

Disclosure of CIA Chile Role 'Surprises' Overseers on Hill

By Laurence Stern

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One of the Senate's most senior congressional overseers of the Central Intelligence Agency's operations said yesterday that he was not informed of the extent of U.S. covert political operations in Chile.

Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) made this admission in a telephone interview after CIA Director William E. Colby was called into a two-hour executive session of the Senate Armed Services intelligence subcommittee in the aftermath of disclosures Sunday that \$11 million in covert action funds had been targeted against the late Chilean president, Salvador Allende.

"You can say that I was surprised," said Symington, a loyal supporter of the agency in the past.

Symington's surprise, it was understood, was shared by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), who also presides over the CIA oversight subcommittee.

Symington's statement seriously clouds the credibility of the oft-repeated assertion by Colby and other top CIA officials that the agency's congressional oversight committees have been fully briefed on all major covert programs carried out by the agency under the authority of the National Security Council.

The disclosure of secret funding for anti-Allende activities, made by Colby in executive testimony to a House Armed Services intelligence subcommittee last April 22, was also in direct conflict with sworn testimony by high-ranking State Department officials that the United States pursued a policy of non-intervention during the Allende period.

So serious were these conflicts that Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), said he would refer to the Justice Department for perjury investigation previous sworn testimony before his Multi-national Corporations Subcommittee that appears to be misleading.

Rep. Dante Fascell (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Latin America subcommittee, was also reported by aides yesterday to be "deeply concerned" by discrepancies in official tes-



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Rep. Harrington tells of Colby testimony on Chile.

timony over covert U.S. action in Chile.

The issue was given further impetus yesterday with the release by Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.) before television cameras of his summary of the top-secret Colby testimony on Chile as well as his until now futile efforts by letter to generate further congressional inquiry into the subject.

Harrington's dossier disclosed that last June 12—the day he examined Colby's testimony detailing the \$11 million in covert authorizations for a second time—a State Department witness testified under oath that there was no CIA funding of efforts to upset the Allende government.

The witness was Harry Shlaudeman, then acting assistant secretary of state for inter-american affairs and second in command of the U.S. embassy in Chile dur-

ing the Allende administration.

Shlaudeman, former Ambassador to Chile Edward Korry and former Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Charles A. Meyer Jr., all testified under oath before various congressional committees that no money was spent and no covert programs were carried out to subvert the Allende government.

Harrington said any congressional inquiries growing out of the Chile disclosures should include testimony by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. As chairman of the National Security Council's senior panel on secret operations, the so-called Forty Committee, Kissinger was a principal decision-maker on the funds and programs targeted against Allende.

The CIA was the subject of a three-ring whirl of developments on Capitol Hill yesterday: the Armed Services Committee meeting, the Harrington press conference and an unusual conference on the agency's covert operations attended by former government officials, ex-agents and specialists on intelligence.

The conference produced a mountain of special reports on covert programs and a consensus that the agency's covert operating programs were, on the whole, contrary to national interest.

CIA Director Colby will appear before the conference at 3 p.m. today to speak on "The View from Langley," the suburban Virginia headquarters of the CIA.

Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.), in opening the conference, urged that Congress further explore the CIA role in Chile and protested that "we haven't done a damn thing . . . to prevent the President from waging secret wars."

One of the principal points of criticism in the conference and in Harrington's press conference was the ineffectiveness of congressional oversight of the CIA's operations — principally those targeted against governments or foreign political leaders considered "unfriendly" to U.S. interests.

Symington's admission of surprise upon learning from press reports Sunday and from Colby yesterday of the scope of the Chile programs was an example of what the critics were talking about.