

CIA Role In Chile Revealed

Anti-Allende Funding Put At \$11 Million

By Laurence Stern
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Central Intelligence Agency Director William E. Colby acknowledged in secret testimony that the United States targeted some \$11 million in covert action funds against the late Chilean President Salvador Allende, it was learned yesterday.

Colby told the House Armed Services Special Subcommittee on Intelligence that the clandestine funds were authorized by the "Forty Committee," the National Security Council's covert action policy-making arm, in Allende's 1964 and 1970 campaigns for the presidency as well as to "destabilize" his government and bring about its downfall after 1970.

The testimony came to light in a confidential letter from Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.) to House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas E. Morgan (D-Pa.).

Harrington appealed to Morgan and other senior committee chairmen in the House and Senate for further congressional investigations of the CIA's role in the Sept. 11, 1973, military coup in which Allende died and his government was toppled.

Harrington acknowledged in a telephone interview from Salem, Mass., yesterday his authorship of the letter to Morgan but declined to comment on its specific contents or make available a copy.

Colby had no comment on the Massachusetts Democrat's account of Colby's testimony last April 22 other than to say that it was given in executive session and was not to be disclosed publicly. He has on several occasions denied that the CIA had any operating role in the September, 1973, coup against Allende. These denials were reiterated by a CIA spokesman yesterday.

Harrington's account of the Colby testimony was based on two perusals of the April 22 transcript with special permission of House Armed Services Committee Chairman F. Edward Hebert (D-La.) and Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), chairman of the intelligence subcommittee.

In his letter to Morgan, Harrington said "the information contained in the Colby testimony convinced me that it is

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of critical importance for the Congress and the American people to learn the full truth of American activities in Chile.

"I wish to share this information with you, in the hope that you will feel the same sense of conviction that I experienced upon learning the full details of significant U.S. activities in the affairs of another country without any prior consultation of even the committee charged with overseeing such operations."

This is the pattern of clandestine U.S. operations against Allende, the leader of a coalition of Chilean leftist parties, which emerged from Colby's testimony to the House subcommittee, as recounted in the Harrington letter:

- A total of \$3 million in CIA funds was poured into the Christian Democratic Party in 1964 to support the successful candidacy of its nominee, Eduardo Frei, who was being opposed by Allende.

- "Funding was provided to individuals, political parties and media outlets in Chile, through channels in other countries in both Latin America and Europe," Harrington related. "Mr. Colby's description of these operations was direct, though not to the point of identifying actual contacts and conduits."

- In 1969 some \$500,000 was authorized by the Forty Committee to "fund individuals who could be nurtured to keep the anti Allende forces active and intact."

- During the 1970 election, which Allende eventually won, \$350,000 was authorized "to bribe the Chilean Congress which at that time was faced with deciding a runoff election between candidate." Colby went on to say that the plan, despite the initial approval, was "later evaluated an unworkable," Harrington wrote.

- An additional \$500,000 was given during the 1970 election to "opposition party personnel."

- After Allende's election the Forty Committee authorized an additional \$5 million for "more destabilization efforts during the period from 1971 to 1973."

- Some \$1.5 million more was spent in the 1973 Chilean

municipal by-elections when Allende's Popular Unity Party gained in the percentage of national support over the 1970 election. "Some of these funds were used to support an unnamed but influential anti-Allende newspaper," according to Harrington's account of Colby's testimony.

- During the summer 1973, when the Allende administration was plagued by spiraling inflation, strikes and growing civil unrest, the Forty Committee in August approved \$1 million "for further political destabilization activities," the CIA director was reported to have told the subcommittee. Colby said that a \$50,000 request for CIA support of the crippling truck operators' strike was turned down.

- The \$1 million program authorized in August was called off, the Colby transcript said, "when the military coup occurred. . . In the aftermath of the coup, however, funds that had been committed were spent."

These expenditures paid for the purchase of a radio station for \$25,000 and the provision of \$9,000 to finance a trip by spokesmen for the new junta government to other Latin American capitals to reassure them about the military takeover.

Harrington said he contacted SENATE Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), Rep. Dante B. Fascell, (D-Fla.) chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs, and other colleagues in hopes of pursuing "the facts of our involvement in the Chilean situation."

"I turn to you as a last resort," he wrote the House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Morgan, "having despaired of the likelihood of anything productive occurring as a result of the avenues I have already pursued."

The first public glimpse of the extent of CIA involvement in the 1970 Chilean elections was provided in confidential corporate documents of the International Telephone and Telegraph Co. disclosed in 1972 by columnist Jack Anderson.

The Anderson revelations stimulated public hearings by the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations, which produced testimony by former CIA officials indicating some collusion by the agency in ITT efforts to block Allende's election and to foster economic warfare against his government by transnational American corporations.

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