

No Stir in Chile

CIA News Causes

By Joseph Novitski

SANTIAGO, Sept. 8—The report from Washington that the Central Intelligence Agency had allocated \$11 million between 1964 and 1973 to support anti-leftist political action in Chile caused no excitement here today.

Reports of CIA financial involvement in Chilean politics have been so persistent in the past 10 years that they were accepted as fact by many politically aware Chileans long before a military coup deposed leftist President Salvador Allende last year.

On this warm, sunny Sunday, no government official could be located to comment on the report.

Radio stations did not mention the report in their news broadcasts, although international news agencies sent the news to their Chilean subscribers.

There was no certainty that Santiago's government-controlled newspapers would publish news of the report, printed today in the United States on the basis of secret testimony before a congressional committee by William Colby, the director of the CIA.

As long ago as 1970, just after Allende was elected president as the candidate of a leftist coalition, Chileans in the upper levels of several political parties believed that foreign funds had come into their country at campaign time from several sources.

Christian Democrats, then at the end of six years in power under President Eduardo Frei, admitted that their party had been supported by Christian Democratic parties in Germany and Italy. The conservative National Party claimed that the left had received funds from Communist and Socialist parties abroad.

An executive of an American copper company in Santiago said privately that his company had contributed campaign funds to non-leftist candidates in the campaign just ended.

On the left, among Allende's supporters, it became an article of faith that the CIA would pour money into the country to frustrate Allende's attempt to bring socialism to Chile.

There was little evidence to connect the CIA with Allende's political opposition un-

til the disclosure in 1972 that the ITT conglomerate had offered \$1 million to the CIA for use against Allende. The Chilean government printed a pamphlet translation of all the ITT documents released by Washington columnist Jack Anderson and later brought out a comic book version of the ITT conspiracy.

of Solby's testimony cited by Rep. Michael Herrington (D-Mass.) in his request for a congressional investigation of CIA involvement in Chile, \$5 million for "political destabilization efforts" and \$500,000 for opposition politicians had been authorized between Allende's election and 1972. In Chile, rumors that CIA funds were being channeled to the opposition grew that year.

After the nationalization of American copper companies, large Chilean companies and banks, Allende's economic policies began affecting the middle class in 1972. First shopkeepers and truck owners, then bureaucrats and professional men reacted with the first of two waves of strikes that were to spread civil unrest and economic disorder through the country.

The strike leaders denied, then, and again during the strikes that preceded Allende's downfall last year, accusations from the left that they were being financed by the CIA. However, this year, one of the men involved in organizing both series of strikes indicated that CIA funds had been available.

"We never used them, we never got any," said Vicente Kovacevic, an officer of the Chilean small businessmen's federation, in an interview in April. Kovalevic, an anti-Communist Yugoslav emigre to Chile, had helped to guide the shopkeepers' group through the 1972 and 1973 strikes.