



## Why We Must Be Heard

★8,000 political prisoners are trapped today without recourse or rights in Chilean jails, concentration camps and torture centers. Their only crime is their opposition to the most repressive government in our hemisphere. Nothing proves so clearly the anti-democratic wasteland to which the Chilean military rulers have reduced a proud nation.

★Our government, which proclaims its revolutionary roots this year, plotted, helped carry out, and continues to maintain the crushing of Chile's deepest aspirations — as Nixon, Ford, and Kissinger have openly admitted. The White House, CIA, and many multi-national corporations including ITT banded together in common cause to overthrow the democracy of which the Chilean people were so justly proud.

★Every basic human right expressed in our own Bill of Rights has been suppressed in Chile. The Chilean people, just as the American people, fought and died for the right to organize trade unions, to be free of arbitrary arrest and torture, to exercise their rights through political parties and democratic institutions. The substantial direct and indirect military and economic aid offered the junta by the US government today sustains the elimination of those rights in Chile. The junta's capacity to kill 30,000 innocent people,

arrest 1 out of every 100 Chileans, maintain torture centers, and defy world opinion (as expressed in the condemnation raised by the UN, for which the US itself voted) is being paid for by the United States!

★Where does this money come from? Our schools, hospitals, social welfare programs, the hard-earned benefits for which we have struggled here, are literally being melted down into means of terror and repression. The willingness of our government to strip away millions of US taxpayers dollars during the worst economic crisis in decades and place them in the junta's hands demonstrates a mentality that can only alarm us. While the number of our unemployed totals Chile's entire population, our government is encouraging investments in Chile and thus strengthening a junta that has outlawed all trade union rights. Such values are a threat to our own freedom: when we buy repression for an innocent people, we place ourselves in danger.

The intent of the US Congress is clear. This year, a "Human Rights Amendment" to the Foreign Aid Bill was passed, prohibiting aid to any country which "engages in gross violations of human rights." Chile is one of the clearest examples, yet the Administration has brazenly circumvented the spirit of this amendment.

**WE CALL THIS CONFERENCE TO DEMAND THAT CONGRESS ACT NOW BY EMPLOYING ITS MOST POWERFUL LEVER — THE PURSE STRING — TO EXERT MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON THE JUNTA TO RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES.**

## We Call on Congress...

### 1) TO CUT OFF ALL FORMS OF MILITARY AID

The spirit and meaning of the 1974 ban on new sales and credits of military hardware, as provided in Kennedy's Amendment to the Military Aid Bill, has been mocked and ignored in practice.

- \$122,754,000 in military goods *is still on its way* to the junta, justified because the contracts were signed before the Kennedy Amendment;
- Military training by the US is still taking place;
- Direct sales by private US arms companies— which the government can and does prohibit in the case of other countries—is allowed to go on.

Through these massive loopholes, the Chilean junta is receiving today the largest portion of its foreign military aid. No excuses or technicalities can justify supplying the junta with the means of death!

### 2) TO CUT OFF ALL FORMS OF ECONOMIC AID

The Chilean junta cannot govern by guns alone. With its economy on the brink of ruin, it depends heavily on our government's economic aid to survive.

Hundreds of millions of our tax dollars are being used to buy the suffering of the Chilean people. The junta's disastrous economic policies, which have created a 1975 inflation rate of 340% (World Bank) and left at least 20% of the work force unemployed, place the burden of Chile's crisis on the backs of the people. Our aid only increases that burden.

Today, the Administration is funneling millions of dollars through aid channels such as the Food for Peace Program (\$55 million, FY'76). We are told that

these funds aid the *people* of Chile, but in fact they are going to shore up a decaying dictatorship. As well, the US government is using its influence to insure large loans from such multi-lateral lending agencies as the World Bank, and is insuring new investments through the Overseas Private Insurance Corporation (OPIC).

In essence, we are providing full employment to torturers, camp guards, and a military caste at our own expense.

