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# Role in Chile Haunts Pick For State Job

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Suspicion that covert Central Intelligence Agency intervention used in Chile may be repeated across Africa surfaced publicly yesterday at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing.

Nathaniel Davis, U.S. ambassador to Chile when the Salvador Allende government was overthrown in 1973, was the target of the suspicion which has been intensified by his nomination to be assistant secretary of state for African affairs, according to a half-dozen witnesses.

These fears "are more derivative than real," said Davis, based on the fact "that I was the ambassador in Chile at the time the Allende government fell." Davis disclaimed any responsibility for the coup that toppled Allende.

"There is in the African continent a legitimate paranoia over foreign intervention," said Rep. Andrew Young (D-Ga.), a black congressman. Young said he respects Davis personally, but opposed his new assignment because "I would just hate to see the albatross of American policy in Latin America . . . brought to the African continent."

Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.), a prime critic of U.S. policy in Chile, said the committee must determine if Davis "has been tainted by his participation in a questionable, intervention policy in Chile," despite Davis' disclaimers. Harrington said there appears to be conflict between unpublished testimony by Davis before the Foreign Relations Committee, and testimony elsewhere by CIA Director William E. Colby.

Chairman John J. Sparkman (D-Ala.) declined to pursue any questions involving Chile, on grounds that a new Senate committee headed by Frank Church (D-Idaho) is now exploring that subject.

Few committee members attended yesterday's hearing, although it was jammed by witnesses and spectators interested in Africa, a rare subject for congressional hearings.

After what Sparkman described as "the onslaught" of anti-Davis testimony, he pronounced himself as satisfied that the Davis record "answers many of the questions to my way of thinking."

mental hardening of U.S. policy in Africa is under way, partially represented by the intended appointment of Davis to replace Donald B. Easum, a veteran on African affairs, as assistant secretary. Administration officials deny that Davis, now director general of the Foreign Service, was selected as a more effective administrator, administration sources say, while Easum is slated for the top African field post as U.S. ambassador to Nigeria.

Davis, who is 49, has never served in Africa but said his 1962-63 work as an official of the Peace Corps included experience in African programs.

Critical witnesses claimed that Davis' service as ambassador to Guatemala (1968-71) and Chile (1971-73) showed a pattern of participation in American interventionist activities abroad. Davis denied that; he said his service in Guatemala came after a period of violence there.

Pell, who served with Davis in the Foreign Service, said that as Foreign Service officer Davis "gets orders, he carries them out." Pell said, "I've heard him criticized for being too liberal, now I hear him criticized for being too conservative."

Thomas D. Boyatt, president of the American Foreign Service Association, said: "It is a matter of public record that the clandestine activities which took place in Chile were directed by a high-level policy group in Washington . . . Foreign Service officers serving in the field should not be made scapegoats for unpopular policies. . ."

However, Edgar Lockwood, director of the Washington Office on Africa, said Davis, if confirmed, "will commence his tenure in the shadow of African distrust."

Lockwood said that Easum, whom Davis would replace, "was dismissed after only nine months in office, right after a tour of 10 African countries which did much to restore U.S. credibility in the eyes of black Africa."

Similarly, Peter Weiss, of the American Committee on Africa, said Africans are suspicious about the appointment of Davis, "together with the recent appointment of Dean Hinton as ambassador to Zaire and the rumored nomination of William Bowdler as ambassador to the Republic of South Africa."

