

CHILE NEWSLETTER



BO DE DOCUMENTA
CANJE
CASA DE LAS AMERIC
LA HABANA, CUBA

Published by Non-Intervention in Chile

Vol. I, No. 6

April, 1974

204

National Conference Report

A National Conference of Chile Solidarity groups was held in Chicago March 30-31. Some 160 delegates and observers from around the country attended, including representatives of trade unions, church and community groups, peace and civil rights organizations, and other Latin American solidarity groups. A temporary National Coordinating Council with representatives from 19 Chile Support groups was created and will soon open offices in New York.

The Conference heard from members of the Chicago Commission which recently visited Chile (see article this page) and other speakers. Fernando Martinez of the United Chilean Resistance in Rome was denied a visa to attend by the U.S.

Several important projects were initiated; a National Legislative Conference is to be held in Washington D.C. in June for the purpose of drafting and lobbying legislation to cut U.S. economic and military aid to the Junta. A permanent lobbying and resource center is also to be set up in Washington D.C. in conjunction with church and community groups. Another proposal was adopted to work nationally with trade union groups to end AIFLD meddling in Latin America (see article page 8).

May 11 was declared a day of national protest to cut U.S. aid to the Junta and to force the Junta to free all political prisoners. A telegram demanding the release of UP leaders being held on Dawson Island was sent to Pinochet, Kissinger, and Kurt Waldheim. A "Fair Trial Committee" has been organized by J.P. Morran, an Oregon lawyer, and two members will be going to Santiago to arrange for possible participation of U.S. lawyers at trials there.

Pinochet Interview

The inauguration of Brazil's new "President", General Ernesto Geisel, was attended by General Pinochet of Chile, General Banzer of Bolivia, and J. Bordaberry of Uruguay (as well as Pat Nixon!), and there was talk of the formation of an "anti-Marxist axis" by the military leaders. When questioned on this, however, Pinochet answered in vague terms suggesting he, at least, had not gotten all he had hoped from the visit.

In another interview in Santiago with the news magazine *Ercilla* Pinochet revealed that he had met with other top Army officers as early as April 13, 1972, to prepare for military intervention in the government. This was only the first in a series of meetings which led up to the final plan in which the armed forces overthrew Allende's democratically-elected government.

Pinochet explained that he "saw the hand of God" in the aborted June 29 uprising by junior officers, put down by General Carlos Prats, then Commander-in-Chief. "God helped me," said Pinochet "he widened my vision of things. And on July 4, I changed my plans. I sent a note saying that mobile helicopter units capable of intervention in street combat were to be prepared. I changed my mind, but in reality the first time that we changed our plans was May 28. It was then that we chose a more discretely dissimulated offensive-defensive plan."

Pinochet also observed that it was when the military saw how the factory workers reacted to the June 29 uprising that "we arrived at the conclusion that this combat, that this war, should be initiated in Santiago."

Needless to say, these revelations give the lie to the Junta's official story that the military only intervened "to save democracy" when they learned at the last minute of the UP's so-called "Plan Z" for an auto-coup!

Chicago Group Visits Chile

In mid-February a commission of twelve Chicagoans traveled to Chile to investigate the condition of human rights there. They interviewed several Junta leaders, including Interior Minister General Bonilla, and various refugees trapped in foreign embassies, including former GUT leader Luis Figueroa.

One commission member reports on the prisoner situation: "We gained entry to the Estadio Chile and were permitted to talk to four prisoners on a balcony overlooking the floor where more than 200 others, some as young as 16, were confined. It is a "showcase" prison and place of "recuperation", but when no guards are watching, prisoners on the floor below open their shirts to show us the marks of torture they have been subjected to."

The commission's most appalling discovery was an eyewitness description of the murder of Frank Teruggi, Jr., a U.S. student at the University of Chile, contained in a document delivered by a Chilean woman to one of the Western European embassies. She relates that a young North American named Frank was brutally beaten with his head covered and tied in a sack. Nearly unconscious, he told other prisoners that he felt he could no longer resist, and asked them to inform the U.S. Embassy, trusting that they would help him.

A comprehensive report on the commission's visit to Chile will soon be released in Chicago.

