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Chilean Troops Assault Swedish Envoy

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SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov. 25—The Swedish Ambassador and four embassy secretaries were beaten up today by Chilean troops and policemen who were trying to take custody of a Uruguayan woman seeking political asylum.

The Ambassador, Harald Edelstam, said that he was beaten, kicked and karate-chopped by uniformed carabinieri — paramilitary policemen — and plainclothes security men.

Miss Consuela Alonso, a 31-year-old Uruguayan, asked for political asylum three weeks ago in the Cuban Embassy, which has been under Swedish protection since Cuba and Chile broke relations following the September coup. On Saturday she reportedly suffered a severe internal hemorrhage and a doctor ordered her into a clinic in eastern Santiago for an emergency operation.

According to Mr. Edelstam, he asked the troops encircling the Cuban Embassy for permission to move her into the clinic. After they had consulted with their headquarters, approval was given by telephone and a military escort provided.

Security Men Arrive

Ambassador Edelstam said in an interview that he had been told by telephone at 9 A.M. today that a group of security men had arrived with an order to remove Miss Alonso for interrogation.

"When I arrived with my first secretary, Ulf Hjertson, six policemen were already taking the bed out of her room," Mr. Edelstam said. "I pushed the bed back and told them she was there under embassy protection and with army permission."

Half an hour later, 10 armed carabinieri arrived to face the embassy reinforcements of four Swedish first secretaries—all all men—as well as the French Ambassador, Pierre de Menthon, who had arrived to offer his support.

"They jumped on us and I ended up on the floor with

three carabinieri and two plainclothesmen on top of me, but we managed to stop them from taking Miss Alonso for the moment," Mr. Edelstam, who spoke in English, said.

Judo and Karate

Then further carabinieri were called and they were even more brutal; they used fists, judo, karate and kicked us. And we kicked back, I can tell you. They were only stopped by a colonel who was horrified at this breach of diplomatic immunity."

During the short truce that followed, the Ambassador said, he telephoned the head of protocol, Tobias Barros, at the Foreign Ministry and obtained a written safe-conduct pass for Miss Alonso to be returned to the embassy with a military escort.

"But when the escort arrived they seemed quite mad, like tigers, screaming at us to get out of the way and cocking their machine guns," Mr. Edelstam said. "They ignored the safe conduct and although Miss Alonso was crying in pain they pulled her out and threw her into an ambulance. We followed it as it drove to police headquarters, covered by two army jeeps mounting heavy machine guns."

Protected Refugees

Mr. Edelstam was one of the most visible figures from the diplomatic community in Santiago in the troubled days after the military coup on Sept. 11 that overthrew the Government of President Salvador Allende Gossens.

He was credited with single-handedly preventing troops from storming the Cuban Embassy and with providing protection for about 20 Chilean, Brazilian and other political refugees who had sought asylum there.

He was also a prime mover in an international effort to win guarantees for the security of opponents of the new military rulers. The junta has accused foreign exiles in Chile

of supporting left-wing plots against the armed forces.

At the time of the coup it was estimated that 14,000 foreigners were in Chile, most of them leftist exiles from the right-wing military dictatorships in Brazil, Uruguay and Bolivia. More than 1,000 political refugees in Santiago sought asylum in embassies after the coup.

Embassy Sealed Off

When the members of the Cuban mission left the country after the coup, Mr. Edelstam took to sleeping in the Cuban Embassy to protect the refugees there.

On Nov. 7, Chilean troops sealed off the embassy with Mr. Edelstam inside. An army officer on the scene said the military authorities were "annoyed by the attitude of the Ambassador, who takes in or out of the embassy any person he wants," according to United Press International.

"Our role, the role of the Swedish Embassy, is humanitarian—to try to save the lives of people who are in danger," Mr. Edelstam said in an interview in September.

Sweden Will Protest

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 25 (Reuters)—An official of the Foreign Ministry said today that Sweden would protest to the Chilean Government the assault on the Ambassador.

Hospital Uses Special Beds For Those Suffering Burns

LONDON (AP)—Middlesex Hospital has an addition to its severe burns department—four hover-beds.

Patients suffering from burns are placed on one of two high-pressure beds with troughs of hot air drying the burnt skin and reducing pain.

After 48 hours, the patient is moved to a low-pressure bed through which warm air is blown to speed up the healing process.