

NY Times SEP 20 1973

# Allende's Widow Believes That He Was 'Murdered'

Special to The New York Times

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 19—The widow of President Salvador Allende Gossens of Chile said today that on the basis of new information she had received since her husband's

death, she now believed that he did not commit suicide but was "murdered" by the military forces that overthrew his Government eight days ago.

In an exclusive interview, Mrs. Hortensia Bussi de Allende said she had learned that there were "several" bullet wounds in Dr. Allende's stomach and chest in addition to the one bullet hole through his mouth that was reported by the military junta that overthrew him.

"I am absolutely sure he did not commit suicide," Mrs. Allende said. "I think he was murdered because of the bullet wounds he received."

### Had Talked of Suicide

Mrs. Allende had at first confirmed the army and police reports that Dr. Allende had killed himself saying she believed he had shot himself with a submachine gun given to him by Fidel Castro. She said that Dr. Allende had talked of suicide and had said that he would "kill himself rather than betray all his ideas."

Today, however, she said her husband had told her: "The only way which I shall leave La Moneda will be dead, but fighting. I shall not commit suicide like Palmaceda," a president of Chile who took refuge in the Argentine embassy and shot himself during a revolt in 1891.

Mrs. Allende said she learned of the additional bullet wounds and other details of the final events at La Moneda, the presidential palace, from "eyewitnesses," including her daughters and doctors and reporters whom she said she could not name for fear of jeopardizing their safety.

"I know that he died fighting," Mrs. Allende said of her husband.

Mrs. Allende also said that she believed the United States

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

bore some responsibility for the coupe that overthrew her husband's Government. The coup was preceded by a truck drivers' strike that brought hardship and increased instability to a country largely dependent on trucking for daily necessities.

"The strike went on for 47 days more or less," Mrs. Allende said, "and from this one can deduce that it was financed from the outside because it was impossible to support the over 50,000 transport workers. What were they living on if they were not working? They had to be financed from outside."

In response to a question, Mrs. Allende said that the United States had "a great responsibility in what happened."

"We often heard the Government and the State Department did not want Allende in power," she added. "Financial interests always predominate."

### A Guest in Mexico

Mrs. Allende gave the interview at the home here of Hugo Vigorena Ramirez, a former Chilean ambassador to Mexico. She has been a guest here since she and two of her three daughters arrived in Mexico three days ago on a plane sent by President Luis Echeverria Alvarey.

She spoke calmly and firmly, with tears occasionally welling up in her eyes as she told of the final day of her husband's life.

She said that Dr. Allende telephoned her from the presidential palace early on the

morning of Sept. 11 to tell her: "There's an uprising of the navy, there are many riots in Santiago. I don't know whether we can resist or not. These are very difficult moments. Stay home in Tomas Moro and keep quiet."

"I vaguely remember that I said: 'Let's hope we come out all right,'" Mrs. Allende said. "I did not have a very clear picture and he did not call me back the remainder of the day."

### Heard Radio Broadcasts

While she waited, she said, she listened to the radio and heard broadcasts of her husband's messages, "which were truly verbal bequests in which he said that he would never betray his people, that he would die fighting."

Mrs. Allende said that Gen. Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, the leader of the coup, had telephoned Dr. Allende and offered him safe passage out of the palace.

"Salvador answered: 'I refuse to talk to cowards and traitors who have risen up in arms. How dare you offer me this?' and hung up," Mrs. Allende said. "I know he died fighting. My daughters were still able to see him with his helmet on and a machine gun that Fidel Castro had given him, with an inscription that said: 'To my good friend and fighter, Comrade Salvador Allende, from Fidel Castro.'"

As the fighting came closer to the presidential palace, Mrs. Allende said, her husband told the women present, including their daughters, to leave.

"My daughters did not want

to leave him, but he said: 'if you don't, you're going to force me to go out on the street with you,'" she said.

Mrs. Allende continued: "My daughters left the building on all fours, so they say, one of them over seven months pregnant, and they were able to get out by sticking close to the walls, until at the end my daughter Beatriz began to have uterine contractions."

### Hotel Rejects Them

"My other daughter, in anguish, took her into a hotel in the middle of town, but the owner, who saw how upset and anguished they were, became suspicious, gave them their money back and told them: 'Please go away, because if you don't, you'll bring me many problems.' He did not know who they were. They went out, and a man who saw the pain my daughter was suffering on her face took pity on her and took her uptown."

In response to a question, Mrs. Allende said that no government in exile would be formed to attempt to retake power from the military junta.

"There can be no government in exile because it is the people who have to decide, and the people are in Chile," she said. "It is only in the future that perhaps another leader will arise who will continue what Salvador began."

Continued on Page 3, Column 1