

ARMY COMMANDER IN CHILE IS SHOT; FORCES ALERTED

by Juan de Onis
Special to The New York Times

Santiago, Chile, Oct 22 - An unidentified gunman today shot and critically wounded the Commander in Chief of the Chilean Army, Gen. René Schneider Chereau.

The attack on General Schneider came 48 hours before Congress was scheduled to vote for the election of Dr. Salvador Allende, a Socialist senator and a declared Marxist, as President of Chile for a six-year term.

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The general, a 56-year-old professional soldier, is known to have taken a strong position in favor of neutrality by the armed forces in the political struggle in Chile.

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Leaders of Dr. Allende's left-wing coalition, which includes the Communist party, attributed the assassination attempt to "anti-patriotic groups of the extreme right in collusion with foreign elements."

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Talking with reporters, Dr. Allende recalled that his coalition had been calling for Government action against extreme right-wing groups that, he said, were conspiring to prevent his reaching office "by any means or method."

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The left-wing press has been charging for weeks that agents of [the CIA] and anti-Communist exiles from Cuba have been entering Chile secretly to carry out a plan to prevent Dr. Allende from becoming President.

Edward A. Korry, the United States Ambassador to Chile, issued a statement last night denying these charges.

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datelined Santiago, Nov.10

From NYTimes 11 Nov 70/(clipping not kept): "The six-day-old Government of President Salvador Allende Gossens has begun negotiations to re-establish Chile's diplomatic relations with Cuba, well informed sources said today... Dr. Allende ... has long made public his personal sympathies with Cuba and his friendship with Premier Castro."