

Post 2-19-76
'No Contact With the CIA'

On the basis of information to which they had access in 1970 a group of officers and past presidents of the Inter American Press Association issued a statement to the press warning of harassment of the Chilean news media by the Allende faction in Chile. Such harassment, especially as far as El Mercurio is concerned, did indeed occur following Allende's accession to the presidency.

On January 16 a story by Walter Pincus in The Washington Post included the following paragraph: "The (IAPA) release, according to the Senate report, was a CIA product 'through its covert action resources'."

In the first place this statement did not form part of the Senate report.

In the second place, the information on which the officers and past presidents of the IAPA based their statement came from Agustin Edwards, publisher of El Mercurio.

We have had no contact with the CIA or any other government agency, either North American or from any other country.

The IAPA has scrupulously kept clear of all association with any government in the conduct of its affairs.

RAYMOND E. DIX,

President, Inter American Press Association,
Washington.

Editor's Note: The Senate report said: "In response to criticisms of El Mercurio by candidate Allende, the CIA, through its covert action resources, orchestrated cables of support and protest from foreign newspapers, a protest statement from an international press association and world coverage of the association's protest." Mr. Pincus, learned from other, reliable sources that the press association referred to was IAPA.