

Nixon to Give Answers on Chile

Washington

Former President Nixon has agreed to answer under oath written questions from the Senate Intelligence Committee about his decisions on intervention in Chile and other matters, Chairman Frank Church said yesterday.

Church (Dem-Idaho) told reporters after a closed session of the panel that the answers to the questions will be presented to the committee "for whatever action may be necessary."

The Senate committee has been trying for months to get sworn testimony from Mr. Nixon on various intelligence aspects of his administration that came under scrutiny.

At one point last year, the former president offered to receive at his San Clemente residence a deputation of "two senior members" — presumably Church and Vice Chairman Senator John Tower (Rep-Tex.) — for a period of several hours and answer questions under oath.

But Mr. Nixon, through his attorney, said he reserved the right to refuse to answer under executive privilege any question he judged unacceptable. The committee turned down the offer.

Church said Mr. Nixon's attorney had since informed the committee the former President is willing to provide sworn answers to written questions from the panel. And since the committee's assignment runs out at the end of February, Church said, "this would be acceptable."

Church said the committee wants to learn the reasons and circumstances surrounding Mr. Nixon's decisions to have the CIA try to prevent the election of Marxist Salvador Allende as Chile's president.

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