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Spy Charge Trumped, Envoy Says

Reuter

LIMA, Nov. 16 — New U.S. Ambassador to Peru, Frank Ortiz accused Communist intelligence services today of fabricating charges that he was expelled from the country 11 years ago for spying.

Ortiz, who presented his credentials to President Fernando Belaunde Terry last Tuesday, made the accusation at a press conference called, he said, "to clear up once and for all" the controversy surrounding his appointment.

Peruvian newspapers have alleged that, as an agent of the CIA, Ortiz was declared persona non grata by Peru's former revolutionary military government.

Ortiz issued a detailed denial of the charges. Ortiz said that in November 1969 the Peruvian government publicly linked him with the CIA.

But he said the government had merely repeated allegations first published by a Communist newspaper and that the U.S. Embassy had proved them to be false immediately.

"The whole episode was over in a week," he said.

Producing his passport from the time, Ortiz stated that he left Peru in June 1970 at the end of a normal three-year tour of duty as political counselor.