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Amnesty International
International Secretariat
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N.S. 4

To: All national sections
From: Research Department (Tracy Ulltveit-Moe)
Date: 26th September 1973
Re: Chile

URGENT - IMPORTANT - URGENT - IMPORTANT - URGENT

We are naturally extremely concerned at events in Chile and are trying to collect information as quickly as possible concerning numbers and names of those arrested. We are also anxious to determine the procedures to be followed by the military junta in dealing with the detainees. We ask national sections' full support in our efforts to collect information and protect the lives of those now under arrest. We therefore urge you to follow up as many of the suggestions given below as possible and report back to the Secretariat as soon as possible. Please note in your reports whether your actions can be made public, or can be circulated to national sections as suggestions for future action.

AT THIS EXTREMELY DELICATE STAGE IN OUR EFFORTS, WE ASK YOU NOT TO TAKE ANY PUBLIC ACTION OTHER THAN SUGGESTED HERE, OR MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT IN THE NAME OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCERNING CHILE WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT.

We are aware that not all sections will be in a position to carry out many of the suggested actions and trust in your discretion in determining the most useful way for your section to aid our efforts vis-a-vis Chile.

Suggested actions for national sections

(1) Prisoners

Reports of numbers of those killed, wounded or imprisoned vary widely, but the new regime admits to holding over 4000 in the sports stadium in Santiago. The Minister of the Interior has openly admitted that many of these detainees are innocent and will be released after interrogation. Five thousand two hundred prisoners are expected to be tried by court-martial at an as yet undetermined time, the majority of them for having supported the Allende government. Already six prisoners have been reported 'killed while trying to escape'.

We have taken general action (see on) on behalf of the prisoners, but need more specific information and your help to be effective. Therefore,

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please act upon as many of the following suggestions as possible:

- (a) Contact foreign correspondents in your country who have been reporting on Chile in order to obtain as many exact details as possible about those arrested. If the correspondents are still in Chile, ask the newspaper in question to encourage the journalist to collect names of specific prisoners and pass them on to you or directly to the International Secretariat.
- (b) Contact former Chilean Embassy officials in your country who have been ousted by the new regime. These will have been the political appointees, and in many countries, their home addresses and phone numbers will be available in foreign diplomatic lists. If you don't know which have been removed by the new government, journalists in your country who specialise in Chilean affairs may be helpful or the new Embassy staff may even give you this information. Try and contact the ex-Embassy people and ask for any available details on the arrests and what procedures are being followed in dealing with the prisoners.
- (c) Write to your country's Embassy in Chile asking for details of arrests and names of people from your country currently in Chile. (It may be best that this contact be undertaken by a high level politician than by Amnesty directly?) Your countrymen in Chile could be circularised with our standard Amnesty International introduction letter (in your language) and provided with sample prisoner data questionnaire forms (samples of both enclosed).
- (d) Contact universities in your own country for names of scholars at present in Chile, and try and make indirect contact with them to obtain details of arrests, g.g. persons travelling back and forth to Latin America (journalists, academics, etc.) should be urged to try and establish contact with your fellow citizens in Chile in an effort to obtain detailed information; alternatively, academics at universities in your country may be able to suggest means of contacting colleagues abroad. Proceed extremely cautiously - these people may well be in danger. If you do write to any personal contacts in Chile do not use Amnesty letterhead.

(2) Refugees and foreign nationals

As you have doubtless read in your country's press, the many thousands of foreigners in Chile are thought to be a main target of current widespread arrests. Numbers of Latin Americans involved are estimated in Le Monde (23/24.9.73) to be as follows:

4000	Bolivians
3000	Uruguayans
2200	Argentiniens
1200	Brazilians
987	Cubans (150 have already been expelled)
580	Colombians
178	Peruvians
150	Mexicans
36	Venezuelans
87	from other Latin American countries.

while the Irish Times gives the figures as:

5000 Bolivians
3500 Uruguayans
2700 Brazilians
+ some Argentinians, Mexicans, Peruvians etc.

There are fears that if these people are arrested, they may be deported to their country of origin, where prison sentences or worse may await them. Fears for their safety in the hands of the Chilean military have also been expressed following a vehement campaign against foreign nationals launched by the new regime; during the coup, Air Force planes dropped leaflets over Santiago exhorting Chileans to 'show no compassion to the foreign extremists who have come to kill Chile'. In fact, the foreigners in Chile are mainly foreign technicians or people who fled from military regimes elsewhere in Latin America to seek refuge in Chile. Many supported the democratically elected Allende regime or joined some of the Chilean political parties which have been outlawed by the new regime, and it is for these reasons that the junta has turned so strongly against them.

