

Chile Buries Slain General as Martyr

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SANTIAGO, Chile, Oct. 26—Tens of thousands of Chileans gave a martyr's funeral today to Maj. Gen. René Schneider Chereau, Commander in Chief of the army, whose name the public barely knew a year ago.

The general was shot three times last Thursday during a terrorist attack on his automobile that has been interpreted as the first step in a plan, which miscarried, to block the election of Dr. Salvador Allende as Chile's first Marxist president.

Police officials, who asserted today that their investigation was practically complete, have identified their top suspect as being an extreme rightist.

Newspapers that supported Dr. Allende's candidacy have said that his assassination of General Schneider was part of a plan to provoke a military coup to prevent Dr. Allende from taking office Nov. 3.

Dr. Allende was formally elected by the Chilean Congress in its runoff vote on Saturday, and General Schneider died the next morning.

U.S. Silent on Election

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (Reuters)—The State Department spokesman declined comment today on the election by Congress of Dr. Salvador Allende, a Marxist, as the new President of Chile. The spokesman, John F. King, said: "We won't have anything to say about that."

"He gave his life as a martyr to democracy and to his devotion to the institutions of his country," said Defense Minister Sergio Ossa, in graveside oration in Santiago's General Cemetery this afternoon.

Mr. Ossa—underlining General Schneider's role in healing the divisions in the 25,000-man Chilean Army in the last year and in keeping it out of politics while it was being urged to intervene against Dr. Allende—was reflecting only one of the reasons for the huge turnout of Chileans along the funeral route.

The other was cited by a young Chilean businessman during the funeral. "I'm 31 years old," he said. "In all my life there has never been any-



United Press International

Roberto Viaux, a retired brigadier general, is being sought in investigation of slaying of the army chief.

thing like this, any assassination of a political leader in Chile. It is shocking."

President Eduardo Frei Montalva and President-elect Allende were at the head of the 10 pallbearers who carried General Schneider's coffin out of Santiago's downtown cathedral after Raul Cardinal Silva, the Archbishop of Santiago, had celebrated a funeral mass.

The coffin, covered with the red, white and blue blocks of the Chilean flag and carrying the general's dress tunic, his cap and his sword on its top, was slid onto a gun carriage. A military band played Chopin's Funeral March, and the carriage was drawn by cadets from Chile's three service academies.

The crepe-draped standards of army regiments moved ahead and President Frei and Dr. Allende walked behind to carriage.

Thousands of men, women and schoolchildren watched the carriage and the cortege pass lowed by delegations from schools and factories as it moved past the squat and slightly dilapidated buildings

that are typical of the central areas of Santiago. Women left their flower stalls at the edge of the grey Mapocho River and threw handfuls of petals over the coffin as it passed.

He Was Not Well Known

Perhaps as a reflection of the Chilean tradition that has kept the army out of public life, General Schneider was not a well known man. He was born Dec. 31, 1913, in the industrial city of Concepcion on Chile's southern coast and was graduated from the military academy here in 1932. As an infantry officer, instructor and commander, he served for 37 years out of the public eye until one year ago today.

On Oct. 26, 1969, General Schneider took command of the army five days after a Santiago regiment had mutinied under the leadership of Roberto Viaux, a brigadier general who recently retired. General Viaux, police officials said today, was being sought for questioning in the investigation of the attack on General Schneider.

The tall, erect and nearly bald Commander in Chief took the army away from politics and punished every politically motivated breach of discipline among officers, whether their sympathies were with the left or the right. In public, he simply refused to be drawn into taking sides in Chile's tenuous politics. along the nearly one-and-a-half-mile route to the Army Pantheon, where the general's body was entombed two and a half hours after the funeral services began.

See Jack Anderson, 22 Mar 72 - filed Mix Ad in separate folder (ITT).