

army battles allende backers

U.S. Was Informed Of Junta's Plans Before the Coup

'Hands-Off' Policy Set

Chile Uses Planes, Tanks

By Dan Morgan

Washington Post Staff Writer

The U.S. government learned of the military coup in Chile the night before it happened, but policy makers in Washington at "the highest level" decided on a hands-off policy after evaluating the information, an administration official revealed yesterday.

This description of events leading to the overthrow of Chilean President Salvador Allende was given by a State Department official in a closed briefing for senators as the Nixon administration sought to dispel speculation of possible U.S. complicity in the ouster of the Marxist government.

Jack Kubisch, assistant secretary of state and U.S. coordinator for the Alliance for Progress, told members of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that there had been "no involvement by the U.S. government, U.S. corporations, agencies or citizens," sources reported.

Sen. Gale W. McGee (D-Wyo.) said committee members had told Kubisch that a statement to that effect should be issued at the highest level to quash any possible suspicions and rumors.

According to the information that Kubisch gave the subcommittee, a Chilean officer had mentioned to an American officer in Chile that a coup was brewing. One source said that the tip came "not more than 14 to 16 hours before—maybe as little as 10."

The information was then passed on to "the highest level" in Washington and a decision was made to keep hands off, the source said, adding that this meant that President Nixon was notified. Apparently, the information was not conveyed to the Chilean regime.

State Department sources said last night that the information received by the embassy officer was in the context of numerous rumors and hints of a coup in recent months. They said that the first action taken by the United States after learning that the coup had begun was to order four naval vessels en route from Peru for exercises to keep out of Chilean ports.

From News Dispatches

SANTIAGO, Sept. 12—Chile's new military junta employed fighter-bombers, tanks and heavy guns tonight in the battle against supporters of the late President Salvador Allende, who died in yesterday's coup.

The military declared a 24-hour curfew, clearing downtown streets of civilians. But snipers fought from the roofs of buildings, explosions boomed in the outlying industrial districts and students resisted the military takeover in at least one university.

Communiques issued over the junta-controlled hookup of radio stations gave no indication of casualties. Estimates ran from several dozen deaths to 1,000.

An official communique said troops encountered resistance in at least 15 locations around Santiago. It said they fought their way into four state-owned banks, the offices of three newspapers that had supported Allende, the state technical university and three government buildings.

Unofficial sources said 600 students surrendered at the university after a gunfight. Military authorities said 150 Cuban residents in Santiago were escorted to the border with Argentina and expelled.

The repression came after a junta demand that all arms be turned in by 3 p.m. Any armed resisters discovered after the deadline would be "shot on the spot," the junta said.

Tonight, a follow-up communique said all holdouts had been crushed. It singled out fighting around one factory, where pro-Allende activists held out for several hours. "A majority were taken alive," said the broadcast. Reports indicated at least 1,000 arrests.

[A spokesman for the Chilean embassy in Washington, citing fragmentary contacts with Santiago, said that opponents of the coup had blown up installations at the Tenient copper mine and nation's sole steel mill, in Concepcion.]

In an effort to clear up confusion surrounding Allende's death yesterday, the junta announced tonight that armed forces physicians and a forensic doctor had concluded that the Marxist president took his own life.

U.S. Told Early About Chile Coup

REACT, From A1

The military takeover immediately posed a potential embarrassment, because American disapproval of the Marxist-led regime is well known, and because charges of U.S. connivance against the regime were raised last spring before a Senate subcommittee investigating the role of U.S. corporations there.

At that time, there was testimony that the International Telephone and Telegraph Co. had offered to help the CIA prevent the election of Allende. Later, company officials testified, the CIA approached ITT about waging a campaign of economic sabotage against Chile.

Questioned yesterday about possible CIA involvement in the coup, White House deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren denied that the agency had been involved. The State Department also strongly denied U.S. involvement.

Nevertheless, critics of the Nixon administration's policy in South America blamed the United States yesterday for helping create the conditions in which military intervention became an ever-stronger likelihood.

Joseph Collins of the Institute for Policy Studies said, "The tactics were economic chaos." Collins said that Chile had become "the first victim of the Nixon-Kissinger low-profile strategy," in which credits are withheld while military assistance continues to pro-American armed forces.

Military assistance to the Chilean regime continued throughout the three-year presidency of Allende. However, development loans were halted. Collins said U.S. companies had put pressure on their subsidiaries and on foreign associates not to sell vitally needed equipment and spare parts to Chile.

Officials here who were in touch with the situation in Santiago expressed surprise at the scope and speed of the coup. They also painted a picture of relative calm in Chile, with only "some shooting" going on sporadically. There were other reports of widespread fighting.

Fighting Continues In Chile

CHILE, From A1

No details were issued. The body was buried today, according to an earlier communique. Allende's body was found after planes had heavily damaged the presidential palace and set it ablaze.

Reuter printed the following full text of the communique read today over the radio hookup controlled by the military:

"1. At 1350 hours on Tuesday, Sept. 11, through the mediation of Fernando Flores and Daniel Vergara [members of Allende's official staff], Salvador Allende offered to surrender unconditionally to the military forces.

