Chile May Seize ITT

Interests

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Chile's leftwing government is considering confiscation of the interests of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. in Chile's telephone company, a spokesman for the ruling Popular Unity coalition said yesterday.

Jaime Gazmuri, acting secretary of the United Popular Action Movement, a member party of the coalition, said Marxist president Salvador Allende told him government lawyers are studying a possible confiscation of ITT's. 70 per cent share in the company by a draft law or constitutional reform. The ITT property is worth \$153 million.

American columnist Jack Anderson has charged that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and ITT were involved in a plan to prevent Allende from taking office after he was elected in November, 1970.

Gazmuri's party urged the government to confiscate ITT's share of the telephone company several days ago on learning of the Anderson allegations. Gazmuri told reporters Allende said he agreed in principle with this demand.

ITT holdings in Chile also include telecommunications manufacturing, hotel and communications companies.

The Chilean Separate in communications companies.

The Chilean Senate, in an extraordinary session, called for a commission of inquiry to be set up to investigate possible activities against Chile's interests by ITT.

Reuters