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**'Centaur Plan' to Oust
Allende Called 'Hoax'**

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U.S. intelligence sources have branded as a "hoax" the so-called Centaur plan to overturn the Allende government in Chile.

They attribute the plan and its circulation through Latin America to an American parole violator named Richard Alexander Zander, who is said to have "peddled" it commercially in Mexico.

Centaur has created ripples of mystification since it was first mentioned in Mexico City on Monday by Hugo Vigorena, Chile's former ambassador to Mexico.

Vigorena, in an interview with the Mexican daily *Excelsior*, charged that the anti-Allende plan was conceived and executed by the Central Intelligence Agency. Although it was first put into motion two years ago, he said, the Chilean government did not discover it until six weeks before the coup that ousted Allende and led to his death.

Until now the CIA, White House and State Department have steadfastly denied any U.S. involvement in the Chilean coup.

U.S. intelligence sources said Wednesday that a plan such as the one described by Vigorena was being distributed in Latin America by the American named Zander.

"This guy was selling a cock-and-bull fabrication," said one Government official. "He is a fugitive from justice."

At a hearing yesterday of the House foreign affairs inter-american affairs subcommittee, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American affairs Jack B. Kubisch testified yesterday he understood the Centaur plan "was a spurious document."

Kubisch said he would prefer to discuss the plan with the subcommittee in executive session but he testified publicly that he understood there "was an individual in Mexico who claimed he had a document" showing that CIA was involved in the coup. Earlier this week State Department officials said the only information they had on the Centaur plan had come from U.S. intelligence sources, presumably the CIA.

The Federal Bureau of In-

vestigation confirmed Wednesday that a Richard Aleander Zander, 21, is wanted as a parole violator and that a warrant was issued for his arrest last Aug. 27.

The Zander on the FBI's wanted list was convicted in Portland, Ore., of the interstate transport of stolen goods on May 9, 1972, and given a 10-year sentence and \$10,000 fine. The sentence was reduced to three years last November 21 and Zander was released on probation. He was listed as "self employed."

Intelligence sources here claim to have no documentation on the Centaur plan but are nonetheless convinced that it is a bogus scheme with which the CIA has no connection.

It was understood that State Department officials were apprised of the "Hoax" aspects of the plan in the event that any news inquiries about it arose at the Department's Tuesday briefing.

State Department spokesmen were reportedly apprehensive about dealing publicly with the matter without corroborative documents or other evidence.

Zander has reportedly left Mexico and there is no current information on his whereabouts.

The Centaur affair is laden with potential embarrassment for the administration, in the view of some officials, unless it can be conclusively established as a hoax. "What's at stake here is credibility," said one government officer.

Last March the CIA acknowledged, in Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings, that it sought to promote economic distress in Chile during 1970 in an effort to prevent Allende's election. The testimony was given by William V. Broe, at the time the CIA's chief of clandestine services for Latin America.

It is for that reason the CIA is now vulnerable to public suspicions of intervention in the upheaval that ousted Allende from office last week and led to his death.

Officially the CIA has no comment on the Vigorena allegations.