

# ROLLS ROYCE ENGINES SNATCHED FOR CHILEAN JUNTA

## labour Government Gives in to Allende's murderers



## **ACTION!**

- 1) SIGN THE PROTEST TO JAMES CALLAGHAN OVER THE SEIZURE OF THE ENGINES AND THE GRANTING OF THE EXPORT LICENCES.
- 2) SEND MESSAGES OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT TO: THE JOINT SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEE, CONVENORS' OFFICER, ROLLS ROYCE, EAST KILBRIDE, SCOTLAND
- 3) COMMIT YOUR ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THE OXFORD CHILE JOINT COMMITTEE, (c/o 232 Cowley Road, Oxford tel: 0x6. 45678)

## ROLLS ROYCE ENGINES RETURNED TO CHILEAN JUNTA

September 11

1973 Hawker Hunters powered by Rolls Royce engines strafe and bomb the Presidential Palace where Salvador Allende fought to defend his elected government against the military forces led by Gen. Pinochet. On instructions from the Tory government the British Embassy in Santiago closes its doors to Chileans seeking asylum from the military repression.

November  
1973

Eight Rolls Royce engines for Chile's Hawker Hunter bombers being overhauled at East Kilbride are blacked by AUEW workers but four finished engines are secretly shipped out from Liverpool.

March  
1974

James Callaghan, Foreign Secretary, says "OUR POLICY TOWARDS THE (Chilean) MILITARY JUNTA WILL BE GOVERNED BY OUR DESIRE TO SEE DEMOCRACY RESTORED AND HUMAN RIGHTS FULLY RESPECTED THERE" (House of Commons 27 March 1974). A few minutes later he added that existing contracts for arms "ARE BEING URGENTLY REVIEWED BUT WE SHALL NOT GRANT NEW EXPORT LICENCES FOR ARMS". Harold Wilson,

May  
1974

Prime Minister, says in May, "AS FAR AS THE OVERHAUL (of the Rolls Royce engines) IS CONCERNED, THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE CHILEANS PROVIDES FOR TERMINATION ON THREE MONTHS NOTICE. ROLLS ROYCE WILL EXERCISE THIS CONTRACTUAL RIGHT AT THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST."

Throughout  
1974

Shipyard workers operate boycotts on two frigates being refitted in Scotland and on two submarines ordered by Chile. Since then all have been delivered to the Pinochet dictatorship, after the workforce were threatened with mass redundancies if work did not continue.

November  
1977

A Scottish court rules that the aircraft engines, which have been lying in crates in the yards of the East Kilbride factory (following the blacking imposed by T&GWU workers), are legally the property of the Chilean government and order Rolls Royce to hand them over. Soon after, the Department of Trade and Industry issue export licences for the blacked engines - effectively breaking Callaghan's promise - and challenging the Scottish trades unionists' 4 year boycott. Justification for the granting of the licences is that the repairs have been paid for and that the engines are the property of the Chilean government. This is believed to be untrue.

July  
1978

Callaghan avoids any commitment to his 1974 promise by saying "THIS IS NOT A MATTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER". Although it is doubted that the engines are usable - they have been lying in the open - the government quietly lets the legal process take its course. The only force with-holding the engines from the Chilean regime is the trades unionists' determination not to touch them. The court ruling allows bailiffs to enforce the possession order, But, at Rolls Royce the management has an agreement with the Unions that non-union labour cannot enter the factory.

5th July  
1978

Sunday Telegraph speculates on a plan for a 'lightning raid' to repossess the engines using non-union labour.

18 August  
1978

Rolls Royce workers at East Kilbride meet to assess their position. They decide they cannot legally prevent the Chilean government taking possession of the engines. But, they reaffirm their commitment of solidarity with the Chilean people by refusing to have anything to do with the removal of the engines.

4.15 a.m.  
Saturday,  
August 26  
(Bank  
Holiday  
Weekend)

Bailiffs accompanied by police and drivers from Harveys Haulage enter the Rolls Royce factory in East Kilbride and snatch the four crates containing the jet engines destined for Pinochet's Hawker Hunter bombers. Within two hours they are on the road. The three lorries (Reg. numbers believed to be: DKT 333K, MON 68LG and VCS 937S) are said to be heading for BRIZE NORTON - RAF base 15 miles from Oxford. The Ministry of Defence denies all knowledge of this route.

The seizure of the engines was a cleverly planned raid designed to outwit the labour movement of Britain which has so actively condemned and campaigned against the Chilean dictatorship since 1973. By allowing the engines to be moved the Labour Government has sold the trades unionists down the river. The government is further condoning the Chilean dictatorship by returning to them their weapons of repression.