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Embassy Aide Alleges U.S. Threat

By Betty Medsger
Washington Post Staff Writer

A part-time employee at the Chilean Embassy says the U.S. government threatened to deport him if he would not cooperate in the case against eight antiwar activists charged with plotting to kidnap Henry Kissinger.

He says he refused to cooperate.

Government spokesmen confirmed that the employee's cooperation had been requested and that his status in this country is under investigation. But they denied any link be-

tween the two circumstances.

The man involved is Jaime Fernandez, a Chilean citizen who works as a part-time translator at the embassy. He is also employed by the Ecumenical Program for Inter-American Communication Action, an organization funded by the National Council of Churches.

He does not enjoy diplomatic immunity.

Fernandez said in an interview that his cooperation was requested by the chief prosecutor in the Kissinger kidnap case, William S. Lynch. He

said his Oct. 1 meeting with Lynch was attended by two other government attorneys, William M. Connelly and J. Phillip Krajewski.

"They told me they needed information about my associates and about draft board raids," Fernandez said.

Lynch confirmed, through a Justice Department spokesman, that the government had asked Fernandez' help in the case. "We sought his cooperation," said the spokesman. The spokesman said the prosecutor denied that Fernandez had been threatened with deportation if he would not cooperate.

The spokesman said he understood, however, that the Immigration and Naturali-

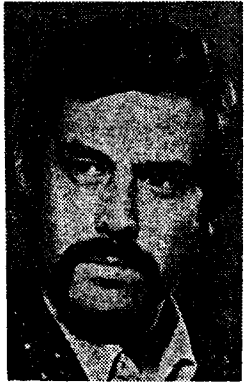
zation Service, a branch of the Justice Department, was considering some kind of deportation proceeding against Fernandez.

Two weeks ago, Fernandez was subpoenaed to be a government witness when the Kissinger kidnap conspiracy trial opens in Harrisburg, Pa.

He says his only association with anyone close to the case had been a friendship with Tom Davidson, one of seven "co-conspirators" named but not charged in the original indictment. In a later indictment returned last April, Davidson's name was dropped.

Fernandez said government agents indicated to him that they wanted information about

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JAIME FERNANDEZ
... refused to cooperate

Davidson and Lillian Shirley, both of whom formerly lived in the house at 233 8th St. NE where Fernandez and his wife now live.

Fernandez said he thinks he has no information that would be of value to the prosecution. He described as brief and sporadic his relationship to the "movement" of Catholic peace activities that has been linked to the alleged Kissin-

ger kidnap plot.

Fernandez said his activities have been limited to participating in mass antiwar demonstrations here and, along with Davidson and a group of Quakers, helping to rebuild a chapel last January in the middle of a U.S. Navy bombing range on the Caribbean island of Culebra.

Fernandez said he was first called to the local immigration office at the end of August to meet with Joseph E. Reissig, an investigator. According to Fernandez, Reissig charged him with evading a draft notice, which Fernandez denied.

Fernandez said Reissig then indicated he would check the Selective Service records again. Later, Fernandez said, Reissig asked him to come to the meeting with Lynch.

Reissig declined to discuss the case, deferring to David Drummond, assistant director of the immigration office.

"We're looking into his status to see if he left the country to avoid the draft," Drummond said of Fernandez. "I don't know much about his case, but whatever it is we're doing, it has nothing to do with that Berrigan case."

The Rev. Philip Berrigan is one of the defendants in the alleged plot to kidnap Kissinger.

"We're only concerned with whether this man is legally in the U.S.," Drummond said.