

# CHILE NEWSLETTER

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## Socialist Leader Escapes

Carlos Altamirano, Secretary-General of the Chilean Socialist Party and former Senator from Santiago, was the man most desperately sought by the military after the Sept. 11 coup. A huge price was put on his head. He was able to stay in hiding for several months and escaped to safety in Cuba in December.

From Cuba Altamirano has issued several public statements, one on Dec. 17 and the other on Jan. 2 of this year. He said he left Chile on a decision made by his Party, but that he is willing to return to Chile if necessary.

Altamirano cites figures on the repression: "more than 15,000 dead, more than 30,000 political prisoners, 200,000 persons fired from their jobs, 25,000 expelled from the universities."

Altamirano is one of the most important political leaders of Chile. President Salvador Allende was a member of the Socialist Party, the largest single party within the Popular Unity governing coalition. For these reasons parts of Altamirano's declarations have been extracted and printed below.

### *Altamirano . . .*

"As Secretary General of the Socialist Party I take this opportunity to send an improvised message to the Chilean people and world public opinion re-affirming our indestructible decision to continue the struggle until the destruction of the fascist military dictatorship is completed. Our Party, and the entire labor movement, has suffered from this bloody fascist repression. At least 1/3 of the Socialist Party Regional leadership has been assassinated, as well as a great number of Central Committee members..."

"... the military has declared a state of war. We ask each other: a state of war against whom? War against the massacred Chilean people? War against the assassinated workers? War against the tortured and imprisoned youth? War against the bombarded women and children? Who is the enemy in this war? ... a terror which augments daily."

Despite the terrible repression, opposition is strong: "... Thousands of people are fighting, thousands are ready to participate in the struggle against the fascist dictatorship ... the working class, the peasants. Our youth and women. All together, firmly united, will build the great avenues where the Free Man will pass in order to construct a better society: a socialist society."

## Economic Hardship

The standard of living for the vast majority of Chileans continues to worsen in the onslaught of unprecedented inflation and rising unemployment. Chileans are told by the generals that they have to make sacrifices for the "national restoration". A letter sent to NICH from Chile makes it clear who is being sacrificed to whom.

In the days following the coup prices of staples for the poor and workers, doubled, tripled, even quintupled (bread rose 400%, cooking oil 1,000%). Merchants and manufacturers were allowed to raise prices indiscriminately. "The result was a 50% decline in mass living standards in one month." (Declines have continued).

"The effects were graphically clear. While U.S. wire services took photos of filled shop windows, shopkeepers complained that the windows were filled because no one was buying. Shoes fill shop windows, meat is rotting in the markets, ads urge Chileans to buy out of patriotism -- all to no avail."

"Chileans are being forced back to a diet of bread, noodles, onions, and beans. Doctors in poorer areas are beginning to report mass malnutrition, while the problem of inadequate food, housing, clothing, and heating when winter comes will constitute an acute health hazard."

"This halving of their standard of living has been the lot of workers who have maintained their jobs. More alarming is the soaring unemployment. Even censored newspapers have reported 25% unemployment in some trades, while the U.S. Embassy's estimate is 13% not including those "suspended from their jobs for political reasons."

In factories 5-15% of the workers have been fired for political beliefs, in many offices the totals are far higher. The political persecution of doctors, teachers and other professionals is adding a problem of unemployed professionals.

Shortages of staples are also appearing. Excelsior reported on Jan. 4 that long lines are forming in front of bakeries in Santiago and practically all Chilean cities where bread has practically disappeared. Shortages were attributed to the high level of absenteeism among workers. On Jan. 5 Excelsior reported 85% of the bakeries in Santiago were closed due to a strike of workers demanding higher wages.

