

U.S. Nominee Stirs Protests in Caracas

By Joseph Novitski

Special to The Washington Post

CARACAS, Dec. 28 — A storm of protest here has greeted the nomination of Harry W. Shlaudeman, a career diplomat, to be U.S. ambassador to Venezuela. He served in the Dominican Republic after American troops landed there in 1965 and later was in Chile just before the overthrow of the Allende government.

Despite the protests, the Venezuelan government has agreed to the nomination. Leaders of President Carlos Andres Perez's party told reporters yesterday, in an attempt to moderate criticism, that the goodwill between two governments was more important than the personality or reputation of an ambassador.

Since President Salvador Allende's socialist-led government was deposed in Chile's military coup last year, the Latin American left in many countries has firmly identified Shlaudeman with reported American intervention against Allende.

Criticism of the Shlaudeman appointment began on the Venezuelan left three days ago, but has since spread to all of the country's important political parties, including the governing Democratic Action Party, at the rank and file level.

Shlaudeman, now serving as deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs in Washington, must still be confirmed by the Senate before replacing Ambassador Robert McClintock here. At one of his last appearances before a congressional committee in June, Shlaudeman denied any U.S. connections with the coup in Chile.

Five months later, President Ford said that the U. S. government had supported Chilean newspapers and political

parties that opposed Allende's attempt to bring socialism to Chile.

(Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.) complained that on the same date Shlaudeman testified that the United States had no role in the Chilean coup, Harrington was reviewing secret testimony by CIA director William Colby, who said the agency had set aside \$11 million for anti-Allende activities in Chile.)

Shlaudeman was deputy chief of mission, the second-ranking office, in the U. S. embassy in Santiago from June 1969, 16 months before Allende's election, until a few months before the coup in September 1973.

Previously, Shlaudeman had served as political officer in the U. S. embassy in Santo Domingo from 1962 to 1963. He returned after Marines were landed in the Dominican Republic by the Johnson administration in 1965, and acted as part of the diplomatic team that negotiated the withdrawal of American troops under Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker.

Men who watched Shlaudeman at work in the Dominican Republic said he seemed to be a hard-headed professional diplomat. He was respected by Chilean diplomats under President Eduardo Frei, Allende's predecessor.

After Allende's election, some members of his coalition of Marxist parties said they preferred dealing with Shlaudeman rather than Ambassador Edward Korry, although they felt that Shlaudeman was not sympathetic to their political aims. Shlaudeman has since been accused of being an agent of the CIA by left-wing Latin American parties.