

# Anti-Allende Campaign, U.S.



**DONALD KENDALL**  
...aided Chilean

By Laurence Stern

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The day President Nixon launched his undeclared war of covert political operations against Chile — Sept. 15, 1970 — there was a series of secret meetings in Washington centering on the presence of a wealthy Santiago publisher, Agustin Edwards.

According to former CIA director Richard M. Helms, it was Edwards' presence in Washington that day which may have "triggered" President Nixon's instructions to involve the CIA in permitting a military coup d'etat intended to prevent the election of Socialist Salvador Allende as president of Chile.

Edwards, a conservative who bitterly opposed Allende,

came to Washington in what one government source described as "a last-minute effort" to recruit U.S. support for a plan to derail Allende's prospects of election by the Chilean Congress, on Oct. 24, 1970.

The El Mercurio publishing chain of which Edwards was publisher and owner had received CIA subsidies since the late 1950s, according to government sources.

Edwards gained President Nixon's ear through the helpful intercession of PepsiCo president Donald Kendall, a mutual friend and longtime political backer as well as law client of Nixon. After Allende's election, Edwards joined the Pepsi-

Cola organization as a vice president.

Helms, in his testimony to the Senate intelligence committee, said that prior to the White House meeting at which President Nixon called for CIA intervention, "the editor of El Mercurio had come to Washington, and I had been asked to go and talk to him at one of the hotels here."

Helms was reported to have been perplexed by his instructions to consult with Kendall and Edwards on conditions in Chile. "His feeling seems to be that here he was, the director of the United States Central Intelligence Agency and he was being sent by the White House to interview the head of the Pepsi-Cola Co. and a

## Visit of Chilean May Be Linked

Santiago publisher," related a well-informed associate of Helms.

In his testimony to the Senate intelligence committee, Helms said he had the impression that President Nixon called the Sept. 15, 1970, White House meeting on Chile "because of Edwards' presence in Washington and what he heard from Kendall about what Edwards was saying about conditions in Chile and what was happening there."

Helms' hand-written notes from that meeting reflected such presidential reactions and instructions as these: "One-in-ten chance, perhaps, but save Chile." ... Not concerned risks involved ...

No involvement of Embassy ... \$10,000,000 available, more if necessary ... Full-time jobs ... best men we have ... Game plan ... Make the economy scream ... 48 hours for plan of action."

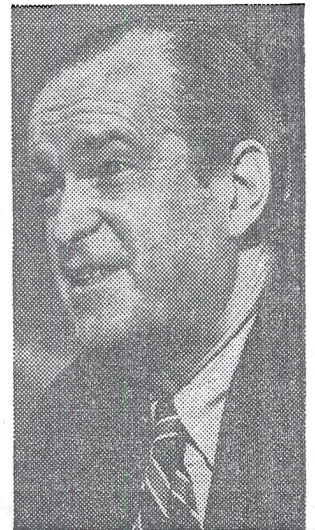
On the morning of Sept. 15, a footnote to the Senate intelligence committee report noted, "At the request of Donald Kendall, President of Pepsi-Cola, Henry Kissinger and John Mitchell met for breakfast with Kendall and Edwards. The topic of conversation was the political situation in Chile and the plight of El Mercurio and other anti-Allende forces."

The breakfast meeting was followed by a more formal session at the White House

conducted by the President and attended by Kissinger, Mitchell and Helms. It was then, as the CIA director later testified, that President Nixon "came down very hard that he wanted something done (in Chile) and he didn't much care how and and that he was prepared to make money available..."

The Senate intelligence committee is now negotiating with Nixon to hear his version of these events.

CIA director William E. Colby testified secretly to a House intelligence subcommittee in June, 1974, that the CIA spent \$8 million in covert efforts to prevent Allende's election and then undermine his government between 1969 and 1973.



**RICHARD M. HELMS**  
... testified on Hill