According to the Mexican daily this is one of the few strikes since the coup. The first strike, among subway construction workers, was brutally suppressed at the end of November when an army patrol opened fire on strikers killing 80-100.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Inside Chile

**REPRESSION** ..... Alejandro Jilberto, third ranking Socialist leader, is in critical condition in the military hospital in Santiago after being arrested and brutally tortured (Excelsior).... The independent Venezuelan magazine Semana reports that the executions continue in Chile equal "to the first day the junta took power"... Dagens Nyheter, Swedish Daily reports that repression has become more systematic, the files kept on leftist sympathizers have become more organized. "Not even those people who were able to take refuge in Santiago's foreign embassies can feel safe; nor can those refugees who fled the country. Military intelligence "... in close cooperation with the C.I.A. is working feverishly even outside Chile's borders, especially in Sweden and those other countries where refugees have fled..." In an interview Gen. Pinochet said the army's final decision to stage a coup against the Allende government had been taken on May 28, 1973, though plans had been made the previous year. In a new regulation young men will have to serve 2 years military duty instead of one (Latin America).

**PRISONERS** ..... Famous folksinger Angel Parra, reported to be in very poor health, is being held in Chacabuco prison camp (Chile Monitor, England).... Bautista Van Schoven, co-founder and member of the Central Committee of MIR (Revolutionary Left Movement) was arrested on Dec. 14 and brutally tortured. Unconfirmed rumors circulate that he has been executed.... Historians Lucy Lortsch and Luis Vitale are imprisoned and their fates unknown.... Only international pressure may save these individuals and the thousands of others. Letters and telegrams demanding that their lives be spared should be sent to Gen. Pinochet, Santiago, Chile, and to the Chilean Embassy, 1736 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

**ECONOMICS** ..... The Minister of the Economy announced that all banks in the country and a great number of industries nationalized will be returned to private owners. As a first step, the government returned to Dow Chemical two plants that had been nationalized. (Excelsior).... Prices sky rocketed in the months after the coup, and even the middle class has been hurt economically to an extent unprecedented in Chilean history. The black market in dollars has collapsed, and the Central Bank claims to have bought \$20 million from individuals. This almost certainly means that people are cashing their dollar savings to meet day-to-day expenses (Chile Mon.).

**RESISTANCE** ..... Various acts of armed resistance have been reported, to list a few.... Excelsior reports a bomb exploded in a munitions factory in Calama causing severe damage and paralyzing production for a month.... In the far south, in Punta Arenas the magazine of a military in-

stallation exploded causing considerable damage to adjacent military offices and residences (Excelsior).... Miguel Jacob Helo, former President of Professionals, Technicians and Automobile Management, was seriously wounded Dec. 20 while returning home in his car (Le Monde).... Chile Monitor reports that a clandestine radio is operating in Chile.

**CHILE ABROAD** ..... Activities of former officials abroad are endlessly denounced in Santiago. 50 Chileans have been stripped of their nationality, including the wife and two daughters of Salvador Allende and a son of Christian Democratic leader Tomic (Chile Monitor).

## International

**EUROPE** ..... A European Conference on Chile is scheduled for April 24-27 in Frankfurt, Germany. 5,000 Chile committee activists from all over Europe will attend.

**FINLAND** ..... The Finnish government decided to suspend \$10 million of credit authorized 5 months ago to the constitutional government. The credits were destined to increase forest production (Excelsior).

**FRANCE** ..... The Parisian studios of a radio station were occupied for three hours by members of a French Chile Support Committee. The group wanted to broadcast an extensive account of the repression now taking place in Chile but which is no longer getting media coverage in France (Le Monde).

**ITALY** ..... An antifascist demonstration, organized rapidly, forced Pablo Rodriguez, leader of Chilean neo-fascist group Fatherland and Liberty, to flee the capital.... Three explosions in quick succession damaged three buildings in downtown Rome housing the offices of IIT. Leaflets identified IIT as organizers of the coup in Chile (N.Y.T.).

**SCOTLAND** ..... Workers on strike for six weeks at Maclarens' Controls, an IIT subsidiary in Glasgow, occupied the factory following management notices of pending dismissals. The workers, 60% women, have related their case to events in Chile. They say, "It is a sick joke for IIT to tell us that they cannot afford to pay us; they poured millions of dollars into the overthrow of the Chilean government" (Chile Monitor).

