

Plotters Say They Didn't Tell U.S.

Washington

Chile's ruling four-man junta has informed Washington that it deliberately kept its plans for a coup on Tuesday to itself to prevent any possibility of United States involvement in the overthrow of President Salvador Allende, according to a cabinet-level official of the Nixon administration.

A representative of the junta made this statement Thursday to Ambassador Nathaniel Davis, the official said.

The official said the Chilean representative used the word "deliberate" in describing why the coup plotters had not informed American diplomats beforehand.

According to the official, tips that the coup was pending — a dozen such tips culminating in a warning Monday night — were made to U.S. diplomats in Santiago by lower-level Chilean military officers who were not directly involved in the plans.

The administration, which has denied having had any prior knowledge of the plans for the coup last Tuesday, was clearly pleased by the junta message.

The Nixon administration had been under heavy fire abroad and at home from Allende sympathizers who charged that he was overthrown with American assistance. The administration has taken pains to counter the allegations.

The Nixon administration was described by a high-ranking official as being in no hurry to open formal relations with the Santiago junta.

Washington wants to wait until the situation is more stable in Chile and until Latin American and other foreign governments have formally taken up relations with the junta.

New York Times