NEWS IN BRIEF

REPRESSION... Former Senator Eric Schnake and former President of the Central Bank, Carlos Lazo, both Socialists, and retired General Sergio Poblete face trial in Santiago in early April along with some 30 other civilians and military personnel. Schnake and Lazo face 30-year sentences, while death is being asked for 6 of the military men.... In Valdivia, seven Socialist leaders, including Sandor Arancibia, former governor of the Province and university professor, Luis Alberto Franklin, former mayor, and Uldaricio Figueroa, former regional secretary of the Socialist Party, are going on trial for actions "detrimental to the military and favoring the enemy." They face life sentences.... In Temuco another trial has begun of 46 persons accused of MIRist activities. The trial began under heavy military security, and no reporters were allowed. Le Monde reporter Marcel Niedergang was denied entry to Chile after arriving at Pudahuel Airport in Santiago.... The State of Siege in Chile was extended for 6 more months on March 17 (Le Monde, PTS, Internews).

RESISTANCE... The Junta has admitted that five large forest fires near Valparaiso were works of political sabotage, aimed at the cellulose industry (Excelsior, PTS).... The Junta is threatening to crack down on the authors of anti-fascist slogans which have been appearing in buses and other public places.... The political commission of MAPU has issued a declaration analyzing the coup and the military regime calling for "critical reflection" on the policies of the UP at the same time that the Left increases its unity and builds a resistance within Chile "Combining every form of struggle, military and political" (La Lotta Continua, PTS).... The retirement of General Manuel Torres de la Cruz was recently announced. Torres de la Cruz was infamous for his harsh application of the Arms Control Law in the south of Chile which created a virtual military state of siege three weeks before the coup. Shortly before his resignation, Torres de la Cruz had been appointed Inspector General of the Army, which gave rise to two lines of speculation; that Pinochet, considering him a competitor for power within the army, had first isolated him from his support in the south, and then forced his resignation, or that his downfall was due to the loss of more than \$1,500,000 in war materials, reported destroyed or stolen from his command (Le Monde, PTS, private reports).

ECONOMIC... Prices continue to rise; the prices of shoes, heating oil, and school uniforms have risen by more than 100% in March.... Workers in factories are now required to wear identification cards, and spies have been planted to report on any political activities. One such informer was "accidentally" run over by a forklift (N.Y. Times) The Chilean Junta received at best a lukewarm welcome from the "Club de Paris"; their requested renegotiation of Chile's foreign debt

was conditioned on the payment of compensation to nationalized corporations, while Holland and Belgium withdrew all offers of credit. Only 4 of the 13 member nations signed the final agreement with Chile (Chile Antifascista).

INTERNATIONAL

Britain... The new Labor government has announced suspension of economic aid and arms sales to Chile. The Foreign Secretary stated that "Our policy towards the Junta will be governed by a desire to see democracy restored and human rights fully respected in Chile." A planned British naval exercise in Chilean waters was also cancelled (N.Y. Times).

France... Some 30,000 copies of a photo-essay on Chile before and after the coup have been sold by Gamma. Politique Hebdo has also produced 1,000 copies of a record, "Chili".... A book documenting the U.S. role in the coup, "Le Livre noir de l'intervention americaine au Chili", by Armando Uribe, former Chilean Ambassador in Peking, has recently appeared.... Quilapayun, who were on tour in France at the time of the coup, have been conducting a non-stop series of concerts throughout Europe in support of the Chilean resistance (Le Nouvel Observateur, Politique Hebdo, PTS, Chile Antifascista).

Finland... An International Tribunal on Chile was opened in Helsinki with participation by most European countries and testimony by lawyers, political scientists, and victims of the Junta (PTS).

Holland... A three-day international conference on Chile was held in Amsterdam at the end of February under the auspices of the Transnational Institute, European affiliate of the U.S. Institute for Policy Studies. Many European Chile Solidarity groups, church groups, and representatives of all the Chilean parties of the Left participated. Emphasis was placed on the implications of the coup, and U.S. complicity, for European politics (Le Monde, PTS).

Italy... A group of artists including Guttuso, Vespignani, and DiStefano have organized a traveling exhibition of their paintings in reaction to the coup and in solidarity with the Chilean resistance struggle (Le Monde, PTS).

