

NY Times SEP 21 1973
**U.S. DENIES AIDING
STRIKERS IN CHILE**

**Suggestion That It Financed
Truckers Called 'Absurd'**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20—
The State Department described as "absurd" today any suggestion that the United States had financed the truck drivers' strike in Chile that preceded the military overthrow of President Salvador Allende Gossens last week.

In a dispatch from Mexico City in The New York Times today, Mrs. Hortensia Bussi de Allende, the widow of the former Chilean President, was quoted as saying that she suspected that the United States had "a great responsibility" for what happened and suggested that the strikers had been subsidized from the outside.

The strike brought economic hardship and increased instability in the country.

"we have seen the statement suggesting that the United States might have financed the truckers' strike which preceded the coup," a State Department spokesman said. "Such suggestions are absurd."

"The United States played no part, financial or otherwise, in that strike or in the other stoppages and protests mounted by the opposition to Allende," the spokesman said.

Earlier in the day, Jack B. Kupisch, the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, declined to discuss publicly the question of possible American financing. He was appearing before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee looking into the Chile coup d'état.

In his statement to the committee, Mr. Kubisch repeated forcefully the Administration's denial that it had any role in the coup.

"I wish to state as flatly and as categorically as I possibly can that we did not have advance knowledge of the coup that took place on Sept. 11," he said.

He acknowledged that numerous reports about a possible coup had been received in Washington but said none had been viewed as reliable.

"There was no contact whatsoever by the organizers and leaders of the coup directly with us and we did not have definite knowledge of it in advance," he said.

Mr. Kubisch also sought to refute the view that the United States indirectly provoked the coup by bringing economic pressure on the Allende Government. He said:

"The United States had no desire to provoke a confrontation with the Allende Government. On the contrary, strong efforts were repeatedly made to seek ways to resolve our differences, although there were expropriations without compensation by the Chilean Government of over \$700-million of American private investment during the period. In addition, Chile defaulted on over \$100-million in debt to the United States Government in the same period.