

NEWSDAY

14 SEP 1974

CIA Director Confronts His Critics

Combined News Services

Washington—Facing a hostile audience, CIA director William E. Colby denied yesterday that his agency took part in the Chilean coup last year but acknowledged that the CIA "did look forward to a change of government" in Chile.

Colby's comments came in answer to reports that the CIA covertly spent several million dollars to destabilize the Marxist regime of Chilean President Salvador Allende. Allende's government was overthrown in the military coup and Allende lost his life. Colby defended CIA undercover operations as vital to American security.

He was the final speaker at a two-day conference—dominated by CIA critics—sponsored by the Center for National Security Studies, supported by grants from three foundations.

Following a prepared statement, Colby submitted to critical questions from about two dozen conference panelists, and then a series of hostile questions from the audience. In all, his unusual public appearance

lasted about three hours. He showed no emotion when several of the panelists accused him, to his face of lying, or when members of the audience called out such epithets as "war criminal."

The questions covered the whole range of CIA activities from Chile to Indochina to Greece. Colby denied any role in the government overthrows in Greece, or on Cyprus. One of the conference panelists was Daniel Ellsberg, who was responsible for the Pentagon papers being made public.

Press reports this week quoted Colby as saying in secret congressional testimony last April that CIA covert activities in Chile had included a multi-million dollar campaign to obstruct the Allende regime.

Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.) questioned Colby about the CIA role in Chile. "The CIA had no connection with the coup of 1973," Colby said. "We did look forward to a change of government, but a democratic change."

When the discussion turned to Vietnam, a member of the audience shouted: "How many did you kill?"

Colby, unflustered, replied: "I didn't kill anyone." At another point, when he said the CIA had respect for human life, he was answered by laughter.

Colby said secret operations of the CIA abroad were necessary to keep the nation from being overcome by its enemies. ". . . In a world which can destroy itself through misunderstanding or miscalculation, it is important that our leaders have a clear perception of the motives, intentions and strategies of other powers," Colby said. "These kinds of insights cannot be obtained only through technical means or analysis. From closed societies they can only be obtained by secret intelligence operations, without which our country must risk subordination to possible adversaries."

A State Department official meanwhile acknowledged receiving a warning from Ambassador Daniel P. Moynihan that disclosure of CIA activities in Chile had confirmed Indian Prime Minister Gandhi's "worst suspicions and genuine fears" of U.S. policy toward her country.