**SOVIET UNION** ..... The World Soccer Federation officially eliminated the Soviet team from the World Cup Finals because it refused to play its scheduled semi finals game in the National Stadium in Santiago. The Soviet team declined to play in a stadium stained with blood and used as a concentration camp (Le Monde).

**UNITED NATIONS** ..... Arturo Munoz Ledo, President of the International Labor Organization, announced that Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the U.N., agreed with the ILO decision to send a commission to Chile to investigate the deaths and imprisonment of labor leaders. Munoz claimed the Chilean workers are realizing a passive protest, "of every 100 workers, only 35 come to work" (Excelsior).

## Refugees Seek Asylum from Terror

The Junta has set Feb. 3 as the deadline for refugees to leave the country. Without identity papers and jobs, refugees who do not leave will face imprisonment, death, or will be returned to countries with repressive regimes where a similar fate awaits them. More than 3,000 Chileans and foreigners are now either in the 4 U.N. havens in Santiago or in foreign embassies and private homes (New York Times). 10,000 political prisoners are in jails and concentration camps. An unknown number of people still in Chile are being hunted by the Chilean Government: potential refugees, probably in the thousands (Working Committee on Human Rights).

The situation is extremely dangerous for refugees in Chile: Sergio Leiva Molina, 27, Chilean, holding a safe-conduct pass issued to him by the Chilean government, was shot and killed on Jan. 3 while inside the Argentine Embassy. The Argentine chargé d'affaires, Alberto del Carril, protested the shooting. A few hours later, shots were fired through his bedroom window. He escaped without injury (N.Y. Times, Internews).

Rolando Calderon, Former Minister of Agriculture, was critically wounded while in the Cuban Embassy on Dec. 18 by shots fired from outside (N.Y.T.). Another Chilean trying to get into the Argentine Embassy on Dec. 31 was killed by machine-gun fire. Armed guards have been set up by the Junta outside the U.N. havens, most of the Latin American Embassies and other diplomatic missions (N.Y.T.).

In the midst of unknown numbers of arrests, shootings and killings, the Chilean press called on all foreign registered refugees to present themselves before the refugee-aid committee before Jan. 15 (W.C.H.R.). Thousands have not dared register at a U.N. camp because their safety is not guaranteed. People in this category have been giving themselves up to the military because they were starving to death and had no further means of survival. The Army has been bringing friends of the most wanted refugees to the doors of the embassies, announcing that relatives and friends will be massacred if the refugees do not "spontaneously" renounce their asylum (Il Manifesto, Italian daily).

The United Nations Commission has issued an urgent appeal for help from countries willing to take in refugees. Food, clothing, housing, and language instructions until employment can be found and have been supplied to refugees by the countries that are taking in refugees.

**Cuba:** Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa informed the Mission that Cuba would take all Chileans and foreigners who asked to go to Cuba.

**France** has taken in 1,000 people: **West Germany**, recently agreed to take more than 1,000 refugees and has a special mission interviewing cases.

**Sweden** has taken more than 600 Chileans and foreigners and is willing to accept their close kin.

Yugoslavia has agreed to take 60: **East Germany**, 400: **Poland** has agreed to take an unspecified number: **Holland** has received over 50: help has also come from the **Soviet Union**, **Finland**, **Belgium**, the **Netherlands** and **Switzerland**. **Mexico** has taken people in the thousands, but the quota given by the government has been filled and only Chileans have been offered a permanent resettlement. In **Argentina** and **Peru** numbers can only be guessed at, since many refugees are there who left Chile unofficially, some having crossed to Argentina on foot (**Rouge**, **N.Y.T.**, **Amnesty Committees**, **Le Monde**).

