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CIA 4 Chile  
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# How Kissinger Runs Our 'Other Government'

By Tad Szulc

Kissinger, Henry  
CIA 4 ITALY  
MARTIN, Graham  
CIA 4 Portugal  
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"... No such overt and covert power in fore  
been vested in any man, except the president

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A shadowy group of five powerful officials silently directing America's clandestine foreign policy from the basement Situation Room in the White House in Washington—the so-called "40 Committee" of the National Security Council—is the nearest thing we have in this country to a secret super-government body.

Headed by Henry A. Kissinger, this committee is not always accountable even to the president of the United States, although it has access to virtually unlimited unvouchered government funds and holds the power to order far-ranging covert intelligence and paramilitary operations around the world. And during the Nixon Watergate era, it may have had links with secret domestic intelligence units, possibly including even the "Plumbers."

Deriving its name from National Security Council Intelligence Decision Memorandum No. 40, which set it up in its present form in 1969, the five-man 40 Committee is the current incarnation of similar top-secret White House groups that since 1947 have authorized dozens of major covert intelligence undertakings from Asia to Latin America and from Africa to Europe.

The most recent *known* large-scale operation conducted by the 40 Committee was the assignment given the Central Intelligence Agency, at the cost of \$8 million, to help orchestrate, from inside, the fall a year ago of the regime of Chile's late Socialist president, Salvador Allende Gossens, while other branches of the United States government applied a variety of simultaneous pressures from the outside.

This increasingly controversial enterprise was stunningly confirmed by President Ford at his news conference last Monday. His justification was both startling in philosophy and sparse on the facts, as he sought to give public legitimacy to the 40 Committee.

This was something no president had

ever done before; actually, no senior official had ever publicly mentioned the committee.

Ford, in fact, institutionalized the concept of covert intelligence action (it was not even done during the cold war) when he commented that "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."

Action against Allende between 1970 and 1973 was one of Kissinger's high-priority projects. He personally assumed control of the C.I.A.'s covert moves, through the 40 Committee, and of a parallel economic and financial blockade, working through an interdepartmental task force.

To Kissinger, it appears, Chile was a "laboratory" test case to determine whether a regime he opposed could be "destabilized" or dislodged without the use of military force that the United States had chosen to apply elsewhere in the past. Specifically, Chile was a test of whether a democratically elected leftist regime, as was Allende's, could be toppled through the creation of internal chaos by outside forces.

Recent revelations of Kissinger's alleged role in the Chilean affair—he has denied any American involvement, although the C.I.A., in effect, has confirmed it—have set off the latest controversy swirling around the secretary of state, and have raised again questions about his credibility and future intentions.

There are reasons to suspect, for example, that the 40 Committee is studying plans for possible covert American intervention in the confused political process in Italy, where the Communist party may soon share power in a coalition government. Actually, more than a year ago the former U.S. ambassador

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CIA 1.01 Colby, William

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WASH. Special Action  
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CIA 1.01 Helms, Richard  
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Security Studies

CIA 2.01 Covert Action  
STAFF

CIA 1.04 Agee, Philip  
(orig under Szulc)

creation of secret armies and counter-insurgency units for the protection of governments enjoying our official favor. They have included political subversion, the subornation of statesmen, politicians, labor leaders, and others abroad, "black" propaganda, and the oversight of "spy-in-the-sky" espionage over the Soviet Union, China, and scores of other countries.

Overhead intelligence is the only form of actual espionage in the purview of the 40 Committee. The C.I.A., other intelligence agencies, and separate White House committees (also chaired by Kissinger) are concerned with the collection of normal intelligence.

The 40 Committee must approve every month, overhead intelligence programs—from the regular launching of photo-satellites to secret flights by the