

Chilean Mystery



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SECRET PAPERS found in Chilean exile leader Orlando Letelier's attache' case after his assassination show he had been collecting a mysterious \$1000 a month through a "Havana connection."

The respected Letelier, a former Chilean foreign minister, was blown to oblivion on September 21 as he was driving down Washington's tranquil, tree-shaded Embassy Row. Accompanying him were two passengers, Mike Moffit and his wife, Ronni. The bomb blast also killed Ronni, but Mike miraculously survived.

He telephoned us afterward in anguish and pleaded with us to investigate the assassination. Our preliminary findings indicated that Chile's dread secret police, known as DINA, probably had been behind the bombing.

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THE BLAST that killed Letelier, we have learned, revealed that he had been leading a strange double life. The evidence was locked in an attache case, which investigators salvaged from the wreckage.

The briefcase was returned to the murdered man's family. But first, intelligence agents copied the contents for possible clues that might lead to the assassins.

The briefcase contained papers so sensitive that Letelier probably carried them to prevent their theft by CIA housebreakers. They show that Letelier

received \$1000 a month through a "Havana connection." His contact was none other than Beatrice "Tati" Allende, daughter of Salvador Allende, the Chilean president who was slain in 1973 by a military junta. Tati now lives in Havana with her husband, who is a Cuban official.

In a May 8, 1975, letter to Letelier, she notified him that he will receive \$5000 as an advance payment "to support your work." This was to be followed by the monthly \$1000 payments. The money would come, she said, from the Chilean Socialist party in exile. The disbursement had been approved, she explained, by the party's leader, Carlos Altamierano, who is reported to be living in exile in East Berlin.

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THE CHILEAN Socialist Party has offices in East Berlin, Havana and Rome. Intelligence sources contend that money couldn't have been transmitted to Letelier without the Cuban government's approval.

We reached Tati Allende in Havana by telephone, but she declined to reveal the source of the payments. Her letter to Letelier, she said, was "personal," and she couldn't understand why it would be made public "unless it was to hurt" Letelier's cause.

Despite our efforts to persuade her to clear up the mystery, she finally said: "I can't comment."