

CHILE ORDERS INQUIRY IN THE LETELIER CASE

Government Concedes Two Sought
by U.S. May Have Traveled
on Official Passports

By JUAN de ONIS

Special to The New York Times

SANTIAGO, Chile, March 6—The Chilean military Government conceded today that official passports might have been issued to two men being sought for questioning in the killing of the former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier in Washington.

An official statement said that President Augusto Pinochet had asked the Supreme Court to appoint a special judge to investigate the case and had ordered the Foreign Ministry to cooperate.

The United States State Department has forwarded to Santiago a request from the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia that two men, identified as Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara, be questioned on their knowledge of the killing of Mr. Letelier in August 1976.

According to the United States Consulate here, visas good for six months were stamped in official Chilean passports bearing the names of the wanted men in July 1976 at the request of the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

Meeting With Cubans Reported

According to reports published in Washington, the two men traveled to the United States and met with Cuban exiles before the bombing of Mr. Letelier's car, apparently by remote control, while he drove in Washington.

Mr. Letelier, who had served as Ambassador in Washington before becoming Foreign Minister in the left-wing Government of the late President Salvador Allende Gossens, was allowed to leave Chile after being imprisoned by the military junta that seized power in September 1973.

Once abroad, Mr. Letelier, a Socialist, became an active opponent of the military regime here and was deprived of his Chilean citizenship.

The identity of the two men now being sought for questioning is a major issue official Chilean passports are presumed false. The man named Juan Williams Rose has been identified by the newspaper El Mercurio as Michael Vernon Townley Welch, allegedly a North American who was living in Chile during the Allende regime and was accused by the press in 1973 of being an agent for the Central Intelligence Agency.

The man named Romeral was identified today by the newspaper La Segunda as Rafael Undurraga Cruzat, a former naval officer and electronics expert working as production manager for a local electrical company.

Some members of Patria y Libertad were active members of the right-wing extremist organization known as Patria y Libertad, which opposed the Allende regime before it was overthrown.

Some members of Patria y Libertad were incorporated into the secret intelligence agency, known as Dina, that President Pinochet created in December 1973 to repress opposition to the military regime.

The publicity given the request of the District of Columbia court, acting on information gathered by the Department of Justice, for questioning of the two men has produced a sensation here. The whereabouts of the two is not known, but the appointment of a special judge to investigate the case is expected to produce a court order that they be brought forward.

The Carter Administration has made it clear to Chile that failure to respond to the request for questioning of the two, routine procedure in judicial relations between the two countries, would lead to tensions.

Object of Senate Inquiry

WASHINGTON, March 6—The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence investigated the activities of Michael Vernon Townley, who may be a key figure in the death of Orlando Letelier, according to sources familiar with the investigation.

Sources familiar with the Intelligence Committee said that the committee received numerous allegations about a Michael Townley during its 1975 inquiry, but it could not establish whether he was an agent of the C.I.A.

According to information received by the committee, Mr. Townley became active with conservatives in Chile in efforts to unseat former President Salvador Allende Gossens.

Department of Justice sources declined to comment on Mr. Townley's involvement, if any, in the Letelier death.

U.N. Group Accuses Chile

Special to The New York Times

GENEVA, March 6—The 32-member United Nations Human Rights Commission today adopted a resolution co-sponsored by the United States that said flagrant violations of human rights continued in Chile under the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet.

Only Brazil, Panama and Uruguay voted against the resolution, which was also co-sponsored by Austria, Britain and Sweden. Four countries—Jordan, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast and Peru—abstained on technical grounds.

The commission recognized that the number of political prisoners and of reported cases of torture were on the wane in Chile. However, it found that violations of human rights remained "in some cases systematic and institutionalized."

It expressed "concern and indignation" at the Chilean Government's failure to account for the disappearance of about 1,000 political prisoners and demanded that their fate be clarified "forthwith."

In a second resolution, the commission urged the establishment by the General Assembly of a voluntary fund to assist persons imprisoned or forced to leave Chile in violation of their human rights.

The vote was 21-3, with 6 abstentions, including the United States. Edward M. Mezvinsky, the United States representative, said that he had abstained because Washington would prefer a single world-wide fund to assist victims of human rights violations "wherever they are."

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