



Weekly Review



CHILE: A MONTH LATER

The junta government, a month in power this week, has launched a campaign to improve its international image. The regime shows no sign of relenting in its determination to deal swiftly and decisively with dissidents, however, and the bloodshed goes on.

Foreign Minister Huerta used his appearance before the UN General Assembly this week to justify the military take-over and accuse Cuba of interference in Chile's internal affairs. He charged Havana had secretly shipped enough weapons to Chile to equip a 20,000-man paramilitary force. Responding to this charge, Cuban Foreign Minister Roa merely denied that Cuba had introduced arms into Chile surreptitiously. He said that they had in fact been requested by President Allende.

In the face of an unfavorable US Senate resolution and a continuing bad press abroad,

junta President Pinochet issued an open invitation to US legislators to travel to Chile for a first-hand look at what is happening there. Christian Democratic and National Party politicians are abroad defending the coup, and the government is stressing its cooperation with international agencies concerned with prisoners, refugees, and political asylum. The government plans to issue a "white book" detailing the corruption of the Allende years and exposing "Plan Z," the alleged blueprint for a bloody seizure of total power by the left that was foiled by the military coup.

Security considerations still have first priority with the junta. The line between people killed during attacks on security forces and those captured and executed immediately has become increasingly blurred. Other individuals have been sentenced to death by military courts for crimes like armed resistance, and there are increasing



The junta



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reports of prisoners being shot while "attempting to escape." Publicly reported executions total over 60, but the figure probably is closer to 200. Attacks on security forces appear to be on the upswing, and the government may have grounds for its concern that the left is regrouping for a concerted campaign of sabotage and guerrilla activity.

On the international scene, over 40 nations have extended some form of recognition to the junta. The regime is trying to maintain Chile's position as a nonaligned nation, and Foreign Minister Huerta's UN speech sounded some familiar, if less abrasive, notes in the areas of sovereignty over natural resources, economic imperialism, neo-colonialism, and the law of the sea.

USSR-Chile: An Interruption

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The Soviets are now trying to portray the withdrawal of their diplomats from Santiago as something less than a full "break" in relations.

When the USSR "broke" relations with Chile on 21 September, the diplomatic note used a form of the verb preryvat (to suspend or interrupt) rather than a form of the much stronger razryvat (to break into pieces), the verb chosen when Moscow broke relations with Israel in June, 1967. Razryvat is used to describe Cuban and North Korean actions in severing relations with Chile. To further ease the blow, Moscow has placed no time limit on the departure of all Chilean Embassy officials. Warsaw broke relations on 11 October, leaving Romania as the only Eastern European country maintaining ties with Santiago.

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