

Senate Spy Unit Debates Calling Nixon

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WASHINGTON, July 25—The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence debated today in closed session whether to seek testimony from former president Richard M. Nixon on Central Intelligence Agency operations in Chile, Senate sources said.

The matter was raised in a committee meeting early today after The New York Times, quoting authoritative Government sources, said yesterday that Mr. Nixon had ordered the C.I.A. to make an all-out, last-minute attempt in 1970 to keep Salvador Allende Gossens, a Marxist, from becoming the Chilean President.

According to The Times's

sources Mr. Nixon told the intelligence agency in a Sept. 15, 1970, meeting that he would commit \$10-million to try to prevent Dr. Allende from becoming president. Dr. Allende headed Chile's Popular Unity Government until he died in a coup in September, 1973. As a result of the Nixon statement, these sources said, the C.I.A. became involved in the planning of two separate military coup d'états in Chile.

One of the plans was carried out over the last-minute objection of the C.I.A., and resulted in the killing of Gen. René Schneider Chereau, chief of staff of the Chilean Army.

The Senate Select Committee has treated this portion of the Chile matter as part of its inquiry into C.I.A. involvement in plots to kill foreign leaders. It is expected to decide early

next week whether to call Mr. Nixon.

Meanwhile, the committee said, it would call Secretary of State Kissinger. According to The Times report Mr. Kissinger attended the Sept. 15, 1970, meeting and later was briefed by a C.I.A. official on one of the two plots ongoing in Chile. Mr. Kissinger told the agency not to let the plan go forward. The Times sources said. Mr. Kissinger has privately told associates that he knew of no other plot against the Allende Government.

Mr. Kissinger declined today to comment on the Chile affair. At a White House press briefing he said, "I do not believe any purpose is served by discussing fragmentary reports that leak out of this or that office."

He added that he believed all relevant documents had gone to the Church committee and that it could "make the distinction between what was talked about and what was actually done—which the press does not always do."

Earlier the committee had rejected the idea of calling Mr. Nixon in connection with C.I.A. involvement in plots to kill Fidel Castro, Premier of Cuba, and Gen. Rafael Trujillo Molina, the last dictator of the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Nixon was the "action officer" for the Administration of President Eisenhower in the C.I.A. planning for the Bay of Pigs invasion, and the committee explored whether Mr. Nixon had evidence about the two assassination plots. After consulting with his lawyer, Herbert J. Miller, the committee concluded that Mr. Nixon's role did not warrant calling him.

Several Republican Congressional sources have privately suggested that the Select Committee is delving into Chile as part of its assassination inquiry to "balance" material it discovered about plans to kill Mr. Castro initiated during the Administration of President Kennedy.