

# Peace Corps spying in Chile?

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By Hugo D'Alarcao  
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Luis Figueroa, Communist party deputy in the Chilean Congress of Deputies, accused the U.S. Peace Corps of spying in a speech Aug. 6 during a session of the Chilean legislature. Figueroa asked the Chamber for an immediate investigation and demanded the expulsion of all Peace Corps members from Chile.

The charges were documented by two letters: one from the head of the Peace Corps, William Moffet, to all Latin American representatives; the other from Richard Mishler, head of the Peace Corps in Chile, to Dr. Jorge Vargas, a Chilean doctor from Concepcion.

The Moffet letter dated Aug. 12, 1966, authorized cash payments for data on business activity, geological research, students, leftist groups and parties and the names of pro- and anti-U.S. personalities.

The Mishler letter, dated July 20, 1967, thanks Vargas for information furnished on student disorders at the University of Concepcion, on public officials in the area and on construction activity nearby. The letter also tells Vargas that his payment is forthcoming. Both Vargas and Peace Corps officials called the letters fakes.

However, on Aug. 7, the Chamber of Deputies unanimously decided to pursue the investigation requested by Figueroa and has entrusted it to its Committee on Foreign Affairs.

At the time the letters were written, the Peace Corps had 450 volunteers in Chile but only 150 now remain. Most are assigned to jobs in urban planning, forestry, and marine biology - all possible covers for gathering the kind of counterinsurgency intelligence requested in the documents.