

CHILE ENDS STUDY OF A U.S. PULLOUT

Explanations Are Accepted on Easter Island Base

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SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov. 29—

The Chilean Government has dropped an investigation into the sudden withdrawal of a United States Air Force scientific observation station on Chile's Easter Island and has publicly accepted diplomatic explanations made here by the United States in the interest of maintaining good relations.

The investigation, according to the account that has emerged from interviews with diplomatic and Government sources, was undertaken quietly two weeks after Salvador Allende Gossens, a Marxist committed to non-alignment, became president of Chile on Nov. 3. It was prompted by some Chilean discontent over the timing and handling of the withdrawal and by the immediate need to take over public utility services that had been provided for four years by a United States Air Force detachment on the small island whose three brown volcanic craters rise out of the Pacific Ocean 2,400 miles northwest of Santiago.

"The problem of Easter Island has been solved," Foreign Minister Clodomiro Almeyda said at a news conference Friday, during which he described his Government's relations with the United States as good. "Our aim is not to create problems with other governments but to solve them," he said.

U.S. Explanations Accepted

Mr. Almeyda added that diplomatic explanations had been accepted. Edward M. Korry, the United States Ambassador to Chile, has told Chilean officials that the withdrawal, begun last month before Dr. Allende took office, was part of an attempt to eliminate unessential programs for reasons of economy.

Under an agreement with the Chilean Air Force, the United States Air Force has since 1966 maintained ionospheric observation stations at Easter Island and two smaller similar facili-

ties on the Chilean mainland. The detachment of four officers and 41 enlisted men on Easter Island attracted most attention because of its isolated location and because the detachment, well regarded by most of the 1,100 islanders, supplied the community with free electricity, a water works and an emergency supply line to the mainland.

Among Chileans who have followed the affair inside and

outside the new leftist Government, the most widely held belief is that the Easter Island facility was withdrawn before Dr. Allende became President to remove any excuse for a showdown between the United States and Chile.

Allende Criticized Station

"The U.S. seems to have avoided the possibility of having to take the station out under pressure or of having to take a tough position and resist the pressure," one informant close to the Government said. Dr. Allende had criticized the facility three years ago after visiting the island as a

senator for the Socialist Party, but there had been no advance indication he would seek its removal as President.

Still, the United States pull-out threatened to become an issue just after he inauguration. Ambassador Korry's handling of the decision was a central theme in articles calling for his removal in three Santiago leftist newspapers on the day after the inauguration. Although attacks on the United States have continued on an almost daily basis, the newspaper attacks on Mr. Korry stopped as suddenly as they had begun. A source asserted that the papers stopped on orders from above.

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