

Ford Admits U.S. Interfered in Chile

Washington

President Ford admitted last night that the United States had intervened in Chile but denied involvement in the actual overthrow of President Salvador Allende.

"Our government had no involvement whatsoever in the Allende coup," Mr. Ford told his news conference.

But he added that the United States had made an effort to "assist" the activities of opposition newspapers and opposition political parties in the years immediately prior to the Marxist leader's overthrow by a military junta last September. Allende and several thousand others died in the upheaval.

Mr. Ford said over a period of time, three or four years ago, there was an effort made by the Allende government "to destroy opposition media, both writing,

And electronic media, and to destroy opposition political parties."

When asked by a newsman what right the United States had to "destabilize" the constitutionally elected government of another country, Mr. Ford replied:

"I am not going to pass judgment on whether it is permitted or authorized under international law. It is a recognized fact that historically and presently such actions are taken in the best interest of the countries involved.

"Our government, like other governments, does take certain actions in the intelligence field to help implement foreign policy and protect national security. I'm informed reliably that Communist nations spend vastly more money than we do for the same kind of purposes," he said.

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