Allende Charges U.S.-ITT Plot

Santiago, Chile

President Salvador Allende accused the U.S. government for the first time yesterday of plotting with the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. to prevent his inauguration and subsequently to cause civil war in Chile.

The Socialist president's accusation at an international workers' conference marked the first time he has publicly linked the U.S. government with ITT's alleged efforts against his government.

Allende said U.S. Senate hearings have proven "collusion" between ITT and the Central Intelligence Agency in efforts to block his inauguration in November 1970 and later cause his overthrow.

TWIST

"Unfortunately U.S. officials and North American agencies tried to twist the will of the Chilean people," Allende said. "They did not achieve their goal and they are never going to achieve it."

Shouting and thumping the speaker's rostrum, Allende read aloud excerpts from the transcript of the Senate inquiry. He said they show how the CIA and ITT have been working in conjunction.

"These are facts," he said. "The collusion exists."

Referring to the soon-to-be-nationalized C h i l e a n Telephone Co., in which ITT owns 70 per cent interest, Allende asked:

"Is there anyone in the world who i s seriously dreaming that we are going to pay half a cent in indemnization to the ITT, which tried to plunge the country into a bloody civil war?"

VALUE

The government assumed operating control o f the company in September 1971, when nationalization talks collapsed in a dispute over book value. ITT said its interest was worth $153 million. The Chilean government said the value was about $20 million.

In fact, Allende said, while he was discussing indemnization with "top officials" of ITT the company's "sinister tentacles" were operating in Chile in an attempt to overthrow him.

Allende said this was "dishonesty to the Chilean government and the Chilean people."

Allende said transnational corporations like ITT are "the world's greatest threat to the dignity of men and nations."

United Press