### 3) TO ADMIT CHILEAN REFUGEES AND ALLOCATE RESETTLEMENT FUNDS

As a result of the pressure from the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees (Sen. Edward Kennedy, Chairman), the State Department has agreed to admit a 'limited' number of Chilean refugees to the United States. However, the year old program has been characterized by bureaucratic red-tape and secrecy. As of April, 1976, only 35 refugees and their families have been admitted, in glaring contrast to the speedy processing of refugees from other countries.

The refugees who have come were all political prisoners. They have arrived in the US with little money, and many of their sponsoring agencies have presented them with bills for plane fare, lodging and food. Neither job training nor English classes have been provided.

It is the responsibility of the US government to aid Chilean political prisoners in a *real* way. What assistance is admission into our country without any possible means of survival?

## Come to Washington!

Letters and telegrams cannot compare in effect to the personal presence of a Congressperson's constituents before him as representatives of an important cause. We must take full advantage of the extra sensitivity that members of government feel during an election year to the concerns of those who put them in office. We must prove to Congress that support for the freedom of the Chilean people is an important issue in this country today.

We will not sit back and watch. We must pressure Congress to stand up to those who would rather see Chile suffer than seek her own path. We will serve notice on both the Republican and Democratic parties that we take seriously the application of principles they claim to hold dear. We will demand that they act in our and the Chilean people's best interests!

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Organizations listed for identification purposes only

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## Conference Information

### AGENDA

**PLACE:** Gonzaga High School  
900 N. Capitol NW  
Washington, DC  
(between H and K Streets)

**TIME:** The Conference will take place on Sunday,  
May 16, 12-6pm, with a mass rally in the  
evening. Lobbying will be conducted all day  
Monday, May 17. REGISTRATION will be  
held on Saturday evening, 8-11pm at the  
Chile Legislative Office (see address below),  
or Sunday morning.

### SUNDAY

12-1:30 **OPENING SESSION**, including up-dates  
on the current situation in Chile and the  
status of legislation in Congress regarding  
Chile.

2-4pm **WORKSHOPS:** In-depth examination of  
conference demands and approaches to  
winning them.

4-5pm **PLENARY SESSION:** focusing on  
"How to Lobby" as well as workshop  
conclusions.

5-7pm **DINNER BREAK**

7pm **MASS RALLY**, featuring greetings from  
the Chilean delegation of parliamentarians  
which will be in Washington at the time  
of the Conference, and a showing of the  
film Companero.

### MONDAY

The program will include:  
\*\* Area meetings  
\*\* Lobbying  
\*\* Lobby Report-back

### PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

For Conference participants who register before  
May 7, the registration fee is \$4.00. The fee for  
those who register at the Conference is \$6.00.

- Enclosed is my registration fee of \$4.00
- I will not be able to attend the Conference,  
but here is my contribution toward the effort
- I will need housing in Washington, DC.

For more information, contact either:

National Chile Center  
156 Fifth Avenue/Room 516  
New York, NY 10010  
(212) 989-0085

Chile Legislative Office  
120 Maryland Avenue NE  
Washington, DC  
(202) 544-3067

Please return preregistration forms to  
National Chile Center

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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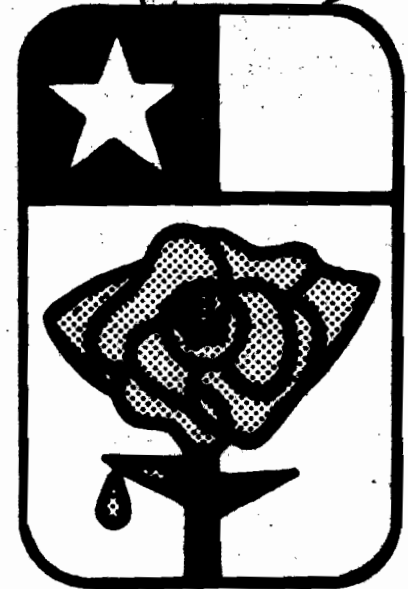
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# WE WHO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF CHILE

(NLCC)



## CALL UPON CONGRESS TO ACT NOW!

National Legislative  
Conference  
on Chile  
May 16-17, 1976  
Washington, DC