We have already appealed on behalf of the foreign nationals in Chile to the Organisation of American States and to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, but again, to be more successful in our efforts to protect the lives of the foreigners in Chile, we need more detailed information. We ask your help in the following ways:

- (a) At the Council meeting in Vienna, all national sections were asked to press their government to offer political asylum in their Embassy in Santiago. Please report back to the Secretariat on any action your section has taken, and your government's response. If you have not yet raised the matter with your government, please do so, via both your Foreign Office and your country's Embassy in Santiago. Ask also for the names of any refugees known to have been granted asylum, as well as any who are known to have been in Chile at the time of the coup, but are not yet accounted for.
- (b) Organise support campaigns (letters, telegrams, petitions etc.) to the governments that have taken in refugees (Sweden, Switzerland?, Peru, Mexico, Argentina ...) Support from abroad may be useful in giving officials who wish to offer asylum the political leverage to do so.
- (c) Ask well-known figures in your own country to ask questions in Parliament, national party conferences etc., concerning the fate of these people; ask them also to address such requests to the Chilean Embassy in your country and to Chilean authorities in Santiago.
- (d) Check regulations in your country for Chileans already resident (can they stay? can students continue on visas issued by the Allende government? will study grants awarded by your country in arrangements with the Allende government lapse?) Also find out about regulations concerning Chileans who may wish to enter your country as political refugees (what papers are required? will your government issue papers that will enable such people to travel?) Please report back to the Secretariat as quickly as possible on this matter as past experience would indicate that we are likely to receive a great many queries about asylum regulations in many countries.

- (e) Our experience in dealing with people who sought political asylum in Chile leads us to believe that many now under arrest in Chile will face problems whether they stay in Chile or have to leave the country. We have therefore established a fund for the relief of Chilean exiles and other Latin American refugees, and ask your national section to begin immediately raising funds for the exiles and refugees. Public meetings, special publications or records may be means of raising money.

We also ask that you inquire via any contacts you may have, including your Embassy staff in countries where the exiles are likely to take refuge (Argentina, Mexico, France, Peru) about means of transmitting funds to areas where they are likely to be needed. Foreign correspondents travelling constantly to Latin America may be a possibility; groups or religious orders with branches in your country and in Latin America may be sympathetic. In some cases it will probably be better to channel any funds raised through the national section, in others through the Secretariat in London. This will depend on the distribution system we evolve after national sections have made the sorts of inquiries suggested above. Remember that any money accepted should be entirely without strings.

- (f) The problem of transmitting funds into Chile itself is even more delicate, but follow up any contacts you may have for we shall want to transfer aid to Chile once prisoner of conscience work there begins.

Please keep us fully informed of any such contacts.

- (g) In a great many countries, groups are being formed to raise funds for the refugees, to provide homes or advice for any exiled Chileans who may seek asylum in the country in question etc. Maintain contact with any such groups forming in your own country (without affiliating) or try and act as a 'ginger group' to get such groups underway.

- (h) We are compiling lists of Latin Americans thought to have been in Chile at the time of the coup (note: we will concern ourselves with foreign nationals whose own Embassies are unlikely to help them. Although we realise that a number of North Americans and Europeans have been arrested or have disappeared, we feel that inquiries on their behalf will be most effective if addressed to the relevant governments. Nonetheless, we will endeavour to inform the relevant national section of such cases that come to our attention, in the hope that sections will do their utmost to contact anyone returning from Chile, to obtain news of others still held).

Our lists are very preliminary at this stage and we ask your help in supplying names of other Latin Americans who may now be in danger in Chile. Our objective is to gain enough such names to be able to ask for information as to their whereabouts without drawing undue attention to the few whose names we already have. We therefore ask that you:

- ask Latin American refugees or foreign nationals now in your country for names and any other details of persons they believe to have been

in Chile at the time of the coup (Note: we are not looking merely for names of those who may have been politically active; evidently all foreigners are in some danger, and naturally if our lists include uncommitted or conservative people, as well as likely activists, inclusion on our list will not mark anyone down as having been politically militant.

- Former Chilean Embassy officials (see item 1b above) may also have details
- Your country's Embassy, or any other contacts you may have in the countries where the refugees are likely to seek asylum should be asked to contact those arriving and obtain names of others still held, or unaccounted for (Mexico, Peru, Argentina). If your country takes in refugees or has given political asylum in Santiago, try and obtain details from your Foreign Office and try to speak with exiles as they arrive for details of others and for ideas on aid transmission. Also try and get taped interviews or notarised statements from people coming from Chile - Chileans or foreigners - about their experiences.

Good luck in your efforts and do keep us fully informed of developments.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For your information, listed below are some of the activities the Secretariat has already undertaken with regard to Chile. In view of the situation at present, we ask you NOT to take any actions or make any public statements in the name of Amnesty International with regard to Chile without first consulting with the Secretariat.

1. A press release was issued at the International Council Meeting in Vienna on 16th September, calling on the new regime in Chile to stop executions, arrests and threatened deportations.
2. Telegrams to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Organisation of American States, sent by Amnesty in conjunction with the International Commission of Jurists, from the Council meeting in Vienna, urging an investigation of events in Chile and protection for the political exiles there.
3. A telegram along similar lines was sent on 23rd September expressing concern at the widespread arrests **including the reported** house arrest of the well known Chilean author and poet, Pablo Neruda, who was (we have just read of his death from cancer) an Amnesty patron.
4. As noted above, a fund for the aid of Chilean refugees and exiles has been established and publicity concerning the existence of the fund and its purpose has begun.
5. A list of foreign nationals known to have been living in Chile at the time of the coup is being prepared. When sufficient names have been collected we will determine how to best use the list in determining the whereabouts of the people concerned.
6. A press conference was held on 24th September at which Dick Barbor-Might, a British lecturer, who had been held for 48 hours in the Santiago sports stadium, discussed the scenes of harassment and ill-treatment he had witnessed. Mr Barbor-Might relayed at the conference, held at the Secretariat, an appeal to Amnesty International from foreign nationals being held prisoner in the sports stadium in Santiago.