In glaring contrast, England and the United States have refused asylum to any refugees at all. Recently it was reported that the U.S. accepted one family and that Britain accepted some British citizens and one Irish priest (N.Y.T.). In order to leave with a safe-conduct pass (many people have no passports) refugees need an invitation from a country willing to provide a visa. Offers of a job, university placement, or funds can effectively help people presently in an impossible situation.

## Refugee Committee Formed

In Washington independent groups working closely with the National and World Councils of Churches have formed the Chile Refugee Committee. The goals of the Committee are to aid all political refugees inside and outside of Chile, to provide information concerning refugee matters and the U.S., to coordinate efforts around individual cases, and to cooperate with other groups compiling lists of refugees.

In a background report the Committee explains the procedure for refugees to come to the U.S. Listing the particulars, the report criticizes U.S. policy which to date has made it virtually impossible for any refugees, Chilean or non Chilean, to find refuge here while allowing 25,000 Cubans to enter from Spain with special exemptions from standard immigration law.

An amendment on Human Rights in Chile added to the Foreign Assistance Authorization Law states the President should request the government of Chile to protect human rights as provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that he should support international humanitarian initiatives by the U.N. and the Red Cross to insure protection and safe conduct and resettlement of political refugees....

Opening up U.S. borders to refugees rests in the hands of the President and State Department. The committee urges individuals and organizations to write and telegram the State Department demanding immediate implementation. Address correspondence to Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State, U.S. State Dept., Washington, D. C. 20520.

For more information concerning refugees write Chile Refugee Committee, 1500 Farragut Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20011, (202)723-8273.

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## Junta Cracks Down on Right Wing Parties and Press

(Internews) In Chile, even the pro-government press is now feeling the heavy hand of the military junta. On January 14 the junta ordered censorship against most of Santiago's newspapers, including the conservative *El Mercurio* chain. The only paper not affected was the government organ, *La Patria*.

The right-wing paper *La Segunda*, which had vociferously attacked the Allende Government, was hit by government censors who banned four articles, including one dealing with a Paris committee to back the Chilean peoples revolutionary struggle. *La Segunda* was closed down for 24 hours because it ran a story on new price hikes in Chile.

Last week, the junta warned the press not to publish news without official confirmation -- especially concerning the head of Chile's Socialist Party, Carlos Altamirano. Altamirano embarrassed the regime by escaping a widely publicized government dragnet and arriving in Cuba in mid-December. The press has also been subject to a number of other restrictions, including prohibitions against using the words "political prisoner" and "political detainee."

Only pro-junta publications are allowed to publish in Chile. Left-wing papers were closed down following the September coup. Their offices

were seized or destroyed and many of their editors imprisoned

(Internews, Jan. 23) Chile's military junta is cracking down on the right-wing political parties that supported the coup that overthrew Salvador Allende. On Jan. 21 the junta issued a decree requiring these parties to provide the military with a list of all their members by Feb. 23, and forbidding them to engage in any political activities. Any change in party officials must now be reported to the Ministry of the Interior which is empowered to accept or reject the proposed names.

The decree warns that the right-wing parties, which include the Christian Democrats, must refrain from any attempt to engage in political activity "in the guise of the pursuit of cultural, sports, humanitarian or other ends." It bans them from interference in "labor, student, community or sports life" and from all kinds of "civic or citizen activities." The parties are limited to activities connected with the management of their property.

The right-wing parties were declared in recess by the junta shortly after the coup. All left parties and movements were outlawed.

## Brazil Advises Chilean Right

Right-wing Chilean businessmen received considerable financial assistance and strategic advice from their Brazilian counterparts in undermining the Allende government, reports the *Washington Post* (Jan. 6). According to the *Post*, "The coup that brought Brazil's armed forces to power in March 1964 appears to have been used as a model for the Chilean military coup."

A Brazilian architect of the '64 coup, Dr. Glycon de Paiva, advised Chileans to prepare the ground for the military to move by "creating political and economic chaos, fomenting discontent and a deep fear of communism among employers and employees, blocking legislative efforts of the left, organizing mass demonstrations and rallies, even acts of terrorism."

