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INQUIRER

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Mr. Kissinger must explain what we were doing in Chile

The State Department was asked Monday about reports that the U. S. government clandestinely spent some \$11 million to manipulate Chilean politics and undermine the government of democratically-elected — and now dead — President Salvador Allende. Its response:

"We stand by the statements that have been made in the past."

Well, that's not good enough. The department, and particularly Secretary Henry Kissinger, have some explaining to do.

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The present controversy broke into the open with publication Sunday in several newspapers of some of the substance of secret testimony last April 22 by Central Intelligence Agency Director ~~William E. Colby to a House Armed Services~~ subcommittee. Mr. Colby testified, the reports said, that the U. S. government had spent \$3 million in 1964 to oppose the candidacy of Mr. Allende, an avowed Marxist, and an additional \$8 million between his election in 1970 and his death in September, 1973, to "destabilize" the Chilean government.

That government, of course, finally fell in blood and flames.

The expenditures, Mr. Colby is said to have sworn, were authorized by the Forty Committee, a top-level inter-agency panel headed by Mr. Kissinger and in reality run by him at that time, in

his role as President Nixon's national security adviser.

Yet among the "positions" the State Department has opted to stand on is the testimony before a Senate subcommittee this spring of former Assistant Secretary of State Charles A. Meyer: "We were religiously and scrupulously adhering to the policy of the government of the United States . . . of non-intervention. We bought no votes, we funded no candidates, we promoted no coups."

Another of those positions is one made before a House subcommittee in June by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Harry W. Shlaudeman, who testified that the U. S. government "had nothing to do with the political destabilization in Chile."

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All of which presents a fundamental conflict which must be resolved.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee is soon to open hearings on the administration's military aid requests. Its members would do well to demand that the first consideration be the full, free and, to the greatest possible extent, public testimony of Mr. Kissinger and his subordinates in the Chilean matter.

It is not the business of the executive branch of the United States government to be subverting democracy, or any other internal domestic process, beyond our own shores — or to be lying about it to Congress.

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