

Questions About CIA Intrusions

SOME MEMBERS OF Congress suggest that an investigation be launched into the Central Intelligence Agency and what appears to be its part in helping to overthrow the government of Chilean President Salvador Allende a year ago, and, even before the overthrow, spending \$8 million to "destabilize" the leftist regime.

The investigation is necessary, embarrassing as it may be, to show how the U.S. intervenes in the affairs of other countries, and, we would hope, to show why we should stop doing so.

WILLIAM E. COLBY, director of the CIA, has testified to a House Armed Services Subcommittee, according to Representative Michael Harrington of Massachusetts, that the U.S. gave anti-Allende forces \$500,000 in both 1969 and 1970 to help Allende's election opponents; gave \$350,000 to try to bribe members of the Chilean Congress to vote against ratifying Allende's election; gave \$5 million to clandestine anti-Allende forces after the election and, in another grant, gave \$1.5 million to help anti-Allende candidates in municipal elections.

Critics of the proposed investigation fear that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger may be damaged by it, because he may have misled Congress about approving the Chilean operation. This indeed could be damaging to Kissinger, but more damaging would be a failure to examine what we are doing in the affairs of other countries.

THE PROPOSED INVESTIGATION might not absolve the U.S. of interfering with the government of Chile, but it could provide some clues as to why the U.S. continually finds itself in the absurd position of trying to overthrow foreign governments when, as it frequently turns out, the governments that follow don't care too much for the U.S., or democracy.