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by Steve Long and Arn Passman

An American invasion force of Green Berets and U.S. Army Rangers, under the direction of the CIA, stormed the Moneda palace and murdered Chilean President Salvador Allende, Barb was told by a source who says he talked to a member of the American assault team.

The story of direct CIA complicity in the overthrow on Sept. 11, 1973 of the democratically elected Popular Unity government of Chile means that Chile is the most recent in at least ten such coups by the clandestine agency throughout the world since World War II.

According to a Bay Area professor who says he talked to a member of the American assault group, the American military task force consisted of 234 Special Forces personnel (Green Berets), 14 U.S. Army Rangers, and 34 CIA agents. The task force was trained at a super-secret CIA base near Fort Ord and at Fort Gulick in the Panama Canal Zone, he said.

These disclosures were first made public last weekend in a Watsonville daily newspaper and at a Chilean solidarity rally in San Francisco. Fred Hirsch of the Emergency Committee to Defend Democracy in Chile, a San Jose group, told 1,000 people of the CIA-backed invasion plot at the rally outside the Federal Building on Sat., Sept. 21. The story, he said, was reported the day before in the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian in an article, "Did an American kill Allende?" by Bette Brown.

In an exclusive interview with Hirsch, Barb learned that the source for the story was a sociology professor at a peninsula college who is known by the pseudonym of Professor Underwood. Professor Underwood learned the story from a former member of the assault task force, a part-time student who was stationed with the Green Berets at Fort Ord. The part-time student, an Army lieutenant, is a naturalized American citizen who was born in Mexico. His parents live in the San Jose area. He is known as Pedro S.

When Barb asked Professor Underwood why Pedro S. told him his story, Underwood replied, "He told me because he had to tell someone, and I happened to be there. He was just back from Chile, and he said 'You won't believe where I've been.'"

The story of direct US military involvement in the Chilean coup, as told to Barb and to the Watsonville reporter, is this:

The members of the covert action team were brought together on a moment's notice from bases around the world several months before the coup of Sept. 11, 1973. Team members were told only that they had a special mission to accomplish, and would later be told the details. All team members spoke Spanish and had received counter-insurgency training. According to Pedro S., the invasion force was trained at the secret base near Ft. Ord, and then traveled "under Pentagon orders" on a USAF cargo plane to the Panama Canal Zone. In the Canal Zone, the team probably bivouaced at Fort Gulick. The team was then flown to Santiago, again on a USAF plane.

The uniform of the covert action team was typical U.S. Army fatigues without any identifying ID patches. They wore "African-type" bush hats, and were armed with 7.62 calibre M-14 automatic rifles. (The Chilean soldiers who attacked the Moneda palace were armed only with 7.55 calibre weapons; no units of the Chilean Army had 7.62 calibre rifles.)

On the morning of the attack on Moneda palace, according to the Pedro S. account, the U.S. and Chilean attack forces worked side by side. The American team led a helicopter assault on the three-story Moneda palace from the top floor down. President Salvador Allende's office was on the second floor. One of the members of the American team tossed grenades into Allende's office, and then fired inside. He shot Allende, who was standing behind his desk. The murder of Allende was apparently accidental, since the team's instructions had been to capture Allende but not to kill him.

Similar instructions were given to the team of U.S.-trained Bolivian Rangers who killed Che Guevara.

Allende's widow reportedly got hold of some of the bullets in Allende's body. She claimed they were 7-62 calibre, proving that he had not been killed by Chileans, according to Barb's source.

Each of the three American units -- Special Forces, Rangers, and CIA operatives -- acted separately and independently, according to the Pedro S. story. The 14 Rangers had an advisory role with Chilean Army units, while the 234 Special Forces troops acted as an independent unit. Both the Rangers and Special Forces soldiers were under direct American command. The 34 CIA agents played a liaison and political role.

While the Rangers worked directly with Chilean Army units engaged in Operation Jakarta (the Chilean Army's code name for the coup), the Special Forces units were engaged in a separate although coordinated operation.

After the coup, the US team was flown back to Panama, and from there to Fort Ord. Perhaps because of the unplanned murder of Allende, some of the team members were demoted in rank. All were scattered throughout the world.

