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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Nonstop News

STATION WTOP Radio

DATE March 21, 1973 4:15 P.M.

CITY Washington, D.C.

ITT ADMITS TRYING TO STOP ALLENDE'S ELECTION

ANNE TAYLOR: Former CIA Director and now ITT Director, John McCone, testified today that the President of International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, Harold Geneen, was willing to provide up to a million dollars to try and head off the election of Marxist Salvador Allende as President of Chile.

JOHN McCONE: What he told me at that time was that he was prepared to put up as much as a million dollars in support of any government plan that was adopted by the government for the purpose of bringing about a coalition of the opposition to Allende. It was not a plan generated by ITT or in Mr. Geneen's mind.

TAYLOR: McCone said that he carried the offer to Presidential aide Henry Kissinger and CIA Director Richard Helms. McCone himself had preceded Helms as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

McCone said that Kissinger's office never responded to the offer, that he assumes no plan against Allende ever was launched. He said International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation had offered to contribute the one million dollars to U.S. Government assistance programs in Chile.

McCone also said that ITT did not originate the plan, and that he could not say whose idea it was. ITT feared that Allende, if elected, would seize its property in Chile which, indeed, did happen.

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