

CIA Continues Cover up of Involvement in Chile's 9/11 Military Coup

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Global Research, September 12, 2016
[teleSUR](#) 9 September 2016

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

Though intelligence documents from the 1973 coup period have been declassified since 1999, the CIA continues to censor them.

The CIA continues to withhold information on its involvement in the Sept. 11, 1973 coup that led to the death of President Salvador Allende in Chile, followed by a [deadly dictatorship](#), according to documents posted Friday by the National Security Archive.

In the list of published documents, the section regarding Chile is censored. The President's Daily Briefs, the intelligence reports given daily to the U.S. president, in particular former President Richard Nixon days before Allende's death, were among those censored.

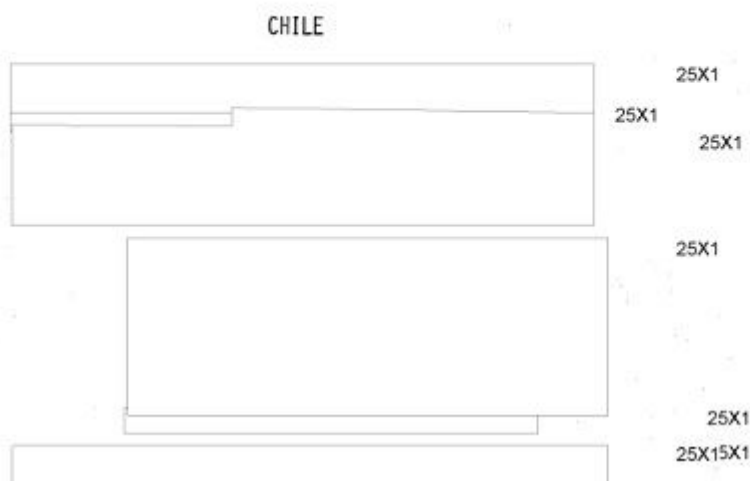


Allende during his last moments in La Moneda presidential palace, 1973 | Photo: Reuters

According to Peter Kornbluh, director of the Archive's Chile Documentation Project, censorship on this issue makes no sense since the intelligence agency has officially acknowledged its ties to those who plotted the coup from inside the Chilean military, and declassified several intelligence reports since.

"The CIA is trying—but failing—to hold history hostage," Kornbluh said. "The CIA is attempting to cover up what Nixon knew about coup plotting in Chile and when he knew it, as well as hiding the CIA's own contacts and connections to the coup plotters."

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According to the documents, three days before the coup—and on the day of the coup—the CIA gave Nixon an intelligence report on the progress of the efforts inside the Chilean military to overthrow Allende, a socialist.

In one document, a CIA operative in Santiago named Jack Devine identifies the new date of the planned coup for the next day, September 11, and confirms all three branches of the Chilean armed forces along with the police “are involved in this action.”

The same sources told the CIA that General Augusto Pinochet, who would later become a dictator with the support of the U.S., was in communication with Air Force General Gustavo Leigh about the planned coup. The Air Force would later bomb La Moneda presidential palace, where Allende and his closest allies were on Sept. 11.

The CIA told the White House that a “key officer” in the coup attempt requested U.S. assistance in case the Chilean military encountered any resistance, according to the documents.

Kornbluh said his institution would press for the release of the censored information.

“The documents provided to Richard Nixon on Chile can and should be released for the sanctity of the historical record. The public has a right to know what the President knew, and when he knew it,” he said.

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