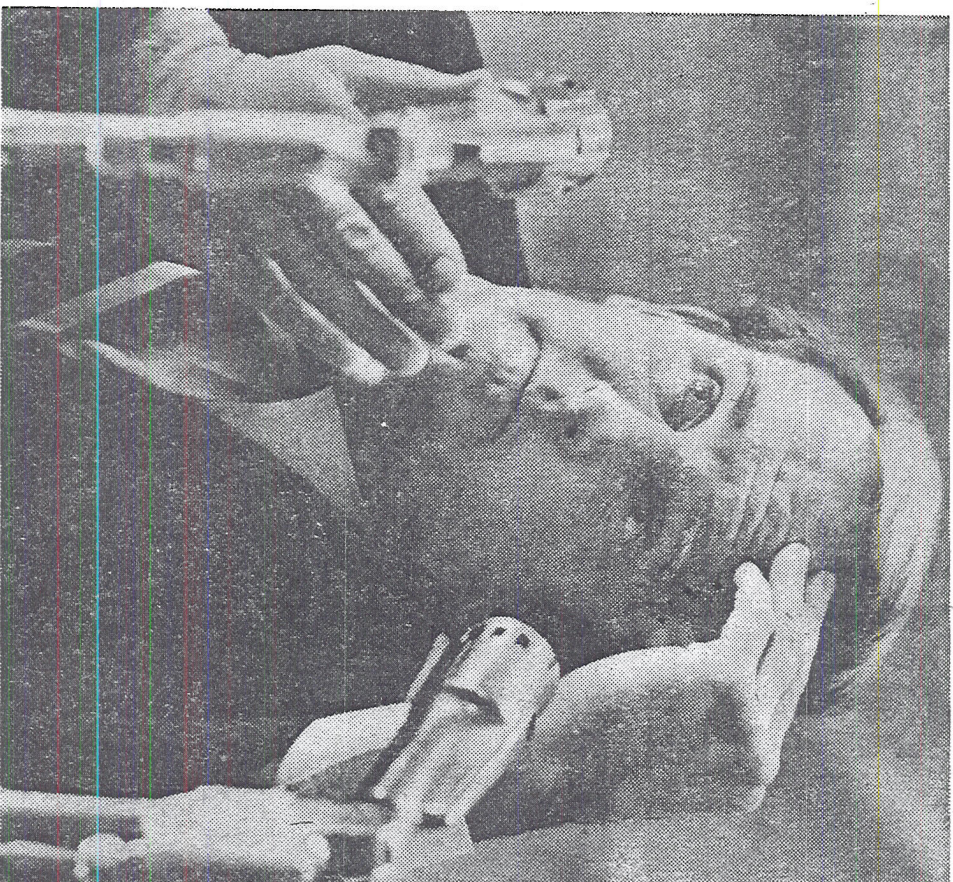
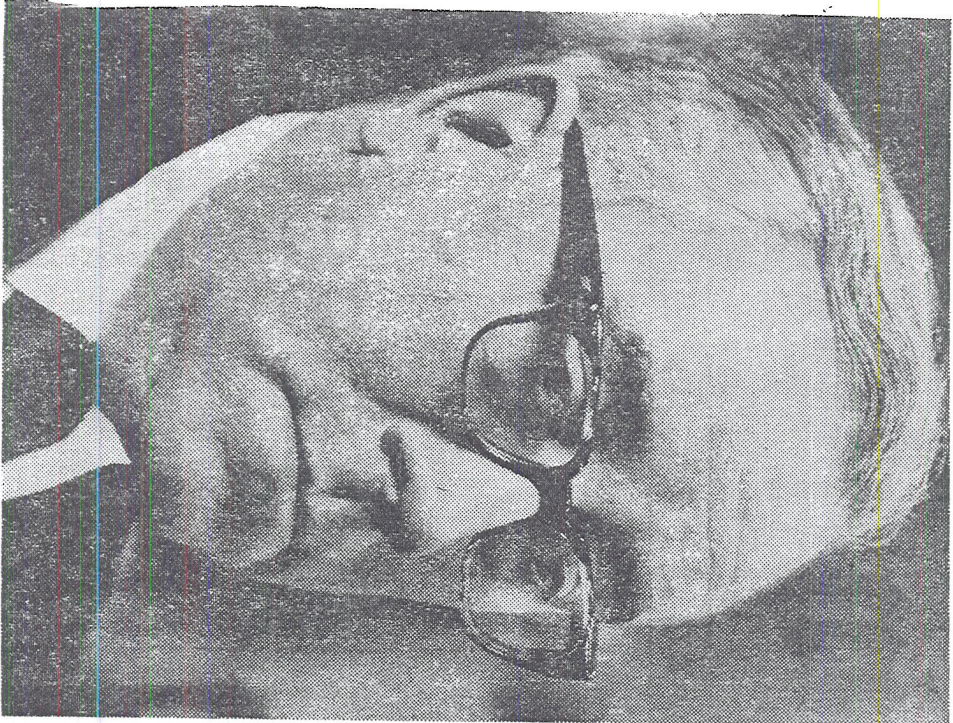
Sister Janice McLaughlin of the Maryknoll Sisters, who is communications coordinator of the Catholic Church in Kenya, said the Davis nomination has aroused "indignation and frustration" in Africa.

She said "public concern was expressed by President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, one of Africa's most moderate and pro-American leaders," at an African-American conference in Kinshasa attended by 11 U.S. members of Congress.

"I think that there are some African concerns about U.S. policy," said Davis. He said, "We have a very real commitment to the welfare and the future of the people of Africa," and he hopes to induce Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to visit African nations. "I am inclined to believe that the secretary has been somewhat negligent of Africa," commented Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa).

Clark, along with Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-Del.), an other freshman member of the committee, Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) and Sparkman, were the only full participants in the hearing.

Numerous witnesses expressed concern that a funda-



**Nathaniel Davis, left, listens to Senate testimony about his activities as envoy to Chile. Rep. Michael Harrington criticizes U.S. policy there.**

*By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post*