



## CIA Reveals Covert Acts In Chile

BY CBSNEWS.COM STAFF CBSNEWS.COM STAFF  
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The CIA is acknowledging for the first time the extent of its deep involvement in Chile, where it dealt with coup-plotters, false propagandists and assassins.

The agency posted [a declassified report](#) required by the U.S. Congress on its Web site Wednesday. It is one of several efforts to release information on the American role in the 1973 Chilean coup, the suicide of Marxist president Salvador Allende after the coup and the regime of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

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Despite the disclosures, the CIA report admits to no abuses or cover-up by CIA agents.

**"A review of CIA's files has uncovered no evidence that CIA officers and employees were engaged in human rights abuses or in covering up any human rights abuses in Chile,"** the report says.

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But it chronicles clandestine contacts authorized by then-U.S. President Richard Nixon and other top U.S. officials which it said would violate standards now upheld by the agency.

The agency now carefully reviews all contacts for potential involvement with human rights abuses, the report said, and **"makes a deliberate decision balancing the nature and severity of the human rights abuse against the potential intelligence value of continuing the relationship."**

U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey, who sponsored the law requiring the report, said he takes the CIA at its word on today's standards but pushed for full disclosure of past acts to prevent U.S. support for such injustices in the future.

**"This very sordid chapter in American history needs to be held up to the bright light so that everyone can see what went on under orders from the president of the United States, the secretary of state and the attorney general,"** Hinchey said.

Among the disclosures:

- The CIA had prior knowledge of the plot that overthrew Allende three years later but denies any direct involvement. CIA spokeswoman Anya Guilsher said, **"We were aware of coup plotting in 1973, but we did not instigate it."**
- The **CIA supported a kidnapping attempt of Chile's army chief in October 1970**, as part of a plot to prevent the congressional confirmation of Allende as president. The kidnapping attempt failed, and Gen. Rene Schneider was shot and killed. The CIA later paid \$35,000 to the kidnapers in what it termed **"humanitarian"** assistance.
- **The CIA made a one-time payment to secret police head Gen. Manuel Contreras Sepulveda, the head of the military regime's feared secret police. He was sentenced in 1993 for killing Chilean socialist leader Orlando Letelier in Washington in 1976. Contreras has said the CIA was behind the assassination.**
- The report also describes efforts to influence news media in Chile against Allende and to continue anti-leftist propaganda efforts by successor Pinochet, **"including support for news media committed to creating a positive image for the military Junta"** now accused of an array of abuses during his 17-year rule, including **more than 3,000 killings.**

More CIA files and other documents on Chile are to be released in a few weeks. White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said last week that release of the documents on human rights abuse and terrorism during the Pinochet regime—the third and final one under the president's Chile Declassification Project—was delayed by National Security Adviser Sandy Berger in order to conduct review of more documents.

Declassified Documents

The CIA has posted the report on covert activities in Chile on

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Some 7,500 documents have already been released under the project, which was launched by the White House in February 1999, but this latest round has proven especially contentious.

According to the private National Security Archive, the next release is to include documents on covert action in Chile from 1962 through 1975, a period that covers the coup against Allende and the first two years of Pinochet's rule.

**CIA** director George Tenet, in an Aug. 11 letter to Congress, announced that while he had approved 500 pages of documents for release, he would withhold some because they **"present a pattern of activity that had the effect of revealing intelligence methods that have been employed worldwide."**

But critics say there is no reason to hold anything back because the government's role was detailed in congressional probes 25 years ago.

A 1975 Senate report found that **"Covert United States action in Chile in the decade between 1963 and 1973 was extensive and continuous,"** including the expenditure of \$3 million to influence the 1964 Chilean elections.

Another report that year found that the CIA had received **"a direct instruction from (Nixon)...to attempt to foment a coup."**

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## Video shows horrifying moment carnival ride snaps in half, killing 2 people

## Grandfather who dropped 1-year-old girl from cruise ship in apparent accident could face charges

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### Trump's attacks on congresswomen energize his supporters: "Bag of idiots"

2H AGO

### Jeffrey Epstein denied bail by federal judge

5M AGO

### Trump says Congress "foolishly" gave aid to Puerto Rico

16M AGO

### House votes to repeal Obamacare "Cadillac" tax

31M AGO

### House on path to approve \$15 minimum wage for workers

42M AGO

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## Puerto Rico protests turn violent amid claims of corruption

4H AGO

## Can post-Brexit Britain count on a helping hand from Donald Trump?

4H AGO

## Man shouting "You die!" sets fire to anime studio, killing 33

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## Gwendoline Christie submitted herself for an Emmy nomination

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## Gwendoline Christie submitted herself for an Emmy nomination

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## New on Netflix, Hulu and Amazon

JUN 24  33 PHOTOS



### Lil Nas X raids Area 51 in new "Old Town Road" music video

18H AGO

### Meek Mill's lawyers request new trial

JUL 17  01:36



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### Uber glitch overcharges customers 100 times their fares

2H AGO

### FaceApp sparks myths and privacy fears. Here's where your photos go

3H AGO

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17H AGO

## #FaceAppChallenge raises privacy concerns

19H AGO

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### Building Giant Magellan, the world's largest telescope

1H AGO

### Wildfires could grow exponentially as climate warms

20H AGO

### Lunar eclipse on 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 launch

JUL 16

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## Health

### **Ebola outbreak in Congo declared a global health emergency**

16H AGO

### **Data show "tsunami" of opioids across U.S. as death toll rose**

18H AGO

### **Drugstore chain CVS developing home kidney dialysis device**

21H AGO

### **Opioid shipments ballooned as an addiction crisis grew, DEA data shows**

23H AGO

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## MoneyWatch

### House on path to approve \$15 minimum wage for workers

42M AGO

### Pricey gear sold for just \$94.48 in Prime Day glitch

54M AGO

### A Manson "murder" house in Los Angeles is for sale

1H AGO

### Uber glitch overcharges customers 100 times their fares

2H AGO

### FaceApp sparks myths and privacy fears. Here's where your photos go

3H AGO

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### Jeffrey Epstein denied bail by federal judge

5M AGO

### A Manson "murder" house in Los Angeles is for sale

1H AGO

### Dad who drove his kids off L.A. pier charged with murder

1H AGO

### Epstein lawyers push for house arrest

UPDATED 15M AGO ▶ 05:17



### Group helps lead fight against sex trafficking

UPDATED 20M AGO ▶ 07:54



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### **Building Giant Magellan, the world's largest telescope**

1H AGO

### **NASA pleads for steady funding for moon mission**

19H AGO

### **"Man on the Moon:" The 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing**

JUL 16

### **"I'm speechless!": How CBS News covered Apollo 11**

JUL 16

### **50 Years Later: Apollo 11 on the "CBS This Morning" podcast**

JUL 16

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JUL 3 44 PHOTOS

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### Sneak peek: Dead Ringer

23H AGO ▶ 02:41

### Terror attack suspect arrested in Pakistan

UPDATED 33M AGO ▶ 04:21

### FaceApp raises privacy concerns

1H AGO ▶ 09:00

### U.S. kicks Turkey out of fighter jet program

UPDATED 15M AGO ▶ 04:00

### Dozens killed in animation studio fire

UPDATED 17M AGO ▶ 01:32



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