

An 'Apology' For U.S. Role In Chile Coup

Geneva

American diplomat Brady Tyson expressed regrets before the U.N. Human Rights Commission yesterday for what he said were U.S. efforts to undermine Chile's late Marxist President Salvador Allende.

The Carter administration almost immediately strongly disavowed his remarks and Tyson said later that he had spoken on his own.

Tyson, an ordained Methodist minister, is deputy leader of the U.S. delegation to the commission.

Chile's armed forces overthrew Allende in a bloody coup in 1973. Allende perished during the battle for the presidential palace.

President Ford acknowledged in a news conference Sept. 16, 1974, that Central Intelligence Agency funds were used covertly in Chile to help the opposition parties and news media during the period Allende was in power.

Tyson told the U.N. commission yesterday, "We would be less than candid and untrue to ourselves and our people if we did not express our profound regrets for the role some government officials, agencies and private groups played in the subversion of the previous democratically elected Chilean government."

Tyson did not identify any Americans allegedly involved in Allende's overthrow.

"We recognize fully that the expression of regrets, however profound, cannot contribute significantly to easing the suffering and terror that the people of Chile have experienced in the last two years," he said.

"We can only say that the great majority of the American people believe in democracy and justice and freedom and the promotion of human rights of all. We can only say the policies and the persons responsible for those acts have been rejected by the people in a free election."

White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said President Carter "was not consulted prior to this" about Tyson's remarks. He declined to characterize Carter's reaction to Tyson's remarks.

State Department spokesman Frederick Z. Brown said Tyson's remarks were "personal and not approved in advance."

He noted that a special committee headed by Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho), had reported there was no direct American involvement in the Chilean coup and said the State Department stands on the Church committee report. That report did say that secret U.S. financing of groups opposing Allende "may have contributed to an atmosphere conducive to the coup."

Tyson, asked today if he had made the statement on instructions from Washington, replied:

"I made it under my own
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responsibility. I think that what I said was clear. I think it is in the general framework of the Carter foreign policy. I hope it is."

He also expressed surprise at the reaction to his remarks. "There has been so much publicity and so many investigations in the United States," Tyson said. "I really didn't think this was such big news."

Tyson, 50, is a professor on leave from the School of International Service at America University in Washington. A Latin American specialist, he had been recommended for his assignment to the Human Rights Commission meeting by Andrew Young, the chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, a high State Department official said.

Tyson had worked with Young in the human rights movement, the official added.

Tyson spoke before the U.N. commission during a debate on a resolution condemning the current Chilean regime for human rights violations. The resolution was submitted by Austria, Cuba, Cyprus, Sweden, Rwanda, Britain, the United States and Yugoslavia.

Tyson called it "fair, prudent and cautious."

During the speech in which he expressed regrets on the Chile issue, Tyson declared that a state of siege is continuing in Chile. He added that in Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil, there are "problems which should not be ignored by the commission."

Chilean observer Sergio Diez, Gabriel Martinez of Argentina and Carlos Giambruno of Uruguay said they rejected the remarks.

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