

17 SEP 1974

# Transcript of President's News Conference on Foreign and Domestic Matters

Following is a transcript of President Ford's broadcast news conference from the White House last night as recorded by *The New York Times*:

(EXCERPTED)

## 7. Intelligence Activities

Q. Mr. President, recent Congressional testimony has indicated that the C.I.A., under the direction of a committee headed by Dr. Kissinger, attempted to destabilize the Government of Chile under former President Allende. Is it the policy of your Administration to attempt to destabilize the governments of other democracies?

A. Let me answer in general—I think this is a very important question.

Our Government, like other governments, does take certain actions in the intelligence field to help implement foreign policy and protect national security.

I am informed reliably that Communist nations spend vastly more money than we do for the same kind of purposes.

Now, in this particular case, as I understand it and there's no doubt in my mind, our Government had no involvement in any way whatsoever in the coup itself.

In a period of time, three or four years ago, there was an effort being made by the Allende Government to destroy opposition news media, both the writing press as well as the electronic press. And to destroy opposition political parties.

And the effort that was made in this case was to help and assist the preservation of opposition newspapers and electronic media and to preserve opposition political parties.

I think this is in the best interest of the people in Chile, and certainly in our best interest.

Now, may I add one further comment.

The 40 Committee was established in 1948. It has been in existence under Presidents since that time. That committee reviews every covert operation undertaken by our Government.

And that information is relayed to the responsible Congressional committees where it is reviewed by House and Senate committees. It seems to me that the 40 Committee should continue in existence and I am going to meet with the responsible Congressional committees to see whether or not they want any changes in the review process so that the Congress as well as the President are fully informed and are fully included in the operations for any such action.

## 19. Intervention Abroad

Q. Mr. President under what international law do we have a right to attempt to destabilize the constitutionally elected government of another country. And does the Soviet Union have a similar right to try to destabilize the Government of Canada, for example, or the United States.

A. I'm not going to pass judgment on whether it's permitted or authorized under international law. It's a recognized fact that historically as well as presently, such actions are taken in the best interests of the countries involved.

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