

Chilean Charges General Ordered American's Death

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SANTIAGO, June 9—A former Chilean intelligence officer has claimed that he was present when a Chilean general gave the order to kill Charles Horman, a U.S. citizen, a few days after the 1973 military coup, because Horman "knew too much."

The claim was made by Rafael A. Gonzalez Verdugo in the Italian embassy here. He has lived as a refugee in the embassy for the past nine months.

Gonzalez' statement provided the first real clue in the death of Horman, who was one of two Americans found shot to death in the streets here after the coup against President Salvador Allende on Sept. 11, 1973.

Chilean and U.S. officials have denied any knowledge of the circumstances surrounding both deaths.

Gonzalez said the decision to kill Horman was made by Gen. Augusto Lutz in his office in the Ministry of Defense. Also present, Gonzalez said, was a Col. Barria, whom Gonzalez identified as the No. 2 man in the Chilean army intelligence, and a third man dressed in American-style clothes whom Gonzalez did not know but whom he assumed

was an American intelligence agent.

Gonzalez said that this man said and did nothing during the meeting.

Horman was 31 at the time of his death and had been in Chile more than a year, according to his parents, who live in New York City. He had been writing film scripts and had done some part-time translation work for the Ford Foundation office in Santiago.

His parents said that he had not been engaging in politics. Film footage that Horman had helped produce has since been used in a pro-Allende movie.

A Chilean government spokesman confirmed that Gonzalez had served for 20 years as an intelligence officer under the National Defense General Staff, including two years under the present military government.

Gonzalez, who is 41, has been seeking passage to the United States along with his wife and their six-year-old son, who was born in New York and is an American citizen. The Chilean government has refused to grant Gonzalez safe conduct to the airport, although his wife and child are free to leave.

It argues that he is a deserter.

Gonzalez, on the other hand, produced papers to demonstrate that he had been officially retired with pension from government service the day before he took refuge in the embassy, and was therefore not a deserter.

It was common knowledge here that a Chilean intelligence officer had long been holed up in the embassy, but Italian diplomats, in accordance with international practice, had refused him access to journalists.

Gonzalez' child is said to be suffering from anemia. The child's illness, combined with the hopefulness of continuing efforts to persuade the government to allow Gonzalez to leave the country, led the embassy to grant the interview in the hope of calling attention to the family's plight. But the embassy insisted that the interview concern only the boy and the obstacles in the way of his leaving Chile with his parents.

Gonzalez said he thought he would be shot if he left the embassy because he had complained of the activities of the new government and of the Chilean secret police.

Toward the end of the interview, Gonzalez mentioned the meeting that he said led to Horman's death. He said he had been present as an interpreter in case the Chileans wanted to question Horman, who was in the next room. He said he had later accompanied U.S. Vice Consul James Anderson to recover Horman's body in Santiago's general cemetery.

Gonzalez said he had openly accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency of conducting "economic sabotage" against the Allende government during his 1969-1972 service as a security officer in the Chilean consulate in New York. He said he is convinced that the CIA was also involved in Horman's death, but he offered no evidence to support this view.

(In Washington, the CIA declined to comment on this charge.)

A U.S. embassy official here said that U.S. consular officers had spoken with Gonzalez several times to ascertain his son's eligibility to enter the United States, and that Gonzales had never mentioned that he had any knowledge of the Horman case.