

## Chile's Top Court Refuses To Free Letelier Suspects

SANTIAGO, Chile — (AP) — A Chilean Supreme Court justice has refused to free two former secret police officers indicted by a Washington grand jury in the slaying of Chilean Socialist Orlando Letelier.

Court President Israel Bórquez said the continued detention of Gen. Juan Manuel Contreras and Col. Pedro Espinoza was necessary during extradition proceedings "for the investigation and processing of the legal material of the case and the security of society."

Sergio Miranda Carrington, a lawyer for Contreras and Espinoza, petitioned last week for them to be freed from detention at a military hospital for the rest of their hearings. The attorney said he would appeal Bórquez' decision to a regular session of five justices of the high court.

Contreras and Espinoza have been held since September, soon after the U.S. grand jury indicted them in connection with the 1976 bombing assassination of Letelier in Washington.

The indictment says Contreras, chief of the now dissolved security unit known as DINA, ordered the slaying of Letelier and Espinoza passed the order to two agents — Michael Townley and Capt. Armando Fernández Larios.

Letelier and thousands of other left-wing Chileans fled their country after the armed forces overthrew the government of President Salvador Allende, a Marxist, in September 1973.

Townley, an expatriate American, was returned to the United States in April and confessed to having made and placed the bomb with the help of a group of Cuban exiles. Fernández Larios, who allegedly gathered information on Letelier's movements in Washington, was also indicted and faces the extradition process.

The extradition proceedings, requested by the United States, are being conducted in secret by Bórquez. HERALD 12-28-78-5B