

6194 Chile

GRQ 1 INTER-American  
PRESS Association

P-Brown, Robert U.

## CIA influence in Chile condemned by IAPA

The Inter American Press Association issued a statement September 20 condemning attempts by governments to influence newspapers through financial support.

The statement, signed by IAPA president Robert U. Brown, publisher and editor of *EDITOR & PUBLISHER*, was issued after the *New York Times* disclosed that the Central Intelligence Agency had secretly financed Chile's striking labor unions and news media threatened by Salvador Allende's minority government.

In testimony, September 19, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger asserted that the intelligence agency's involvement in Chile had been authorized solely to keep alive political parties and news media threatened by Salvador Allende's minority Government.

### Ford favors CIA

President Gerald R. Ford, revealed at his September 16 press conference, that he supported the CIA involvement in Chile and said that it had been authorized because "there was an effort being made by the Allende Government to destroy opposition news media both the writing press as well as the electronic press, and to destroy opposition political parties."

*Times*' sources declared that "less than half of the money made available for clandestine activities in Chile was provided for the direct support of the allegedly threatened politicians, newspapers and radio-television stations, referred to by Mr. Ford."

An official disclosed to Seymour Hersh *New York Times* reporter that "some financial support for newspaper and radio stations was needed in Chile, because it wouldn't have been good to have strikes if nobody knows about it."

Hersh suggested that most of the funds invested for propaganda purposes, according to his sources, "went to *El Mercurio*, the main opposition newspaper in Chile. It was the only serious political force among the newspapers and television stations there," the source noted.

IAPA president Brown explained in a statement:

"The Inter American Press Association deplors reports that the CIA has spent funds in Chile to support the opposition press under President Allende. The IAPA condemns any attempt by Governments to either subvert or financially support the press. In either case, a newspaper accepting such support loses its independence."