

ITT, CIA Linked in Chile Plot

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — Columnist Jack Anderson said today he had secret documents that showed International Telephone and Telegraph Corp dealt with the Central Intelligence Agency in trying to block the 1970 election of Salvador Allende as president of Chile.

Anderson said the documents showed that at one point ITT in collaboration with the CIA "considered triggering a military coup to head off Allende's election."

"These documents portray ITT as a virtual corporate nation in itself with vast international apparatus and even its own classification system," Anderson wrote.

Anderson said the originals of the documents presumably were destroyed in a document shredder when ITT destroyed "many sacks" of papers in its Washington office last month. But he said that

"nevertheless" he had obtained copies.

The papers show, Anderson said, that ITT officials were in close touch with William V. Broe, who in 1970 was director of the Latin American division of the CIA's clandestine services.

"They were plotting together to create economic chaos in Chile, hoping this would cause the Chilean army to pull a coup that would block Allende from coming to power," Anderson wrote.

Report Cited

Anderson said parts of the plot are outlined in an Oct. 9, 1970, confidential report from ITT Vice President William Merriam to ITT Director John McCone, a former head of the CIA.

"Approaches continue to be made to select members of the armed forces in an attempt to have them lead some sort of uprising — no success to date," Anderson

quoted the memo.

Anderson said the plot had been detailed 10 days earlier in a confidential telex to Harold Geneen, ITT's president, from E. J. Gerrity, another of the corporation's vice presidents.

No Comment

In New York a spokesman for ITT said the corporation had "no comment" on Anderson's report.

Anderson said Gerrity's description showed the plot called for economic sanctions:

- "Companies should drag their feet in sending money, making deliveries, in shipping spare parts, etc."

- Pressure to close savings-and-loan companies to Chile that were reported to be in trouble.

- Withdrawal of all technical help and refusal to promise any in the future. "Companies in a position to do so should close their doors."

- "A list of companies was

provided, and it was suggested that we approach them as indicated. I was told that of all the companies involved, ours alone had been responsive and understood the problem."

The Chilean Telephone Co., in which ITT owned a 70 percent interest, was among several firms taken over by Allende's Marxist government.