

Chile Pledges Cooperation With U.S. Inquiry Into Letelier's Slaying

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SANTIAGO, Chile, April 5—President Augusto Pinochet pledged tonight the continuing cooperation of Chile's military Government with the United States investigation into the assassination of Orlando Letelier.

In a nationally televised speech, President Pinochet said his "conscience is clean" with respect to the death in a bomb explosion in Washington in 1976 of Mr. Letelier, an exiled Chilean Socialist who was ambassador to the United States under President Salvador Allende Gossens, who was overthrown by the present military junta in 1973.

"We will do everything possible to get

to the truth and see that those who are responsible are punished, whatever their position or nationality," General Pinochet said.

He called for "iron-clad national unity" in facing international problems, and in a move toward what he called internal "pacification" he announced that he would commute the prison sentences of persons convicted by military courts in the last four years to exile. About 400 people, the last of Chile's political prisoners, are expected to be allowed to leave jail and go abroad under this provision.

Suspension of political activity remains in force, but President Pinochet said that he would order a constitutional drafting committee to submit before the end of

this year a new constitution, which would establish a congress, to be chosen first by appointment and later by election. Legislative power is now exercised by the four-man military junta of service commanders.

Eugene Propper, the United States Attorney who has been investigating the Letelier case, left for Washington tonight with the recorded replies to 55 questions put to Capt. Armando Fernandez Larios and Michael Vernon Townley, an American electronics technician who has lived in Chile for 21 years.

The two men, members of Chile's secret police when Mr. Letelier and an American woman companion were killed in September 1976, were questioned here Saturday

by a Chilean judge in response to a request for cooperation by Mr. Propper.

There was speculation that Mr. Propper would seek the extradition of Mr. Townley, who is regarded as a suspect by the investigators on the basis of information from anti-Castro Cuban exiles with whom Mr. Townley met in the United States before Mr. Letelier's slaying.

The involvement of Chile's secret police is one of the central aspects of the investigation.

President Pinochet said that the charge that Chile's military leaders had ordered the killing of Mr. Letelier was part of "an international conspiracy" seeking to place Chile in conflict with the United States and its neighbors.