Norway... According to the Oslo daily *Dagbladet*, Oslo has been chosen by the Junta as its spy center for Europe, hoping to infiltrate support movements in neighboring Sweden and other countries. Two high-ranking military men have been named to diplomatic posts there (PTS).

South Vietnam... Chile recently established diplomatic relations with South Vietnam (non-existent under Allende). Birds of a feather ...

U.S.A... Treasury Secretary Schultz announced he would travel to Santiago in April for an IDB meeting there, and also reported "considerable progress" in discussions of compensation payments to U.S. corporations nationalized by the Allende government. He will be the first U.S. government official of cabinet rank to visit Chile since the coup (Internews).

W. Germany... A conference of Western European Chile Committees will be held in Frankfurt, April 24-27 to discuss various aspects of the Chilean struggle and implications for Europe.

Victoria

Honor a la victoria apetecida,
honor al pueblo que llegó a la hora
a establecer su derecho a la vida!

Pero el ratón acostumbrado al queso,
Nixon, entristecido de perder,
se despidió de Eduardo con un beso.

Cambió de Embajador, cambió de espías
y decidió cercarnos con alambre:
no nos vendieron más mercaderías

para que Chile se muriera de hambre.

Cuando la Braden les movió la cola
los momios ayudaron la tarea

gritando "Libertad y Cacerolas",
mientras que los patronos victimarios
pintaban de bondad sus caras feas

y disfrazándose de proletarios
decretaban la huelga de señores
recibiendo de Nixon los dineros:

treinta monedas para los traidores.

PABLO NERUDA



COBRE CHILENO

tu eres la patria, pampa y pueblo
arena, arcilla, escuela, casa
resurrección puño ofensivo
orden, desfile, ataque, trigo
lucha, grandaza, resistencia.



Honor the longed for victory
honor the people arrived at the time
of establishing its right to life!

But the rat accustomed to the cheese
Nixon, saddened by loss,
said goodbye to Eduardo with a kiss.

Changed his ambassador, changed his spies
and decided to fence us in with wire:
they didn't sell us any more merchandise

so that Chile would die of hunger.

When Braden moved its tail
the momios helped it at its task

shouting liberty, pots and pans
while the murdering bosses
painted their ugly faces with kindness
and disguised as proletarians
decreed the gentlemen's strike
receiving their monies from Nixon:

thirty coins for the traitors.

Nixon, Frei y Pinochet
 Hasta hoy, hasta este amargo
 mes de Septiembre
 del año 1973
 con Bordaberry, Medici, y Banzer
 hienas voraces
 de nuestra historia, roedores
 de las banderas conquistadas
 con tanta sangre y tanto fuego
 encharcados en sus haciendas,
 depredadores infernales,
 sátrapas mil veces vendidos
 y vendedores, azuzados
 por los lobos de Nueva York.
 Máquinas hambrientas de dólares
 manchadas en el sacrificio
 de sus pueblos martirizados,
 prostituidos mercaderes
 del pan y el aire americanos,
 senescales verdugos, piara
 de prostibularios caciques,
 sin otra ley que la tortura
 y el hambre azotada del pueblo.

Las Satrapias



*The Revolution is Stopped by No One

PABLO NERUDA

Nixon, Frei and Pinochet
 Until today, until this bitter
 Month of September
 Of the year 1973
 With Bordaberry, Medici and Banzer
 Ravenous hyenas
 Of our history, rodents
 Chewing on banners conquered
 With so much blood and fire,
 Disgusting looters,
 Satraps sold a thousand times
 And merchants, urged on
 By the wolves of New York,
 Dollar hungry machines,
 Bloodstained by the sacrifice
 Of their martyred peoples,
 Merchant-whores
 Of the bread and air of America
 Savage cut-throats, pack
 Of whorehouse bosses
 With no other law but torture
 And the biting hunger of the people.



CHILE

Chile, paloma herida, encallada en un rincón
 del universo.
 Tratan de arrancarte tus alas rojas, desangrarte
 tu bravo corazón.
 Que tienes que perder? Solo cadenas.
 Que tienes que ganar? Una vida plena.
 Una vida plena rescatada de la angustia,
 por justicia, calida de amor
 Chile mi paloma. Tu batallas, tu batallas,
 tu batallas
 Por cada uno de tus muertos otras alas se
 levantarán
 Escudadas con balas, con balas escudadas.
 Chile no se ha rendido
 Chile arde en su vivo, sangriento mensaje,
 que nos dice
 Que las revoluciones no se hacen a medias.
 Una revolucion se hace con carne y huesos,
 con balas y ideas
 Que siempre sobrevivirán
 Que siempre sobrevivirán.

