

'Centaur Plan' to Oust Allende Called 'Hoax'

by Laurence Stern

U.S. intelligence sources have branded as a "hoax" the so-called Centaur plan to overturn the Allende government in Chile.

They attribute the plan and its circulation through Latin America to an American parole violator named Richard Alexander Zander, who is said to have "peddled" it commercially in Mexico.

Centaur has created ripples of mystification since it was first mentioned in Mexico City [17 Sep] by Hugo Vigorena, Chile's former ambassador to Mexico.

Vigorena, in an interview with the Mexican daily Excelsior, charged that the anti-Allende plan was conceived and executed by the Central Intelligence Agency. Although it was first put into motion two years ago, he said, the Chilean government did not discover it until six weeks before the coup that ousted Allende and led to his death.

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