is trying to collect \$936,400.