

**Washington**

Senator Frank Church (Dem-Ida.) has authorized his staff to investigate whether State Department officials committed perjury in testifying that the United States had no role in engineering the Chile coup a year ago, it was learned yesterday.

The disclosure came amid signs that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Congress may be heading for a battle over American policy in Chile in the period before the ouster of President Salvador Allende.

State Department officials have repeatedly insisted that the Chile coup was car-

ried out without American assistance. But CIA director William E. Colby, in testimony made public last Sunday, said that the Nixon administration authorized funds for covert CIA activities to "destabilize" the Allende government.

Church told a reporter that Colby's "extremely disturbing" testimony prompts him also to ask for a Senate investigation into CIA operations in Chile.

A demand for a House Foreign Affairs Committee investigation of the CIA role in Chile has been made by Representative Michael Harrington (Dem-Mass.)

*Associated Press*