As a first step de Paiva recommended that the Chileans establish an intelligence system to study the actions of all key people and movements. The Chilean right organized the Center for Public Opinion Studies which served as one of the principal laboratories for coordinating information and strategy. It served as headquarters for the rightist women's movement.

The *Post* reports, de Paiva takes particular pride in the way "we taught the Chileans how to use their women against Marxists." He added, "women are the most effective weapon you have in politics. They have time and they have a great capacity to display emotion quickly. Women complain at home and they poison the atmosphere."

Significant financial aid came from Brazilian allies in the forms of financing rightist strikes

and providing paramilitary groups with arms. De Paiva stated, "a lot of money was put out to topple Allende but the money businessmen spend against the left is not just an investment, it is an insurance policy." In the transportation strike preceding the coup Allende aides calculated \$7 million was expended in payoffs to the truckers alone.

*Post* correspondent Marlies Simmons writes, "Aristoteles Drummond, a founding member of a Brazilian paramilitary group says he made two trips to Chile as a courier with money for 'political action.'" Last spring Drummond announced to friends in Rio de Janeiro, "They are going to get rid of Allende and we have 500 men at their disposal."

## Amnesty Documents Torture Training

Amnesty International (Jan. 20) accused Chile's junta of employing large scale torture of political prisoners with the aid of Brazilian police. The charges were made by a three-man commission which visited Chile in November.

The report issued by Amnesty states, "Those charged with handling prisoners at the National Stadium readily admitted that Brazilian police had been present at interrogations and that they were there to teach Chilean interrogators their methods. In fact, reference was specifically made to a four-day course given by Brazilian police at the Ministry of Defense."

## Watergate Connection

The Watergate special prosecutor's office is attempting to determine whether the burglary of the Chilean Embassy during the weekend of May 13-15, 1972, involved the same persons implicated in the Watergate break-in, reports the *Washington Post* (Dec. 26).

The special prosecutor's office is investigating a mailing list allegedly stolen from the embassy. The list may be in the hands of Wilson C. Lucom, former State Department official and publisher of an anti-Allende, U.S. based newsletter, *Chile La Verdad*. People on the list began receiving the newsletter shortly after the theft.

Lucom, in a telephone interview with the *Post*, indicated he would not cooperate with the special prosecutor's office. He said, "What is really being sought is our long-established circulation list and news sources in Chile." Lucom charged the office with using "harassing, unfounded investigations" to aid Chilean Communists "in their united effort to overthrow the present Chilean government."

*Excelsior* reports that Lucom organized a press conference for Pablo Rodriguez, leader of the neo-fascist group Fatherland and Liberty, on his visit to Washington at the end of January.

## State Dept. Promotions

Since the September coup the U.S. State Department has shifted its highest ranking personnel in Chile. Two officials, former Ambassador Nathaniel Davis, and former Deputy Chief of Mission in Santiago, Harry Schlaudeman, have been promoted and brought back to Washington.

Davis, a former ambassador to Guatemala, is presently head of the diplomatic corps and Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Affairs. Schlaudeman, an important figure in the Dominican Republic affairs of the mid-1960's, is Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

The new ambassador, David H. Popper, 62, has been with the State Dept. since 1945 as a specialist in international organizations. Popper, considered to be a right-winger within the Department, has little prior experience in Chile

Some of his previous State Dept. assignments include Deputy Director of the Office of U.N. Political and Security Affairs 1951-54, liaison to the National War College 1955, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of International Organizations 1965.

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## U.S. Bombing Command?

(LNS) A report from Agencia Arauco, a clandestine news service now operating in Chile, has charged that at least one U.S. Air Force plane -- a B-57 -- was involved in coordinating the activities of the junta military forces.

The report, first printed in an Argentine daily newspaper, *El Mundo*, on Oct. 31, gives the license number of the plane as #63103289 and identifies the crew as Majors V. Duenas and T. C. Schull with reserve pilots Captains M. B. Lemmons and D. C. Baird.