"2. To this effect, it was immediately decided to send a patrol, whose arrival at the Moneda Palace was delayed by the devious activity of snipers posted mainly in the Public Works Ministry who tried to intercept it.

"3. On entering the Moneda, the patrol found Mr. Allende's corpse in one of its chambers.

"4. A commission from the medical services of the armed forces and the national police and a forensic doctor certified his death.

"5. At midday on Wednesday, Sept. 12, he was buried privately in the presence of his family."

It was not said what family members attended. The Christian Democratic Party, which is Chile's largest and which opposed Allende, had asked that legislators be present at the autopsy to determine whether Allende took his own life. Apparently the request was not granted.

Yesterday, police had said Allende committed suicide. They led a photographer from an anti-Allende newspaper to the body and he reported Allende had died of a bullet in the mouth.

Today, unofficial sources said the military had determined the bullet that killed him was from a machinegun of the type carried by palace guards.

Associated Press quoted an investigating officer as saying Allende shot himself with an automatic carbine that was a gift from Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

The junta composed of the three armed forces chiefs and the head of the national police ordered state television to display films showing huge arms



Associated Press

Troops taking part in Tuesday's coup in Santiago, Chile, take cover from sniper fire.

caches alleged to have been seized after yesterday's attacks on Allende's residence and the palace.

Allende's opposition charged that he was arming the workers with arms brought in from Communist countries. Military commentators on the television program said the hundreds of automatic rifles were of Soviet manufacture.

The officers also pointed out well-stocked pantry shelves in Allende's residence, an allusion to the fact that food shortages had become rampant under Allende in recent months.

Sources quoted by AP said that 60 officials of Allende's government had sought asylum in the Mexican embassy and that others asked refuge elsewhere.

A junta communique announced that 19 Communist and Socialist leaders had "presented themselves" to police, including former Interior Minister Carlos Briones and former Foreign Minister Clodomiro Almeyda. Military sources said some would be released after questioning and others detained.

The junta has ordered 68 other leftist political leaders to surrender, including Socialist Party President Carlos Altamirano and Allende's sister, Laura, a member of Congress.

Twenty foreigners — Argentines, Brazilians, Bolivians, Ecuadorians, Uruguayans, Spaniards and Poles — suspected of close ties with the Allende government were also ordered to report to police.

Reuter correspondent Raul

Duque cabled to Buenos Aires: "The military have threatened to shoot anybody violating the curfew and correspondents dare not venture on the streets.

"I have been alone in the communications office since yesterday. I can't go into the streets or they will shoot me. . . . I entered the office yesterday bent double because there were snipers and the military were retaliating hard."

Most of the nation's economic, industrial and financial activities would resume Thursday, the military added.

Allende, 65, had been in office 34 turbulent months when the military revolt came in the midst of a crippling transportation and white-collar worker strike. He was elected in 1970 with 36 percent of the vote in a three-man race. He did not have a majority in Congress.

Thousands in Europe March in Protest

Associated Press

Thousands of leftists demonstrated yesterday in Paris and Rome to protest the military coup in Chile.

Communist and leftist par-

ties from Venezuela to Moscow joined in denouncing the overthrow of the Marxist president as a defeat for progressive Chileans.

An estimated 30,000 marchers surged past the Chilean embassy in Paris, brandishing red flags and banners. "Coup-makers, fascists, murderers," they shouted. "Down with the murderers in the CIA."

Thousands more demonstrators marched in Rome, where a group calling itself the "International Militant Fellowship" claimed responsibility for a predawn firebombing of the Milan office of Pan American World Airways.

The group said the attack, which did damage estimated at \$17,000 but caused no injuries, was in retaliation for participation in the coup by U.S. "imperialists."

Argentine former President Juan D. Peron said he could not prove that there had been North American participation in the coup but added: "I firmly believe that because I know all about this process, I believe it could not have been otherwise."

Defense for the coup came from leading newspapers in Brazil, where the military also holds power.

"Allende, in three years,

succeeded in destroying the economy in the name of revolutionary reforms of social structures," the newspaper O Estado de Sao Paulo said. "He sacrificed thousands of human beings for the benefit of sectarian dogmas."

West German Chancellor Willy Brandt said at a Bonn conference that "it fills me with concern that, after the wreck of Allende's experiment, the signs will point more and more in the direction of a civil war situation."

At the United Nations, the Cuban government protested that its embassy in Santiago had been attacked as well as a Cuban merchant ship off Valparaiso, a Chilean port city.

The Cubans said that Chilean planes and warships shot at the vessel, although it was in international waters after unloading sugar at Valparaiso. Two Cuban doctors in Santiago with the World Health Organization have been arrested, the Cuban mission charged.

Under Allende, Cuba maintained a large diplomatic and aid mission in Chile, which renewed diplomatic relations with Castro's government soon after Allende took office Nov. 2, 1970. The new junta said the relations would be broken.