

CIA

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# CIA didn't help oust Allende, ex-chief says

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A former Latin American chief for the CIA said yesterday the agency did not help to overthrow Chilean President Salvador Allende, but tried instead to preserve his government so it could be defeated in new elections.

For the first time, "I find myself confidently and completely agreeing with Fidel Castro," David Alee Phillips, 52, said about the Kennedy slaying.

Phillips resigned from the CIA Friday to form an association of retired intelligence agents that would attempt to counter critics of the CIA and "shed some light on what CIA is and, equally important, what it is not."

He also said the CIA was not involved in any attempts to assassinate Latin American leaders and that he was convinced Cuban Premier Fidel Castro had nothing to do with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

He said the overthrow and death in 1973 of Allende was "a tragic event that

## Ex-agents form a new group to do public relations for CIA

should not have happened" and the United States would have preferred the first-ever elected Marxist government to have been voted out of office because of its own failings.

Phillips, who was CIA's Latin American chief at the time of the coup, said "CIA did not fund the strikes that

led to the coup that deposed Mr. Allende nor did we encourage the plotters who planned and conducted the coup.

"Other activities we did undertake in Chile, to preserve its democratic sectors until the 1976 elections could be held. It was our estimate that, given the absolutely

disastrous decline in the Chilean economy during Mr. Allende's presidency, he had little chance to win those elections if the democratic sectors could hold out that long," Phillips said.

He did not elaborate on what steps CIA took to prop up the Allende government, but U.S. officials have acknowledged that \$8 million was channelled into Chile during the Allende era to certain newspapers and non-Communist political parties.

He said the CIA finally be-

lieved a coup would come off in Chile and on May 8 and on May 8 and May 23, 1973, he wrote memos that ordered CIA agents to pull out of contacts with plotters because he did not want the U.S. and the CIA to be blamed.

Asked why, at that point, the CIA did not notify Allende of the planned coup, Phillips said that decision would have had to have been "reached at the highest levels of U.S. government . . . the Secretary of State and the White House."