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C.I.A. Role in Coup Denied

In Letter to Mrs. Allende

WASHINGTON, May 21 (UPI) —The former head of Latin-American operations for the Central Intelligence Agency wrote the widow of President Salvador Allende Gossens of Chile denying that the C.I.A. was in any way responsible for the Marxist leader's overthrow and death in 1973.

David A. Philipps, who retired from the agency May 9 after 24 years, wrote Hortensia Bussi de Allende the next day:

"You have been led to believe that evidence exists which makes the C.I.A. accountable for the circumstances which brought your husband to his untimely end. Because I supervised that component of C.I.A. concerned with Chile and its neighbors, the accusation bothers me personal. The claim, I assure you, is untrue and the evidence tainted."

A copy of the letter had been obtained by United Press International.