Chile, wounded dove, coralled into a corner of
 the universe.
 They try to rip off your red wings, to bleed out
 your brave heart.
 What do you have to lose? Only chains.
 What do you have to win? A whole full life.
 A whole full life rescued from grief, for justice,
 warm with love.
 Chile my dove. You struggle on, you struggle on,
 you struggle on.
 For every death of yours other wings shall rise.
 Shielded with bullets, with bullets shielded.
 Chile has not surrendered.
 Chile burns in her living, bloody message, which
 tells us that revolutions cannot be carried out
 half way.
 A revolution is made with flesh and bones, with
 bullets and ideas,
 Which will always survive,
 Which will always survive.

SUNI PAZ

Al Centro de la Injusticia

Chile limita al Norte con el Peru
 y con el Cabo de Hornos limita al Sur
 se eleva en el oriente la cordillera
 y en el oeste luce la costanera, la costanera.
 Al medio estan los valles con sus verdoros
 donde se multiplican los pobladores.
 Cada familia tiene muchos chiquillos
 con su miseria vive en el conventillo, en el conventillo.
 Claro que algunos viven acomodados
 pero eso con la sangre del degollado.
 Delante del escudo mas arrogante
 la agricultura tiene su interrogante, su interrogante.
 La papa nos la venden naciones varias
 cuando del sur de Chile es originaria.
 Delante del emblema de tres colores
 la mineria tiene muchos bemoles, muchos bemoles.

Chile borders with Peru in the north
 and with Cape Hornos in the south.
 The Andes rise in the east
 and the coastline shines in the west.
 In the middle lie the green covered valleys
 where the people multiply.
 Every family has many children
 and with misery they live in the slums.
 Of course some live in comfort
 but out of the blood of the exploited
 In front of the arrogant seal
 agriculture needs to be questioned.
 We buy potatoes from many nations
 while they originated in Chile's south.
 In front of the three-colored flag
 the mines have many wrong tones.



To the Center of Injustice

VIOLETA PARRA

El minero produce buenos dineros
 pero para el bolsillo del extranjero.
 Exuberante industria donde laboran
 por unos cuantos reales muchas Señoras, muchas Señoras
 y así tiene que hacerlo porque al marido
 la paga no le alcanza pa'1 mes corrido.
 Pa' no sentir la aguja de este dolor
 en la noche estrellada dejo mi voz, dejo mi voz.
 Linda se ve la patria Señor Turista
 pero no le han mostrado las callampitas.
 Mientras gastan millones en un momento
 de hambre se muere gente que es un portento, que es un
 portento mucho dinero en parques municipales
 y la miseria es grande el los hospitales
 Al medio de Alameda de las Delicias
 Chile limita al centro de la Injusticia, de la Injusticia.

The miner produces a good income
 but it goes in the pocket of the foreigner.
 In the blooming industry working hard
 for a few pennies many women
 and this they must do because
 the husband's salary it is not enough.
 To not feel the needle of this pain
 to the starry night I give my song.
 Beautiful country for you the tourist
 but they have not shown you the shantytowns.
 While millions are spent in one moment
 people die of hunger making a monument.
 Much money spent in public gardens
 while in the hospitals misery flows.
 In the middle of the Avenue of Delights
 Chile borders with the center of injustice.

Plegaria

A Un Labrador



Levántate y mira la montaña
de donde viene
el viento, el sol y el agua.
Tú que manejas el curso de los ríos,
tú que sembraste el vuelo de tu alma,
levántate y mírate las manos,
para crecer estrechala a tu hermano,
juntos iremos
unidos en la sangre,
hoy es el tiempo que puede ser mañana.
Libranos de aquel que nos domina
en la miseria,
traenos tu reino de justicia
e igualdad,
sopla como el viento la flor
de la quebrada
limpia como el fuego
el cañon de mi fusil.
Hagase por fin tu voluntad
aquí en la tierra,
danos tu fuerza y tu valor
al combatir,
sopla como el viento
la flor de la quebrada
limpia como el fuego
el cañon de mi fusil.
Levántate y mírate las manos,
para crecer estrechala a tu hermano,
juntos iremos
unidos en la sangre
ahora y en la hora
de nuestra muerte,
amen.



