

Envoy's Denials on Chile Contradicted

By Laurence Stern
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Testifying under oath before the Senate multinational corporations subcommittee, former U.S. Ambassador to Chile, Edward Korry made a series of seemingly unqualified disclaimers of American intervention in the 1970 Chilean presidential election.

Among his assertions on March 27, 1973, were these:

"... It was obvious from the historical record that we did not act in any manner that reflected a hard line; that the United States gave no support to any electoral candidate... that the United States did not seek to pressure, subvert, influence a single member of the Chilean congress at any time in the entire four years of my stay..."

The revelations of the Senate Intelligence Committee in its recent assassination report contradict this and other assertions sworn to by Korry 2½ years ago.

It quotes, for example, a message Korry sent to President Eduardo Frei, long a favorite of Korry and the American diplomatic establishment.

The message, seeking to encourage Frei to join a secret U.S. plan of political intervention to deny the 1970 Chilean election to Salvador Allende, said: "Frei should know that not a nut or bolt will be allowed to reach Chile under Allende. Once Allende comes to power we shall do all within our power to condemn Chile and the Chileans to utmost deprivation and poverty, a policy designed for a long time to come to accelerate the hard features of a Communist society in Chile..."

Statements issued in behalf of President Nixon that the United

States played no interventionist role in Chile in 1970 were also strongly challenged by the Senate committee's evidence of a presidentially ordered covert political war against the socialist Allende.

So was the testimony of former Secretary of State William Rogers; his successor, Henry Kissinger; former CIA director Richard Helms; former Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Charles Meyer and other State Department spokesmen.

Meyer commented last week "I have the feeling I was part of a James Bond scenario and didn't know it at the time."

Concerning Korry, the Senate Intelligence Committee reported that the former ambassador recommended to Washington a plan for "a \$500,000 effort in (the Chilean) congress to persuade certain shifts in voting on 24 October 1970." That was the date of the Chilean runoff election made necessary because Allende failed to win a majority in the popular election September 4.

The "Forty Committee," the government's top decision-making body for covert operations, authorized \$350,000 to be spent by the CIA to bribe members of the Chilean congress to oppose Allende and overturn the results of the popular election. The money was never spent, however, because of fears that the CIA's complicity would leak.

Korry said last week that "I stand by every statement I have made to the committee and to the press." He added that he will testify publicly at the committee's hearings on Chile this week.