

# U.S. SPURS CLOSING OF 3 POSTS IN CHILE

## Pentagon Speed-up Affects Scientific Stations

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By JUAN de ONIS

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SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov. 2—The United States has ordered the accelerated closing of three United States Air Force scientific observation stations in Chile, where Dr. Salvador Allende, a Marxist, takes office tomorrow as President.

The action was described by diplomatic sources as a move to reduce nonessential United States official activities in Chile at a time of political uncertainty over future relations with the left-wing Government to be installed here.

A period of "watchful waiting" by the United States within a framework of correct diplomatic relations, is expected to begin after Charles A. Meyer, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, delivers an oral message from President Nixon to Dr. Allende during a reception after the inauguration.

The decision to close the Air Force meteorological and high-atmosphere observation station at Easter Island and two smaller facilities at Puente Arenas

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and Quintero was communicated by Ambassador Edward M. Korry last week to President Eduardo Frei Montalva and a representative of Dr. Allende.

Neither Mr. Frei nor Dr. Allende was said to have objected. The President-elect, a 62-year-old Socialist senator, has said that Chile will follow a foreign policy of nonalignment.

According to the Communist paper *El Siglo*, among the delegations that Dr. Allende has invited, without official accreditation, to his inauguration tomorrow are representatives of Cuba, East Germany, North Korea, North Vietnam and the Vietcong.

Chile has not had diplomatic relations with any of these, but Dr. Allende has indicated that he plans to establish relations with them, as well as with Communist China, during his six-year term. China has diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and almost all of its European bloc.

## Meyer Heads Delegation

Delegations from more than 50 countries that have diplomatic relations with Chile presented credentials today to President Frei. Among these was the United States delegation, headed by Mr. Meyer. The United States Department of Defense had decided before the election of Dr. Allende to close the Air Force scientific stations for reasons of economy. The sources added that originally the bases were to have been closed over the next year, but that the action had been accelerated for political reasons.

The facilities operate under an agreement with the Chilean Air Force.

Mr. Korry flew last Thursday at Easter Island, a small piece of Chilean territory that lies 2,350 miles off the mainland in the Pacific. There he told the four officers and 35 enlisted men at the station that they would be pulling out as soon as the facilities could be dismantled.

## An Air of Secrecy

An air of secrecy has surrounded the station, which was established in 1966. The Air Force describes the mission as an "investigation of ionospheric phenomena, with special emphasis on their effect on weather forecasting and long-range communications system." Chilean officials assume that the Americans monitor the French nuclear tests in the Pacific and possibly track Soviet satellites.

The only other United States military presence here is a group of 13 officers and enlisted men who work with the Chilean Army, Navy and Air Force, mainly in procuring United States equipment.

The major United States official activity here—through the embassy, an economic assistance program and an information mission, all of which number 120 men—is in the area of development loans and grants. There is also a Peace Corps contingent of 85.

Aid under the United States economic programs has been running at a rate of more than \$40-million a year. The emphasis under the Frei Administration has been on loans in education and agriculture.

## New Loan Is Sought

An education loan, signed in 1966 for \$15.3-million, is still

being spent, with \$7.2-million left as of Aug. 31. Application for a new education loan for \$24-million is awaiting approval in Washington.

A \$10-million agricultural loan was authorized on June 30, 1969, but has not been signed.

In addition to direct development loans—including one for \$7-million for a new port at San Vicente—some \$350-million in risk insurance has been granted to encourage United States private investment here.

Some of these guarantees, which cover expropriations or inconvertibility, could be invoked if Dr. Allende's program to nationalize large private enterprises, including copper, iron ore and nitrate mines, produces disputes over compensation.

The accelerated closing of the bases is part of the United States effort to reduce its presence and activities here. The effort began after the Sept. 4 election victory of Dr. Allende and has produced some adverse comments in the Chilean press.

The most recent came last week after Ambassador Korry did not attend a farewell reception given last Friday by Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes Subercaseaux for all heads of diplomatic missions.

## Comment by Air Force

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Coleman, deputy director of public information for the Air Force, said today that 8 officers, 81 airmen and 53 dependents in all would be involved in the pullout from Chile. But he denied that the closing of the scientific observation stations had been accelerated.

The Air Force will "be out by the end of the year," he said, "and that has been our timetable all along."

General Coleman said that the stations conducted upper-atmosphere experiments. He said that he believed that such stations would have some secret equipment, such as cryptography instruments.