

Ex-Envoy's CIA Charge Against Kissinger

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Former Chile Ambassador Orlando Letelier has charged that Henry A. Kissinger took the initiative to assure Letelier personally in late 1971 of non-intervention by the CIA in Chile, although the public record now clearly indicates involvement by the agency.

Letelier, ambassador here for the government of President Salvador Allende, was imprisoned for a year by the military junta that seized power in September, 1973. He is now a lecturer at American University here.

Kissinger's initiative in December, 1971, followed al-

legations of a CIA role in the first major anti-Allende demonstration in Santiago, the women's "March of the Empty Pots."

"Kissinger asked me to assure President Allende that there was not a single person involved either directly or indirectly," Letelier said.

The meeting, before Kissinger became Secretary of State, took place following a dinner at the home of columnist Joseph Alsop.

Letelier said he was told Kissinger would come with a special message for him. "He drew me aside to say that there were no CIA peo-

ple involved in any internal Chilean problem," said the former ambassador.

When the 1971 women's protest against food shortages took place, pro-Allende newspapers in Chile and elsewhere noted the similarity of the demonstration to those by women in Brazil, allegedly with CIA backing, before the 1964 coup ousting a left-wing government in that country.

Letelier said he believed Kissinger's assurances, passed them to Allende and used them as a basis for counseling restraint in later instances when his govern-

ment suspected U.S. involvement in Chilean affairs.

However, according to Representative Michael J. Harrington (Dem-Mass.), CIA Director William E. Colby testified before a House subcommittee last April that the Forty Committee of the National Security Council authorized \$5 million for anti-Allende efforts following election of the Marxist in late 1970.

The government has not specified what form that activity took, beyond a press conference statement by President Ford last September indicating that the money went to support opposition parties and newspapers.

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