

Chile Expelling an American Wanted by U.S. in Assassination Case

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SANTIAGO, Chile, April 7—Chile's military Government tonight ordered the expulsion of Michael Vernon Townley, a suspect in the assassination in Washington of Orlando Letelier, a Chilean exile leader.

Mr. Townley is expected to leave for the United States tomorrow in custody of agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who are here investigating the case.

He Accuses U.S. Government

The decision by President Augusto Pinochet came in response to diplomatic representations by the United States that Mr. Townley be delivered without an extradition proceeding.

Eugene M. Propper, the assistant United States attorney handling the investigation of Mr. Letelier's death, wants to put Mr. Townley before a Federal grand jury investigating the assassination.

Tonight Mr. Townley was being held by Chilean authorities.

At a news conference at his guarded and walled-in home last night, he said that "what the United States is trying

to do through me is carry out a political attack on the Government of Chile."

He said, "I am a supporter of the junta above everything else and I have full confidence in Chilean justice."

Mr. Townley, 35 years old, is an American electronics technician who has lived in Chile for most of the last 20 years. American investigators have identified him as an agent for the Chilean secret police who contacted people in the United States suspected of having planted a bomb that killed Mr. Letelier, a Chilean ambassador to the United States before the overthrow of President Salvador Allende Gossens.

Mr. Townley, a lanky, fair-haired man with a droopy mustache who speaks Spanish with a foreign accent, has cited the Fifth Amendment's protection against self-incrimination in his refusal to answer questions put to him by a Chilean judge. The questions were prepared by Mr. Propper. Another person interrogated the same way, Capt. Armando Fernández Larios of the Army, answered all the questions.

Both men went to the United States

before Mr. Letelier and his American assistant, Ronnie Moffitt, were killed by the bomb on Sept. 21, 1976. The men entered the United States using official Chilean passports with false names.

Condemns United States

Mr. Townley told reporters there was no proof of a link between him and Mr. Letelier's killing, but he said the United States would "exert pressure, through threats and lies, using its dollars and cannons, as it is accustomed to doing with small countries."

As he met reporters, Mr. Townley was accompanied by his wife, Mariana Ines Callejas, a short-story writer whom he married in 1960. They have two sons, Christopher, 15, and Brian, 11.

Mr. Townley came to Chile at the age of 15 when his father's work brought him here. When his parents returned to the United States, he was placed in a preparatory school in Florida but ran away and came back to Chile.

Mr. Townley did odd jobs until he became a salesman for the Investors Overseas Services, a mutual-fund company

that later collapsed amid charges of fraud. He then went to Miami and worked in a garage and electronics service shop.

When the left-wing government of President Allende was elected in 1970, Mr. Townley returned here with his wife and children. He was soon working with a right-wing group called Patria y Libertad and set up an underground radio station for them.

An arrest order was issued for Mr. Townley after he took part in dismantling an electronic jamming device that was interfering with broadcasts of the television station of the Catholic University in Concepcion.

Mr. Townley fled Chile, returning after the overthrow of Mr. Allende in September 1973.