

# Aide to Allende Is Slain in U.S.

## Washington

A top official in the Chilean government of the late President Salvador Allende was killed yesterday when a bomb exploded in his car in northwest Washington.

A woman passenger in the car also was killed, and her husband was severely injured.

Orlando Letelier, 44, former defense and foreign minister of Chile and a former ambassador to the United States, was killed when the bomb demolished the car he was riding in at Sheridan Circle. The woman killed was Ronnie Karpen Moffitt, 25, of Potomac, Md., a staff member of the Transnational Institute of Policy Studies where Letelier was a director. Her husband, Michael, was in fair condition.

Police said they had no suspects.

Letelier, whose Chilean citizenship was revoked a week ago by the current Chilean government, was said to have been one of the last surviving top officials of Allende's Socialist government, which was overthrown by the military three years ago.

President Ford said he "deeply regrets the tragic loss of life" in the killings. Deputy White House press secretary John Carlson said the FBI entered the case and said law enforcement authorities are "vigorously pursuing their investigation."

Chilean Ambassador Manuel Trucco said, "My government repudiates the outrageous act of terrorism . . . I urgently request that a complete and serious inquiry be undertaken. . ."

Senator James Abourezk (Dem.-S.D.) spoke on the Senate floor following the blast and harshly criticized the present government of Chile. He said Letelier had been in fear of his life.

"The tyranny of that dictatorship has now been extended to the United States," Abourezk said.

The explosion was denounced as a political assassination by some of Letelier's coworkers at the Transnational Institute and by the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a private organization that advocates suspension of U.S. economic and military aid to Latin American nations that violate human rights.

Richard Barnett, a co-director of the institute, said there was "enough evidence" to suspect that



AP Wirephoto

ORLANDO LETELIER  
Death in Washington

The former ambassador had worked in recent months to bring public attention to violations of human rights that he claimed were being committed by Chile's military government.

## From Page 1

Letelier was killed by Chilean intelligence agencies.

Witnesses and police said that Letelier's car was driving around Sheridan Circle when it exploded shortly before 10 a.m. No bystanders were injured, but a car was damaged when Letelier's car smashed into it.

The explosion occurred near the Romanian, Irish and Chilean embassies.

Letelier, an attorney and specialist in the problems of nationalizing the copper industry, was serving as a consultant to the Inter-American Development Bank when he was named ambassador to the United States in 1970. Allende appointed him foreign minister in May, 1973, and one month before the military takeover in which Allende died, Letelier became defense minister.

He spent a year in prison in Chile after the revolution. Letelier came to the United States after Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger intervened with Chilean authorities and had him freed from prison. Despite Kissinger's intervention, one of Letelier's first actions upon returning to the United States was to tell the Washington Post that American officials had deceived him about the Central Intelligence Agency's involvement in Chile while he was ambassador here. Kissinger heatedly denied Letelier's account.

The government of Chile on September 15 stripped him of his citizenship. The decree signed by President Augusto Pinochet blamed Letelier for "interfering with normal financial support to

Chile."

Letelier had been living in Washington since the overthrow and teaching at American University.

U.P. & A.P.



AP Wirephoto

**Investigators covered the bomb death car with protective material**