

Chile Mourns Death of Army Chief

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Santiago

General Rene Schneider, the Chilean army chief, died yesterday.

The army he had led received Salvador Allende, the Marxist president-elect, at his bier with the honors due a chief of state.

Three days of national mourning were decreed for the 56-year-old officer, who died almost 72 hours after a still-unidentified gunman shot him three times during an organized terrorist attack on his automobile last Thursday.

The chief suspects detained since the attack have been identified as rightists by Chilean officials. The secretary-general of Allende's Socialist party yesterday accused the United States Central Intelligence Agency of planning the assault.

Schneider was credited by Allende and by his brother officers with keeping the Chilean army out of the difficult political process that made Allende the first freely elected Marxist president in Latin America.

If there is any doubt that the army would continue to honor Allende's election after Schneider's death, the reception of the president-elect at

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UPI Telephoto

GENERAL SCHNEIDER
Victim of terrorists

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the military academy here, where the casket was placed in state, appeared designed to dispel it.

"This was our demonstration of our respect for the constitution and the law," said Colonel Alberto Labbe, commander of the military academy, explaining the honors rendered to Allende.

Police officials have identified five men, two of them of extreme rightist political affiliations, as their principal suspects among more than 150 persons detained for questioning since last Thursday. They have not yet decided whether the shooting was planned as a kidnapping, as some leftist politicians have suggested, or as an assassination.

"All these people have been trained by the CIA," asserted Senator Aniceto Rodriguez, the secretary general of Allende's Socialist party.

Explaining a vaguely worded party statement, the senator said it is intended to "identify the CIA as the moral author of this crime, which is not in the Chilean character. Such a crime had never been committed in Chile."

Allende, a 62-year-old Socialist senator with Marxist convictions and a Marxist program, won a popular presidential election September 4. The results were confirmed in an election Saturday by a joint session of the Chilean Congress, which proclaimed him president for the six-year term beginning November 3.

President Eduardo Frei Montalva was among the pallbearers who lifted Schneider's casket from the military hearse that carried it slowly from the military hospital to the academy.

Latin-American ambassadors and military attaches joined Frei and Chilean authorities at a morning mass at the academy, but U.S. Ambassador Edward M. Korry was absent.