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U.S. Involvement In Chile: Truth Is Something Else

The disclosure that the Central Intelligence Agency secretly spent millions of dollars to "destabilize" the Government of the late President Salvador Allende Gossens of Chile has led to charges on Capitol Hill that the public once again had, in effect, been lied to by the Government.

There is a significant difference between the public testimony of State Department witnesses and the secret testimony by the head of the C.I.A.

- Last year, reacting to widespread rumors that the United States had had a hand in the overthrow and death of Dr. Allende, two State Department officials and a former Ambassador to Santiago assured a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee that Washington had not intervened in internal Chilean affairs after Dr. Allende's election in 1970.

- Last April 22, in "classified" testimony before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee, C.I.A. director William E. Colby revealed that his agency had covertly spent \$8-million in Chile between 1970 and 1973 to undermine Dr. Allende's ability to govern.

Among other things, the C.I.A. tried to bribe members of the Chilean Congress. Mr. Colby said the project was authorized by the "40 Committee," headed by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Mr. Kissinger is also reported to have personally directed curtailment of all economic aid and credit to the Allende regime.

The State Department's comment last week was that it was "unaware of any misstatements" in its officials' testimony. What that apparently meant was that the officials had been commenting solely on rumors of United States involvement in the military coup against Dr. Allende, a democratically elected Marxist, not on any covert C.I.A. operations that may or may not have taken place prior to the coup. In the light of last Sunday's disclosure, the subcommittee chairman, Democratic Senator Frank Church of Idaho, authorized the staff to review the testimony and refer any misleading portions to the Justice Department for an investigation of possible perjury.

The World

In Summary

'Suspicious' in India

The reports of C.I.A. activities in Chile have also raised fears abroad that the United States might attempt to subvert regimes in other countries. Daniel P. Moynihan, the American Ambassador to India, warned Mr. Kissinger in a cable dispatch last week that Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi "is not sure that we would be content to see others like her overthrown."

Mr. Moynihan said that he had formally assured Mrs. Gandhi at the time of the Chilean coup last year that the United States had not helped bring about Dr. Allende's overthrow. The recent revelations, Mr. Moynihan said, have contradicted his assurances and confirmed her "worst suspicions and genuine fears" about the American attitude toward her government. Mr. Moynihan has flown home to confer on the issue.