

Chile Agrees to Questioning of Suspects in U.S. Killing

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SANTIAGO, Chile, March 23—Chile's military Government agreed today to submit to judicial questioning two men, one an army captain, suspected by United States investigators of involvement in the assassination of Orlando Letelier, a Chilean exile leader, in Washington.

But the Chilean authorities declared that the suspects, Capt. Armando Fernández Larios and Michael Vernon Townley, were not the holders of official passports who entered the United States on Aug. 22, 1976, three weeks before the murder.

The Ministry of Interior informed a Chilean judge, Juana González, that the holders of the passports, on which the investigation here has been centered, went to the United States on official but undisclosed business. The two were not publicly identified.

Eugene Propper, an assistant United States attorney who has been here since Sunday, told Chilean officials that he was not interested in the two identified as

the holders and asked that the judge question Captain Fernández, who is on active duty with an infantry regiment, and Mr. Townley, an American who has lived in Chile since 1957.

At a meeting this morning, Chile's Foreign Minister, Adm. Patricio Carvajal, informed Mr. Propper and the United States Ambassador, George Landau, that Captain Fernández would be made available for questioning and that orders had been given to find Mr. Townley, who disappeared three weeks ago after being identified as a suspect in the press.

Mr. Propper was flying back to Washington tonight and little progress in the investigation is expected over the Easter season, which is an important vacation in Chile.

But United States officials are hoping that Mr. Townley, an electronics engineer, will be found by next week so that both he and Captain Fernández can be questioned.

United States investigators are reported to have evidence pointing to these two

as suspected Chilean agents who entered the United States in August 1976, contacted Cuban exiles, and arranged for the placing of a bomb in an automobile that killed Mr. Letelier, a former Chilean Ambassador to the United States, and Ronnie Moffit, an American woman.

Captain Fernández, who took part in the assault on the presidential palace when the military overthrew the late President Salvador Allende Gossens in September 1973, was assigned to the secret police agency called the National Intelligence Directorate, or Dina, from 1974 to early 1977, according to military sources.

Mr. Townley was an active opponent of the left-wing Allende regime. He fled the country after taking part in an incident at the Roman Catholic University of Concepción early in 1973 in which a watchman at a television studio died, returning after the military took power. His wife, Mariana Callejas, was an activist of the extreme right-wing Patria y Libertad movement.