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CIA 1.01 Colby, W. Hill  
CIA 4 Chile  
CONFERENCE  
OR g 1 Center For  
NATIONAL Security  
STUDIES

# CIA head defends covert plans

Washington Bureau of The Sun  
Washington—The director of central intelligence said yesterday cancellation of secret operations abroad would not gravely endanger the nation in the present world situation. But he warned that imperative needs could arise in the future.

William E. Colby, the director, also denied any CIA "connection" to the 1973 overthrow of Salvador Allende in Chile.

With a measured defense of the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Colby drew a careful distinction between what is desirable and what is imperative. In the end he came down against ending covert operations — which may range from support of assassination to eroding governments — in the interest of national security.

### Mandate not clear

He acknowledged that the mandate of the CIA in this area was not crystal clear under the National Security Act of 1947, which created the agency. Instead, he said, the mandate had been developed under the act by the executive and Congress. If they changed it, he emphasized, the agency would act accordingly.

Mr. Colby appeared before a largely hostile audience. It was a conference on the CIA and its covert activity, conducted by the Center for National Security Studies under the sponsorship of Senator Philip A. Hart (D., Mich.) and Senator Edward W. Brooke (D., Mass.).

It was an audience that generally applauded critics of the agency and hissed its defenders, including Mr. Colby.

It also was an audience that came to the hearing room in

the Senate Office Building armed with fresh evidence against the CIA. The material was leaked secret testimony by Mr. Colby that United States had spent about \$8 million to undermine the government of the late President Allende in Chile. Opposition to Mr. Allende, a Marxist who was elected, finally culminated last year in a coup during which he was shot to death.

Mr. Colby said all covert operations of the CIA were approved by the so-called "40 Committee" of the National Security Council. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State, is chairman of the council. Dr. Kissinger and other State Department officials have told Congress the U.S. had no part in the coup.

The intelligence director took the same position yesterday. The agency, he said, "had no connection with the military coup in 1973," nor with its leaders. It was aware, he acknowledged, of sentiment for a coup, and as far as he knew no one had informed Mr. Allende.

Mr. Colby refused to say,

however, what actions the CIA might have taken to encourage that sentiment. He also refused to discuss specifics of any other covert CIA operation except, as he put it, before the congressional committees charged with watching over the agency.

Responsible members of Congress knew generally of the CIA's role in Chile, he said, but he could not say they knew precisely where every dollar was being spent.

"We did look forward to a change in government," he continued, to skeptical laughter, "but through the democratic processes in 1976."

Mr. Colby suggested it was ironic that the United States had to resort to clandestine methods to obtain from other countries vital information that was made public as a matter of course here.

Did the agency use methods that were illegal in those countries and would be illegal in the United States? He was asked. "Of course," he said.

It was important, he said, that the president of the United States have available to him measures that provided

options between "a diplomatic protest and sending in the Marines."

He could envision situations, he went on, in which the United States might need to conduct covert action in the face of "a new threat that developed in the world."

He also defended his role as director of the so-called Phoenix program in Vietnam, a pacification campaign that ranged from economic development to assassination.



WILLIAM E. COLBY  
... CIA director

CIA 4.01 OPERATION  
Phoenix