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'70 Nixon Order to C.I.A. to Balk Allende Reported
President's Authorization Termed Cause of Agency's
Role in Military Plots to Thwart Marxist's Election

by Nicholas M. Horrock
Special to [NYT]

Washington, July 23 - President Richard M. Nixon authorized the [CIA] to make a last-ditch, all-out effort in September, 1970 to keep Salvador Allende Gossens from becoming President of Chile, authoritative Government sources said today.

As a result of the assignment, the sources said, the C.I.A. became involved in the planning of two military coups d'etat - planning that included proposals to kidnap Gen. René Schneider, Chief of Staff of the Chilean Army.

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The latest disclosures are the first confirmation that President Nixon and the C.I.A. contemplated military coups or the violent take-over of the Chilean Government.

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On Sept 15, 1970, 11 days after Mr. Allende, a Marxist, had won the presidential elections by a plurality, President Nixon called a secret meeting at the White House. It was attended by Mr. Kissinger, Mr. Helms and John Mitchell, then Attorney General.

The meeting was unusual because it was out of the normal channels of transmitting instructions to the C.I.A. Under the law and in practice C.I.A. covert operations are passed on by the 40 Committee....

Mr. Nixon was, one source said, "extremely anxious" about Mr. Allende's rise to power in Chile. Another source said the former President was "frantic." He told Mr. Helms in "strong language" that the C.I.A. was not doing enough in the situation and it had better "come up with some ideas." He said that money was no object and authorized an initial expenditure of \$10-million to unseat the Chilean Marxist.

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(See clipping for details.)