

WXPost

FEB 27 1975

# Diplomat Denies Role in Chile Coup

## Nominee for Venezuela Post Defends U.S. Actions

By Terri Shaw

Washington Post Staff Writer

The administration's nominee for ambassador to Venezuela, under fire for his alleged role in the downfall of Chilean President Salvador Allende, denied yesterday that the U.S. Embassy in Chile had contributed to the overthrow of Allende's government.

The nominee, Harry W. Shlaudeman, indicated that he had been aware that the CIA was channeling funds to oppo-

sition parties and newspapers, but said he did not consider that activity "an attempt to subvert" the Allende government.

Shlaudeman sat through two hours of sometimes bitter testimony against his nomination before giving his answers to charges that he was involved in efforts to overthrow Allende and had lied to congressional committees about the U.S. role in Chile.

"There was no attempt to

subvert or overthrow the government of Chile, nor any participation in the coup," Shlaudeman said.

Shlaudeman, as deputy chief of mission, was the No. 2 man in the U.S. embassy in Santiago from 1969, the year before Allende was elected, until a few months before the Sept. 11, 1973, coup in which Allende died. He now is deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

Critics of the nomination, led by Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.), contended that Shlaudeman must have been aware of CIA support for Allende's opponents. They also said there was widespread opposition in Venezuela to the nomination, which the Venezuelan government has formally accepted.

Harrington said that before the CIA role in Chile was disclosed, Shlaudeman "participated in a systematic attempt by the executive branch to mislead the Congress and the

American people about our destabilization policy in Chile.

Harrington cited Shlaudeman's testimony before two House Foreign Affairs subcommittees on June 12, 1974, at which the State Department official said: "Despite pressures to the contrary, the U.S. government adhered to a policy of non-intervention in Chile's internal affairs during the Allende period."

At yesterday's hearing, Shlaudeman denied that he had lied, saying: "I never said I was completely ignorant in these matters."

He added that the only covert activities he was aware of in Chile were those admitted last September by President Ford, who said the CIA gave money to newspapers and political parties to strengthen democratic institutions in Chile. Subversion, Shlaudeman said, "was not the purpose" of the donations. "They were to permit these institutions to continue to exist."

Sen. Joseph R. Biden (D-Del.) asked Shlaudeman, "If Moscow pumped \$10 or \$20 million into the Republican Party wouldn't we consider that intervention?"

Shlaudeman again cited Mr. Ford's statement and answered: "The President said these institutions were under threat."

The Rev. Daniel Driscoll, a Maryknoll priest who works in the slums surrounding Caracas, appeared as a representative of 40 American missionaries based in Venezuela.

Father Driscoll said Venezuelans of all social classes opposed Shlaudeman's nomination and feared the United States would attempt to engineer the overthrow of the Venezuelan government, which is about to nationalize the oil industry.