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State Department Backs Reports of a Hands-Off Policy on Chile

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 9—In a dispute that could lead to further hearings, the State Department declared today that it was standing by the testimony of senior officials who previously had asserted that Congressional hearings that the United States had not intervened in the internal affairs of Chile after the election of President Salvador Allende Gossens.

The challenged testimony was officially endorsed by the State Department spokesman, Robert Anderson, at a news briefing. His statement came two days after it was reported that the Central Intelligence Agency had been authorized to spend more than \$8-million from 1970 to 1973 in an effort to make it impossible for President Allende to govern. The Allende Government was overthrown last September in a military coup d'etat.

Nonintervention Policy

In the last two days, a Massachusetts Representative and a Senate aide have attacked the credibility of testimony given under oath by Charles A. Meyer, former Assistant Secretary of State; Edward M. Korry, former Ambassador to Chile; and Harry W. Shlaudeman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State.

Mr. Meyer and Mr. Korry both maintained, at a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing last year into the International Telephone & Telegraph Company's involvement in Chile that the Nixon Administration had scrupulously adhered to a policy of nonintervention. Mr. Shlaudeman similarly told a House Foreign

Affairs subcommittee in June that the United States "had nothing to do with the political destabilization in Chile."

Jerome L. Levinson, chief counsel of the Senate Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations, which conducted the I.T.I. hearings, last week accused Mr. Meyer and Mr. Korry of having deliberately deceived the Senate. Representative Michael J. Harrington, a Democratic member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, charged that Mr. Shlaudeman was evading questions and, in effect, dissembling by refusing to testify about C.I.A. activities against the Allende Government.

Asked about those criticisms today, Mr. Anderson said, "With regard to the testimony that was given on the Hill by Mr. Shlaudeman and Mr. Meyer and others, we stand by that." "I realize there have been allegations to the contrary," Mr. Anderson added, "and if any such allegations are presented, obviously we will be very pleased to review the testimony. But we are unaware of any misstatements by the officers that you referred to."

Mr. Levinson, reached later today in his Senate office, asserted that he would "stand on what I said."

New Hearings Possible

"A reading of the record by any fair-minded person has to lead one to the conclusion that they were not candid with the subcommittee," he said.

"The words used by Mr. Meyer and Mr. Korry were artful in terms of dodging, but in substance and spirit the intent was to deceive."

The subcommittee counsel said he was planning to confer tomorrow with Senator Frank

Church, chairman of the subcommittee, to determine whether further hearings would be necessary. Mr. Church, who is up for re-election this fall, was said to be campaigning in Idaho today and could not be reached for comment.

In testimony before the Church subcommittee last year, Mr. Meyer and Mr. Korry repeatedly asserted that the United States policy was one of nonintervention, although both men claimed executive privilege in refusing to discuss confidential State Department and White House communications.

Mr. Korry, who was Ambassador at the time Dr. Allende won the presidency in 1970, testified as follows in response to a question from Mr. Levinson about his instructions:

"It was obvious from the historical record that we did not act in any manner that reflected a hard line; that the United States had maintained the most total hands-off the military policy from 1969 to 1971 conceivable; that the United States did not seek to pressure, subvert, influence a single member of the Chilean Congress at any time in the entire four years of my stay."

However, according to still-secret testimony supplied for Congress earlier this year by William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, the United States authorized \$1-million in clandestine funds in 1969 and 1970 in an attempt to keep Dr. Allende from winning the general elections, and then spent an additional \$350,000 in the fall of 1970 in an attempt to bribe members of the Chilean Congress not to ratify his election.

Mr. Meyer, who was in

charge of Latin-American affairs in the State Department at the time of the coup d'etat, similarly testified a few days later that "we were religiously and scrupulously adhering to the policy of the Government of the United States... of nonintervention. We bought no votes, we funded no candidates, we promoted no coups."

Mr. Korry and Mr. Meyer could not be reached for comment today.

Mr. Shlaudeman, while refusing to discuss C.I.A. activities in public testimony, also emphasized the United States's whether he stood by his House "policy of nonintervention" testimony.

during his appearance June 12 before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs.

In that testimony, Mr. Shlaudeman quoted Secretary of State Kissinger as having declared that "we prefer democratic governments and attempt to exercise our influence to that end; but we also know we cannot impose our political and legal structures on others."

Mr. Shlaudeman, who spent four years in Chile before being reassigned to Washington last year, said "I certainly do" late this afternoon when asked whether he stood by his House "policy of nonintervention" testimony.