

DDI 73-4944

Executive Registry

73-5475

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
The Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: CIA's Covert Action Program
in Chile Since 1970

1. This Agency did not conduct covert action operations in support of either of the two democratic candidates who opposed Salvador Allende in the 1970 presidential election. Our role in the election was limited to an effort to denigrate Allende and his Popular Unity (UP) coalition during the campaign. Since Allende's inauguration, U.S. policy has been to maintain maximum covert pressure to prevent the Allende regime's consolidation. Under this policy the 40 Committee has approved since January 1971 financial support [redacted] for Chilean political parties, media, and private sector organizations opposed to the Allende regime.

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

2. Funds and guidance channeled to opposition forces in Chile through our Santiago Station enabled the three opposition political parties -- Christian Democratic Party (PDC), National Party (PN) and Democratic Radical Party (PDR) -- to improve their internal organizations, acquire new media outlets, and to compete successfully in a number of congressional by-elections. The Station also succeeded in inducing another party -- Radical Party of the Left (PIR) -- to pull out of the UP government and to join the opposition coalition prior to the 4 March 1973 congressional elections. These congressional elections were considered by both the UP and the opposition as a form of plebiscite to determine whether or not the government had a popular mandate to continue the implementation of its revolutionary program. Our support of the opposition confederation in these congressional elections was described by opposition leaders as having been of vital importance in

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~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~
EYES ONLY

C-7

- 2 -

enabling them to campaign strongly and to win [redacted]
[redacted] Funds authorized by the 40 Committee were also used to insure the continued existence of El Mercurio, Chile's largest and most important newspaper, which acted as an effective rallying-point for opposition forces. Limited support was also made available to private sector organizations, but because some of these groups began to try to provoke a military coup, our funding was confined to specific activities in support of the opposition coalition in the March congressional elections. (b)(3)

3. After the March 1973 elections, it became increasingly apparent that three years of political polarization had strained the fabric of Chilean society to the breaking point. Various U.S. policy options were considered, and on 20 August 1973 the 40 Committee approved an additional [redacted] to support opposition political parties and private sector organizations through June 1974; support to the private sector, however, was made contingent on the concurrence of Ambassador Davis and the Department of State. Since this concurrence was not given, no support was provided to the private sector, whose initiative in launching and maintaining a series of crippling strikes was instrumental in provoking the military coup of 11 September 1973. Thus, while the Agency was instrumental in enabling opposition political parties and media to survive and to maintain their dynamic resistance to the Allende regime, the CIA played no direct role in the events which led to the establishment of the new military government. (b)(3)

fw W. E. Colby
Director

Attachment:
Summary of 40 Committee Approvals

SECRET/SENSITIVE
EYES ONLY

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 3 Sept 75
TO: John Waller /DDO		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS: Per our conversation. B. C. Evans		
FROM:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 39-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

Mr Evans Handcarried

You may also recall discussion of a Track Two in late 1970 -- which has not been included in this summary.

W. E. Colby
13 September 1973

(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

Note: This was hand carried to General Scowcroft's secretary by [redacted] at about 11:10.
(This material had been requested by General Scowcroft in time for delivery to Dr. Kissinger before noon.

(b)(3)

[redacted]
(b)(3)

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

CIA's Covert Action Program in Chile Since 1970

FROM: David A. Phillips
Chief
Western Hemisphere Division

EXTENSION
1366

NO.
DATE
13 September 1973

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

ADDO

✓

2.

DDO

✓

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DCI

9/13

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(b)(3)