The Farmer's Prayer

Arise and turn, to look up at the mountain
From where is born the wind, the sun, the water.
You who control the flowing of the rivers,
You who have planted the seeds that guide your spirit,
Arise and turn, look closely at your hands,
If you're to grow, extend them to your brother,

Moving together
United through our blood,
Now is the moment
That soon will be tomorrow.

Free us from the ones who hold us slaves
Who keep us hungry
Bring to us your kingdom of equality and justice

Blowing like the wind
Is the flower of the canyon,
Cleansing like a fire
Is the barrel of my gun.



Yo conocí a Bolívar una mañana larca,
en Madrid en la boca del Quinto Regimiento,
Padre le dije, eres o no eres o quién eres?
y mirando el Cuartel de la Montaña dijo:
"Despierto cada cien años cuando despierto el pueblo."
Neruda

Let thy will be done once and for all
Here on the earth,
Give us your strength, your courage
To struggle

Blowing like the wind
Is the flower of the canyon,
Cleansing like a fire
Is the barrel of my gun.

Arise and turn, look closely at your hands,
If you're to grow, extend them to your brother,
Moving together
United through our blood,
Now and at the hour of our death,
Amen.

VICTOR JARA

Prisoners Die in Military Hospital

Within a few days in March, two former high officials of the UP government, Jose Toha and Gen. Alberto Bachelet, died in the Military Hospital in Santiago, and a third, Jaime Faivovich, was moved to the same hospital from the Mexican Embassy, where he had been awaiting a safe conduct pass to leave the country, in serious condition -- possibly the victim of a sniper.

José Tohá

José Tohá, 47, long-time member of the Socialist Party, Secretary General of the Frap (Frente de Accion Popular, predecessor of the UP as an alliance of the Left), and confidant of President Allende, was in many ways the second most important member of the UP government. He held the position of Interior Minister and Secretary General of the Government in Allende's first cabinet, in 1970. In January of 1972 he became the first in a series of Ministers to be forced out of their cabinet posts by the Opposition in Congress in a campaign to paralyze Allende's executive powers. He was later reappointed Minister of Defense, in which position he played a crucial role in the UP's relations with the military. One of his projects would have given the right to vote to all soldiers -- a privilege previously enjoyed only by officers. This democratization of the military was generally opposed by the Right and the officers' corps (on the grounds that it would "politicize the military").

Tohá, who was held on Dawson Island along with other leaders of the UP government, had been transferred to the Santiago Military Hospital in February, in very poor health. He reportedly had lost some 44 pounds, weighing only 110 pounds when he was admitted to the hospital (Toha was over 6' tall), and was confined to a wheelchair. General Pinochet himself announced Tohá's death March 15 to reporters in Brazil, while attending the inauguration of Brazil's new "President", Gen. Ernesto Geisel (see article elsewhere in this Newsletter). He claimed Tohá had committed suicide, hanging himself by his own belt in an "unguarded moment" in the bathroom. At the same time, Junta spokesmen in Santiago were claiming Toha had committed suicide in a closet adjoining his room, thus contradicting Pinochet.

Despite police threats, Tohá's funeral saw the largest public demonstrations of opposition to the Junta since Pablo Neruda's funeral, shortly after the coup. Some 2,000 people joined the funeral procession at the cemetery waving handkerchiefs, throwing flowers, and singing the national anthem and the Internationale. There were cries of "Compañero Tohá -- presente!", "Compañero Bachelet -- presente!", "Compañero Allende -- presente!"

Gen. Alberto Bachelet

Alberto Bachelet, an Air Force general, had earned the antagonism of the Right by serving as National Secretary for Food Distribution under Allende. He refused to participate in the September 11 coup and was to be brought before a military tribunal April 3 on charges of "failure

to carry out military duties." He died, however, March 11 after 48 hours of intensive interrogation -- "of a heart attack", according to the Junta. He was 50 years old.

