

National Coordinating Center in Solidarity with Chile

October 23, 1974

RE: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

This letter is intended to clear up the current situation in Congress and to offer suggested points to bring up in discussions with Members of Congress.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO VISIT REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS IN THEIR HOME DISTRICTS. This shows them how broad based and national the movement in solidarity with Chile is. The Congress does not reconvene until November 18. In particular two point should be raised with them.

- 1) SENATORS AND ESPECIALLY HOUSE MEMBERS SHOULD BE PRESSURED TO APPROVE THE 1975 FOREIGN AID BILL THAT PROVIDES FOR A CUTOFF OF MILITARY AID TO CHILE.
- 2) MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE, ESPECIALLY THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS, SHOULD BE PRESSURED TO HOLD HEARINGS TO INVESTIGATE THE US AND CIA ROLE IN CHILE BEFORE AND DURING THE COUP. (List of committee members attached).

UPDATE

The Senate has passed the 1975 Foreign Aid Bill with an amendment by Kennedy that completely cuts off military aid to Chile. The amendment was approved 47-41. However, due to strong lobbying by the White House and State Dept., the bill was sent back to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. When the Congress reconvenes in Nov., the Foreign Relations Committee will probably send the 1975 Foreign Aid Bill back to the full Senate as it was originally approved (with the Kennedy amendment attached). Continued pressure by the Chile movement will help assure this.

The full House has not considered the 1975 Foreign Aid Bill. Work on the bill in the House Foreign Affairs Committee has been completed and the bill will probably be sent to the full House when Congress reconvenes in November. The bill as approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee includes an amended version of Harrington's amendment to completely cut off military aid to the junta. The final version that was approved in committee and will be sent to the full House says that the junta will get \$800,000 in military grants; and that if the President finds later that Chile is making substantial progress toward restoring democracy and ending the repression, he can request that Congress restore \$10 million in military aid. We would have pre-

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Harrington's amendment as he proposed it (complete cutoff), but, according to what Carolyn Deitchman has been able to learn, this bill has a reasonable chance of being passed.

Both the House and Senate will probably vote on these 1975 Foreign Aid bills in November or December. They are not required to do so; they could vote to continue the aid at the same funding levels as last year (this is called a Continuing Resolution). That is what they did last week before they adjourned for the elections. However, it's unlikely that they will extend it again without considering the new 1975 Foreign Aid Bill.

Carolyn Deitchman reports that Congressional people and their aides are much more receptive to people interested in Chile. This has come about as a result of the disclosures of the CIA activity in Chile, confirming much of what we have been saying for over a year; it gives us added credibility.

Carolyn also emphasizes that visits by individuals and delegations to Representatives in their home districts are especially important during this recess. Momentum has been building up in recent weeks around Chile and it is important for us to keep the issue on their minds.

The National Center will be sending to each Representative and Senator a copy of the Labor Solidarity with Chile booklet to show them what organized labor's position is on Chile. We're able to do this thanks to the Chicago Labor Solidarity Committee, which is donating the booklets.

Please let us know what action you take on the legislative question (who has been visited, what their attitudes are, etc.) so we can get an overall picture and see where we need more work. For further information, contact Carolyn Deitchman, WILPF, 120 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002, phone 202-546-8644, or the National Center.

11-2-74
The people of Chile will win!!!

Charlie Rankin

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