

On Nixon's Orders

U.S. Role in Chile Plot

Washington

President Nixon personally issued the order to the Central Intelligence Agency that initiated an intense political espionage campaign against Chilean President Salvador Allende in 1970, the Senate Intelligence Committee report disclosed yesterday.

The report also portrays Secretary of State Henry Kissin-

ger, former CIA Director Richard Helms and other high-ranking U.S. officials as far more deeply implicated in the super-secret political warfare campaign targeted at Chile's Socialist president than had been known previously.

The report documented that the CIA station in Santiago and U.S. military personnel helped to plan and provide weapons for the

kidnaping of Chilean Armed Forces commander-in-chief Rene Schneider, who had refused to go along with CIA-supported plans for a coup to prevent Allende's election. Schneider was murdered in a bungled kidnaping attempt in the early morning of Oct. 22, 1970, by a group of military abductors.

The revelations in the report are in sharp conflict with previous public statements by former President Nixon, Kissinger and Helms, now ambassador to Iran.

Mr. Nixon, in an interview in the current issue of Ladies Home Journal asserts, "We had nothing to do with Chile or Allende. That was the Chileans."

Kissinger had stated in executive session during his confirmation hearing Sept. 17, 1973, for the secretary of state post that "the CIA was . . . in a very minor way involved in the 1970 election (in Chile)."

Mr. Nixon, on Sept. 15, 1970, "informed CIA director Helms that an Allende regime in Chile would not be acceptable to the United States," the report said. "The CIA was instructed by President Nixon to play a direct role in organizing a military coup d'etat in Chile to prevent Allende's accession to the presidency."

The CIA action was to be kept secret from the Departments of State, Defense and the U.S. ambassador to Chile, as outlined by the President, the report said.

Helm's handwritten notes from the session reflected these instructions and reactions from President Nixon: "One in ten chance perhaps, but save Chile . . . not concerned risks involved . . . no involvement of embassy . . . \$10,000,000 available, more if necessary . . . make the economy scream . . . 48 hours for plan of action."

One high-ranking CIA official deeply involved in the Chile operation, former Deputy Director for Plans Thomas Karamessines, testified that Kissinger, then serving as national security adviser, "left no doubt in my mind that he was under the heaviest of pressure to get it accomplished."

Allende's government was toppled by a military coup in which he was killed on Sept. 11, 1973. It was Schneider's death, not his, which was the focus of the committee's investigation.

The agency's operatives in Santiago contacted Chilean military leaders who they felt would go



SALVADOR ALLENDE
Target of conspiracy

along with a coup scheme.

The report said that guns were passed by the CIA in Santiago to a group of military conspirators who had bungled a kidnap attempt directed at Schneider on October 19. The final attempted kidnaping and shooting of Schneider was carried out, however, by yet another group of conspirators.