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Chile move Kissinger's, not CIA's

So hush-hush even Ford didn't know

Chicago Sun-Times

WASHINGTON — The 40 Committee, which played the key role in the U.S. intervention in Chile between 1970 and 1973, is probably the most secret and secretive organization in the U.S. Government.

Over the last 20 years it has evolved as a clandestine supreme court which rules on when and where to set the Central Intelligence Agency loose in supporting or undermining foreign governments.

Technically a subcommittee of the National Security Council, it was first known as the Special Group or the 54/12 Group from the secret order 54/12 under which it was created early in the Eisenhower Administration.

Later, when the intelligence apparatus was reorganized in the Kennedy Administration after the Bay of Pigs fiasco, it became known as the 303 Committee.

Its membership has been more or less the same from the beginning — the President's national security adviser, as chairman, the dep-

uty secretary of defense, the undersecretary of state for political affairs and the director of the CIA. Under Nixon, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff was added.

In the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations, the Committee met about once a week to consider major covert operations abroad.

During Nixon's first term, intelligence officials say, the 40 Committee became more or less a one-man operation. Kissinger reportedly abandoned regular group meetings and generally dealt singly with the other members.

The committee regularly reports to the President, through his national security adviser. Other members of the NSC are understood to be largely excluded.

In fact, a close associate of President Ford said he is convinced Ford was not aware of the Committee's existence when he became President, even though as vice president he had been one of NSC's four statutory members, with the President and the secretaries of state and defense.

By Thomas B. Ross
Chicago Sun-Times

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Kissinger ordered the secret U.S. intervention in Chile in 1970 over the objections of the CIA, key intelligence officials have told the Chicago Sun-Times.

A close associate of President Ford said he is convinced Ford was unaware, when the Chile story leaked out last weekend, of the existence of the supersecret "40 Committee." The committee, headed by Kissinger, approved the intervention.

By the time of the Chile decision, intelligence officials said, Kissinger had turned the 40 Committee into a one-man operation by abandoning group meetings and dealing singly with the other four members — the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs.

The officials said the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research joined the CIA in objecting to Kissinger's program but that Undersecretary U. Alexis Johnson, the depart-

ment's representative on the committee, went along.

They also said the CIA and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research objected on practical, not legal or moral grounds. Kissinger wanted an aggressive program of obstructing Marxist Salvador Allende in the 1970 presidential election and later, but the intelligence agencies believed the effort would backfire.

It was disclosed last week that the CIA spent \$11 million in covert activities against Allende between 1970 and his overthrow in a military coup last year.

CIA Director William Col-

by told the House CIA subcommittee in secret testimony in April that the activities were approved by the 40 Committee and not carried out by the agency on its own.

Colby insisted, at an unprecedented public seminar on the CIA Friday, that the activities were not designed to overthrow Allende but to "encourage the continued existence of democratic forces looking to future elections."

Colby refused to discuss the specifics of the CIA operation but sought to leave the impression that it was limited to defending center

and right-wing parties against suppression by Allende.

Other intelligence officials insist, however, that while

that was the course recommended by the CIA and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, direct action to undermine Allende took place as a result of Kissin-

ger's more aggressive instructions.

In 1970 Kissinger was serving as former President

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Nixon's National Security Adviser, the official who has traditionally served as chairman of the 40 Committee. When he became Secretary of State last year, Kissinger retained the post and still controls the Committee.

Kissinger has rejected all efforts by reporters to question him about his role in the Chile affair. He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, shortly after Allende's overthrow last September, that "the CIA had nothing to do with the coup to the best of my knowledge and belief."

The Foreign Relations Committee's subpanel on multinational corporations, which held hearings last year on the ties between the CIA and the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. in Chile, is looking into possible perjury by other State Department officials.

But Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.), who has forced the new revelations, expressed concern that Congress would blunt its inquiries for "fear that they'll run into Kissinger . . . there's a disinclination in Congress to even get into some areas that might per-

pherally damage or embarrass Kissinger."

Senate staff aides pointed out that it would be difficult to construe Kissinger's testimony on Chile as outright perjury.



HENRY KISSINGER
What was his role?



WILLIAM E. COLBY
Denies CIA started it