

U.S. Again Denies Anti-Allende Policy

By Laurence Stern
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The State Department found itself in the center of a growing congressional furor yesterday over the disclosure that some \$11 million in U.S. funds had been authorized for covert political action against the late Chilean president, Salvador Allende.

In the face of new charges that it misled Congress on the issue of U.S. intervention in Chile, a State Department spokesman yesterday stood by sworn testimony of officials on Capitol Hill that the United States pursued a policy of non-intervention during the Allende period.

The new round of controversy over U.S. policy on Chile was triggered by the disclosure Sunday that CIA Director William E. Colby acknowledged to a House Armed Services subcommittee last April 22 that \$3 million in covert funds was targeted against Allende's candidacy in 1964 and more than \$8 million was authorized to block his 1970 election and "destabilize" his government between 1970 and September, 1973, when he was overthrown.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), chairman of a Senate Refugee subcommittee which is investigating human rights violations in Chile, said yesterday that the disclosure of CIA funding of Allende's opposition "represents not only a flagrant violation of our alleged policy of non-intervention in Chilean affairs but also an appalling lack of forthrightness with the Congress."

He noted that covert political funding, such as was acknowledged by Colby, "has been denied time and time again by high officials of the Nixon and now Ford administration."

Kennedy called for full congressional investigation of the discrepancies in the official versions of what the United States did in Chile during the Allende period.

Jerome Levinson, counsel for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's multinational corporations subcommittee, said "there is no doubt that we were misled" by State Department witnesses who testified last year that the United States had not undertaken covert activities against Allende.

The former Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Charles A. Meyer, gave sworn testimony to the subcommittee March 29, 1973 that "the policy of the government . . . was that there would be no intervention in the political affairs of Chile. . . . We financed no candidates, no political parties. . . ."

Last June 12 Acting Assistant Secretary of State Harry Shlaudeman told a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee: "Despite pressures to the con-

trary the U.S. government adhered to a policy of non-intervention in Chile's affairs during the Allende period. That policy remains in force today. . . ."

When pressed by Rep. Donald M. Fraser (D-Minn.) on whether "you are prepared today to deny an assertion that the U.S. funneled money covertly to opposition parties following the 1970 election in Chile," Shlaudeman responded: "I am not . . ."

Fraser, chairman of a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on international organizations, charged yesterday that "the executive branch had deceived the Congress as well as the public with respect to its involvement in the overthrow of the Allende regime."

Yesterday State Department spokesman Robert Anderson said that "we stand by the statements that have been made in the past." He declined to confirm or deny the report of Colby's testimony published Sunday in *The Washington Post*.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger similarly declined yesterday through a spokesman to respond to Colby's testimony, which was recounted in a confidential letter from Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.) to House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas E. Morgan (D-Pa.) appealing for further congressional inquiry into covert operations in Chile.

Kissinger was chairman of a meeting of the "Forty Committee" on June 27, 1970 when the question of covert political action against Allende was taken up. Kissinger, according to records of the proceeding, favored a limited and thoroughly concealed program of intervention.

The State Department, according to sources with access to inter-departmental records of the deliberations, opposed CIA intervention in the Allende election but abandoned its opposition when President Nixon ratified a limited program of intervention for which some \$350,000 to \$400,000 was authorized by the Forty Committee.

Kissinger was quoted in minutes of the June 27 top-secret meeting at the White House as having said: "I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go Communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people."

A spokesman for the Secretary said yesterday that Mr. Kissinger had no recollection of having made such an observation and would not comment on his role in the deliberations.

Colby's closed testimony to the House Armed Service subcommittee, as recounted in the Harrington letter, was that the CIA's role in the 1970 Chilean election was that of a

"spoiler" engaged in "general attempts to politically destabilize the country and discredit Allende to improve the likelihood that an opposition candidate would win."

The Forty Committee, which is an inter-departmental White House panel supervising all U.S. covert operations, authorized a steady outpouring of funds into Chile through individuals, political parties and news media through Latin American and European channels during the anti-Allende effort, according to the summary of Colby's testimony.

Kissinger had, on various occasions, expressed personal reservations about the emergence of the Allende government, which was committed to a program of nationalization and income redistribution.

After Allende's popular election in September, 1970, but before the congressional run-off, Kissinger told a group of editors at the White House that "it is fairly easy for one to predict that if Allende wins, there is a good chance that he will establish over a period of years some sort of Communist government . . ."

"So I don't think we should delude ourselves that an Allende takeover in Chile would not present massive problems for us, and for democratic forces and pro-U.S. forces in Latin America . . ."

But Kissinger added that the situation was not one "in which our capacity for influence is very great at this particular moment now that matters have reached this particular point."

It was during this period that the CIA and International Telephone and Telegraph Co. sought actively to undermine Allende's prospects for election, according to testimony that emerged last year before the Senate Foreign Relations multinational subcommittee and most recently corroborated in far greater detail by CIA Director Colby.