

7 March 1973

CIA INVOLVEMENT IN CHILEAN ELECTIONS

CIA's [financial] involvement in Chilean elections began in 1962. This was a direct result of American policy level concern over prospects in Chile as a result of the Marxist Socialist Salvador Allende obtaining 30% of the total votes in the 1958 Chilean Presidential elections. Acting on policy guidance, CIA put [redacted] behind Senator Eduardo Frei and his Christian Democratic Party (PDC) during 1962 and 1963. In the 1963 time frame, CIA also put [redacted] into other Chilean political groups and individuals to strengthen the anti-communist opposition and their prospects in the September 1964 Presidential elections.

(b)(3)

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In May 1964 the United States Government decided to support Frei in the 1964 presidential campaign [and [redacted] was expended in support of his candidacy.] The result was that Frei won the 1964 election with 56% of the votes cast.

(b)(3)

Over the following years (1965-69) funds were given under the equivalent of 40 Committee policy level guidance to Frei, his party and a select number of candidates in congressional and local elections. These expenditures totaled [redacted] Some of these ventures were successful;

(b)(3)

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(b)(3)

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[for example, in the March 1965 and March 1969 Congressional elections.]

On the other hand some were not successful, [redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

The 1970 presidential race in Chile was viewed by American policy-makers as a real problem. It was decided, however, that CIA would not support either of the two candidates who were opposing Allende. Rather, the decision was that the thrust of our efforts should focus on alerting the Chilean voters to the dangers of Allende's victory and the subsequent socialization of the Chilean economy. As a result [redacted] was spent on propaganda activities in Chile. Allende won the 1970 election however by obtaining 36.3% of the vote in a three-man race.

(b)(3)

In the period following Allende's 1970 victory, CIA was given stand-by authority to expend [redacted] in an effort to keep Allende out of office. It was thought that this might be done by having the second largest vote-getter -- Alessandri, with 34.9% of the vote -- elected President in the congressional run-off. These funds were not used however for this plan was not implemented.

(b)(3)

[Since 1970 CIA support has been given to various political groups and newspapers in Chile in order to keep the opposition alive. In 1972 about [redacted] was allocated to preparations for the March 1973

(b)(3)

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congressional elections in Chile.] The results of the 1973 elections have enabled the opposition to retain a majority in both Houses of Congress. This is short, however, of the goal of having a two-thirds majority in the Senate, which could be used to impeach Allende. The progress of socialization in Chile has been slowed however as a result of CIA's 1973 electoral activity.]

[] - All these activities were undertaken under the direct]

(b)(3)

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