

Helms Linked to C.I.A. Memo for Kissinger and Mitchell on Plot in Chile

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Special to The New York Times

ASHINGTON, July 26—

rd Helms, while director of the Central Intelligence Agency, prepared a memorandum in the fall of 1970 informing Henry Kissinger and John F. Helms that the agency supplied machine guns and gas grenades to men plotting to overthrow the Chilean Government authorities. Government sources said today.

memorandum may be crucial evidence as the Select Committee on Intelligence attempts to learn authorized the C.I.A. to ne involved in planning military corps in Chile in er, 1970.

the death of Gene René der Chereau, Chief of the Chilean Army.

ording to sources who seen the memorandum, is written by Mr. Helms in the plot involving the ine guns had been called

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Memorandum was written Mr. Mitchell, then Attorney, and was to have

passed on to Mr. Kissinger then assistant to Nixon for national security affairs.

But, these sources said, there is no evidence that either Mr. Kissinger or Mr. Mitchell received the document.

Neither Mr. Kissinger nor Mr. Mitchell could be reached for comment. But Mr. Kissinger is reported to have told associates in private conversations that he was unaware the C.I.A. had smuggled machine guns

and tear gas grenades to Chilean insurgents.

Mr. Kissinger has said however, that he was aware of an earlier plot to kidnap General Schneider and spark a military coup that both he and the C.I.A. agreed to stop.

The Helms memorandum was part of a collection of Mr. Helms's papers and files that were turned over to the Rockefeller commission by William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence.

Although the eight-man commission headed by Vice President Rockefeller was concentrating on alleged domestic wrongdoing by the C.I.A. its staff did review the documents.

Agency linked to plots

The Rockefeller staff concluded from its review that the C.I.A. did not plot to assassinate anyone in Chile, but it found substantial evidence that the agency had become involved in planning a military take-over.

On Thursday, The New York Times quoted authoritative Government sources as having said that on Sept. 15, 1970, President Nixon ordered the C.I.A. to make an all-out, last minute effort to keep Salvador Allende Gossens from becoming President of Chile.

Mr. Allende won the Presidency by a plurality early in September and his election was to be certified by the Chilean Parliament late in October. The United States feared that he would create a hostile Marxist government.

In this six-week period, these sources said, the C.I.A. became involved in two separate plots to seize power in Chile by military means. Both plots involved the kidnapping General Schneider, a highly respected

military leader, and inducement of the army to take power.

On Oct. 13, 1970, Thomas J. Karamessines, then chief of the agency's covert operations, briefed Mr. Kissinger about its progress in Chile. He told Mr. Kissinger, these sources said, that a group of retired military officers planned to abduct General Schneider.

But Mr. Karamessines warned Mr. Kissinger that it was the C.I.A.'s opinion that the plot could not succeed. The two agreed to try to halt it, according to the sources. They said there were copies of cablegrams in which the C.I.A. tried to head off the plan.

The conspiracy went ahead, however, and General Schneider was killed on Oct. 22, 1970.

Mearwhile, the sources said, the C.I.A. was conspiring with the commander of the Santiago garrison in a similar plot. The agency felt at one point that this endeavor had more chance of success, and authorized C.I.A. employes in Chile to give

the plotters three machine guns and tear-gas grenades.

At the last minute, this plot also appeared to be doomed to failure, and the tear gas, unused, were returned to the C.I.A.

It was at this point, in the last days of October or early in November, the sources said, that Mr. Helms prepared the advisory memorandum to Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Kissinger.

Intelligence sources have said the C.I.A. became involved in planning the coups under the general authorization of President Nixon on Sept. 15, 1970.

However, there are no documents showing that Mr. Nixon told the C.I.A. to plan a coup, they said.

Mr. Kissinger has made few public statements concerning the role of the C.I.A. in undermining the Allende Government. However, in his 1973 Senate confirmation hearings as Secretary of State, Mr. Kissinger testified in closed hear-

"The intent of the United States Government was not to destabilize or to subvert him [Mr. Allende] but to keep in being those political parties that had traditionally contested the elections. Our Government was not to be involved in about which we had not been told at all with a coup in mind."

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