Barb contacted two nationally-known Chilean scholars, Richard and Pat Fagen, for their comments on the plausibility of the allegations that the US participated directly in the coup. Richard Fagen, a professor of political science at Stanford, recently testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on U.S. involvement in Chile.

Fagen agreed that "CIA involvement in Chile is pretty well documented." When told of Barb's new information, Fagen admitted that he had known the story for three or four months: "I have heard the outlines of the story, but have never seen any documentation," he said. He added that he had never heard the story with as much specificity as Barb related to him.

Pat Fagen, a specialist in modern Latin American history, lived in Chile for 18 months, until a month before the coup, and last visited Chile with Congressman Michael Harrington's group last fall. She first heard the story last year. In her judgement, the story was "entirely plausible." She added, "It's such a far-out story, and so damning if it's true."

Also contacted was Daniel Del Solar, who was a creator of the Rand Corporation's war game, *Politica*. Del Solar had said the game was used by the U.S. military and that the Chilean coup was based on it.

Paul Krassner, editor of *The Realist*, said he was planning to publish a letter by Del Solar detailing the *Politica* game as the blueprint for the overthrow of the Allende regime. "It (the Del Solar letter) was sent to the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and the *L.A. Times* on September 7.

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Del Solar stated that he thought the story of CIA and U.S. military involvement in the coup was "perfectly logical." When asked by Barb if the new allegations were consistent with the operation of Politicia, he replied, "That would be one of the options."

Elements of the American military were planning a coup months before Allende was elected in Sept. 1970. At the end of 1969, three Pentagon generals met near Washington with five Chilean generals, including several members of the current junta. According to Gabriel Garcia Marquez' article, "The Death of Salvador Allende," published in the March 1974 Harper's, at this meeting the American and Chilean generals worked out a joint contingency plan for the seizure of power in the event of victory by Allende in the presidential elections.

On the American side, the Naval Intelligence Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency were involved, under the direction of the CIA and, ultimately, the 40 Committee of the National Security Council. The Chilean coup was to coincide with Operation Unitas, which was the code name for the joint American and Chilean naval maneuvers that took place each September. The contingency plan was apparently put into operation on Sept. 11, 1973.

In the years before the coup, American multinational corporations such as the Rockefeller-dominated Kennecott Copper conglomerate and ITT did all they could to crush the Chilean people's movement and bring down the Allende government. With the full cooperation of the CIA and other agencies of the U.S. government, Chile was denied credit by U.S. banks, foreign aid was cut off, long-term loans were refused by the import-Export Bank, and other pressure was brought to bear by American corporations.

CIA operatives bolstered Chile's police and military forces. The 1972 ITT memos revealed that in 1970, ITT offered the White House \$1 million to finance anti-Allende activities. The offer was rejected, apparently because it was not necessary to accept such risky money.

Not only were giant multinational corporations involved in subverting the Allende government, but the American labor movement was also involved, the AFL-CIO, through the American Institute for Free Labor Development, headed by George Meany, has been implicated in right-wing and anti-communist activities in Chile, as well as in Cuba, Guatemala, Brazil and elsewhere.

This is documented in a pamphlet, "An Analysis of our AFL-CIO Role in Latin America, or, Under the Covers with the CIA." The author of the pamphlet

agency imittee to Defend Democracy Chile. Hirsch, a member of the Plumbers Union, has been active in the labor movement for 22 years.

The final blow by the CIA before the coup was the truckers' strike. Chilean poet and Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda wrote that "the CIA flooded the country with dollars to support the strike by the bosses." One week before the coup, oil, milk, and bread had run out. The stage was set for direct military intervention by a joint U.S. and Chilean operation directed and coordinated by the CIA. Operation Unitas merged with Operation Jakarta, the code name given to the coup by the Chilean military.

involvement in Allen death comes in the light of recent accounts in The New York Times of extensive CIA involvement in Chilean affairs. In the Sept. 20 issue of the Times, Seymour M. Hersh reported that the CIA had secretly financed striking labor and trade unions in Chile for more than 18 months before the overthrow of Salvadore Allende. The CIA authorized more than \$8 million (worth \$40 million on the currency black market) for clandestine activities in Chile. Most of the money was used to provide strike benefits and similar aid to middle-class workers who opposed Dr. Allende.

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