Arauco charges that the plane "acted as a radio central, actually coordinated the moves of the military coup. The National Security Agency supplied the plane, which specialized in espionage and is equipped with the most modern telecommunications instruments."

According to the dispatch, the plane operated out of a U.S. base call El Plumerillo, just outside of Mendoza, Argentina, high in the Andes on the border adjacent to Chile.

On the day of the coup, the B-57 took off from Mendoza, flew to La Serena, Chile and then on to Puerto Mont. It had three landing places in Chile reserved in case of emergency: Cerroillos, Pudahuel, and Cerro Moreno.

Tim Butz, a member of the Committee for Action/Research on the Intelligence Community (CARIC), who served four years as a reconnaissance expert for the U.S. Air Force, has analysed photos of the bombed Presidential Palace, the Moneda, where Allende died. The photos show that the surrounding area was virtually untouched, while the Moneda was totally demolished.

Butz feels this damage could only have been accomplished through the use of "smart bombs and rockets" -- weapons that must have come from the advanced technology of the U.S. military.



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## Report on Prisoners

A report sent to NICH from Chile partially summarizes the locations where political prisoners were being held at the end of December. According to the author labor, government, and political officials are segregated according to former positions and region. Prisoners arrested without charges and being held indefinitely are interned in 5 camps spreading the length of Chile.

The highest ranking officials, including ministers of government, national political and labor leaders are imprisoned on Dawson Island in the antarctic region of Chile. 1,600 middle level officials, primarily from Santiago and Valparaiso, are held at the Chacabuco mine camp in the northern desert of Antofagasta. 200 leaders of the northern zone are held at Pisagua camp in Tarapaca. 600 middle level officials from southern provinces, particularly Concepción are detained at Quiriquina Island, off Concepción. 120 middle level women officials are imprisoned in the Women's Prison of Santiago.

Others arrested for violation of the military code are imprisoned in military installations and jails in Santiago and other points. The author estimates there are at least 3,000 such prisoners.

Periodically the authorities make sweeps through working class areas in different parts of the country, particularly Santiago, Valparaiso and Concepción. At least 2,000 persons were arrested in Santiago alone in December. Those detained are held for 2 or 3 days in military barracks, although instances of young men killed in "preventive prisons" are known. Figures do not include curfew violators.

The junta is attempting to prosecute political leaders of the former government exiled in foreign embassies. These officials have been denied safe conduct passes.

## Tribunal Slated

The Russell Tribunal on Repression in Brazil, Chile and Latin America is scheduled to hold its first public sessions in Rome at the end of March. The Tribunal will investigate political and economic repression, the systematic use of torture, and U.S. participation in these activities.

The Tribunal was established in 1966 when philosopher Bertrand Russell created a committee to investigate U.S. war crimes in Vietnam. The findings had a significant impact on world public opinion at a time when the anti-war movement in the U.S. was growing. The Tribunal hopes to focus world attention on the repressive nature of the governments of Brazil and Chile.

## France Bans Tank Sales

The French Government has prohibited the sale of light tanks and electronic materials to the Chile junta, according to Excelsior.

Defense Minister Robert Galley stated that the government would not authorize two companies to sell 35 AMX-13 and 12 AMX-12 tanks as well as electronic equipment for telecommunications, because this equipment "is to be used for internal repression."

The Minister announced the new policy as a response to demands made by left-wing members of Congress who objected to earlier arms sales.

Rouge, a Paris magazine reports that 400 committees in support of the Chilean Resistance exist presently in France; they include young people, workers and neighborhood groups.

### Victor Jara Record

A memorial record for Victor Jara, murdered Chilean folksinger, is now available from NICH for \$1.75. It includes "Las Casitas del Barrio Alto," a satire on upper class life in Chile, based on Malvina Reynolds' "Little Boxes," which is on the other side.

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**FIRST CLASS**