Jaime Faivovich

Jaime Faivovich, 48, former mayor of Santiago, was Subsecretary for Transportation during the strike which paralyzed trucking in Chile prior to the coup, and as such was a main target for the hostility of the Right. He took refuge after the coup in the Mexican Embassy, where he had been awaiting permission to leave Chile. On March 12 he was moved to the Military Hospital, according to some reports for a cancer operation, although other reliable sources indicate he may have been shot by a sniper. In either case, his fate, now that he is in the hands of the Junta, is uncertain.

The series of mysterious deaths, disappearances, and "executions while attempting to escape" of former UP leaders and militants, and attacks on refugees such as Faivovich and Rolando Calderon, former CUT leader, must be seen as more than chance or coincidence. Rather, the Junta and its right-wing allies are systematically eliminating the most important leaders of the UP within their reach -- those who held critical positions or took militant stances in Allende's government. These grim precedents give us all the more reason to fear for the safety of other political prisoners and refugees, and to increase our efforts to bring international pressures for their protection and eventual freedom.



José Tohá

Jaime Faivovich

SUBSCRIBE!!!

Sustaining subscription -- \$10.00
Regular subscription -- 3.00
Low-income subscription -- 2.00

Please subscribe me to
The Chile Newsletter

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NICH, Box 800, Berkeley, Cal. 94701

Under the Covers with the CIA

Is the AFL-CIO involved with multi-national corporations and the CIA in supporting right-wing subversion of the labor movement in Latin America? A 46-page report authored by the Emergency Committee to Defend Democracy in Chile (ECDDC) of San Jose provides substantial documentation for such charges, and is being taken seriously by labor groups, who are pressing for an investigation.

The report, "An Analysis of our AFL-CIO Role in Latin America, or Under the Covers with the CIA," focusses on the activities of the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) in Latin America. Formed in 1962 as a non-profit corporation, the AIFLD is headed by George Meany and receives ideological leadership from Jay Lovestone, head of the AFL-CIO's Department of International Affairs and professional anti-communist. Chairman of the Board of Trustees is J. Peter Grace, chief executive of W.R. Grace Lines, while among the AIFLD's corporate supporters are Anaconda and Kennecott Copper Companies, Readers' Digest, IBM, and the Rockefeller corporations, all with interests in Latin America and in Chile in particular.

The ECDDC report documents AIFLD's corporate and government ties -- according to William C. Doherty, Jr., Executive Director of AIFLD, 92% of his budget comes out of government funds, while the rest is provided by the AFL-CIO and "some 95 business establishments with interests in Latin America." It also documents AFL-CIO and later AIFLD complicity in right-wing activities in Cuba, Guatemala, Chile and elsewhere. (Doherty admits, for example, that the Brazilian military coup was aided by the AIFLD.)

In the case of Chile, treated in most detail in the report, evidence is given of increased funding (through AID) and a corresponding increase in their "anti-communist" activities in Chile after Allende's election -- although Chile received an almost total news blackout

in the AIFLD Report during this period. The AIFLD activity is specifically linked to a number of the most reactionary professional organizations and "gremios" (bosses' unions), and to CIA funding and activities in Chile.

The ECDDC report was presented to the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council at their March 4 meeting, and after some debate a resolution was adopted calling on the AFL-CIO to "respond and provide information" on the charges contained in the report. The resolution was then sent to George Meany and national officials of the AFL-CIO. An effort is also being made to gain support for this inquiry into AFL-CIO international policy and the AIFLD from other labor groups around the country.

The ECDDC report with its thorough documentation and vigorous language provides a real boost to the Chile Solidarity Movement in its attempt to strengthen ties between the Chilean and U.S. Workers' movements. The report is still available in limited quantities and would be valuable to anyone working with trade union groups. It can be ordered from the Emergency Committee to Defend Democracy in Chile, 316 South 19th Street, San Jose, Calif. 95116, at \$1.00 each.

Edelstam Visit

Harald Edelstam, former Swedish Ambassador to Chile, expelled by the Junta for his courageous defense of political refugees, has been touring the U.S. in a fund-raising campaign for Chilean refugees and political prisoners. In April he will probably be visiting Madison, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, and Washington, D.C. More information on the tour can be obtained from local USLA and Chile Support groups. Contributions, which are tax deductible, should be made to Chile Appeal/National Council of Churches.

NICH
Box 800
Berkeley, Ca. 94701

FIRST CLASS