

A stylized world map in shades of blue. The country of Chile is highlighted in red, as is the United Kingdom. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with the Americas to the west and Europe/Africa to the east.

CHILE AND THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT

TRADE UNION CONFERENCE REPORT

**CHILE FIGHTS
SPECIAL ISSUE**
CHILE LUCHA N°7-18

20p

Chile Solidarity Campaign

Chile and the British Labour Movement

Solidarity with the People of Chile

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NUPE NUR NUSeamen NUSheet Metal Workers NUGSAT NUTGW POEU
SLADE SOGAT Tobacco Workers Union T&GWU*

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The Labour Party* and 60 Constituency Labour Parties	The Young Communist League
The Communist Party of Great Britain	The Labour Party Young Socialists
The International Socialists	London Cooperative Society
The International Marxist Group	Political Committee
	Liberation

Other Affiliates

39 Trades Councils.
Austin, BMC National, David Brown (Leigh), Rover Solihull, Rover Tyseley,
Scotstoun Marine, T&GWU Heathrow, and Vauxhall Dunstable Shop Stewards
Committees.
The National Union of Students and 36 students' unions.
The National Union of School Students.

Local Chile Solidarity Committees

Aberdeen	East Anglia	Leigh	Portsmouth
Bath	East London	Lewisham	Redditch
Birmingham	Edinburgh	LSE	Rochdale
Bradford	Exeter	Luton	St. Albans
Brighton	Falkirk	Manchester	Scottish Chile
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Coventry	Ilford	Norwich	Swindon
Crawley	Kent	Nottingham	West London
Cumbria	Lancaster	Oldham	West Middlesex
Darlington	Leeds	Oxford	Wolverhampton
Dundee	Leicester		Worcester
Durham			York

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* not formally affiliated, but officially represented on CSC Executive Committee.

Chile and the British Labour Movement

Solidarity with the People of Chile

A Report on Progress and a Guide for Future Action

On September 11 1973, Chile's democratically elected Popular Unity Government was overthrown in a violent military coup. President Allende was murdered. Some 30,000 of his supporters were killed. The military regime which has governed Chile since that day has systematically suppressed all democratic and trade union rights, killed, tortured and imprisoned thousands of men, women and children, and acquired a reputation for crass brutality exceeded only by Nazi Germany. Where repression stopped, starvation started: the military junta has applied devastating 'free-enterprise' policies that surpass even the wildest dreams of Aims of Industry, with terrible consequences in inflation, unemployment and hunger for the mass of Chileans.

Trade unionists the world over responded with a wave of solidarity such as has not been seen since the Spanish Civil War. We in Britain can be proud of our role in this international movement — protest actions, boycotts, the adoption of more than 200 Chilean prisoners, assistance in the settlement of 1,300 refugees, and continual pressure on our Government to isolate and act against the military junta in Chile. We are involved in this because we know that the forces of fascism in Chile are the same ones that threaten us. They can appear anywhere, and they must be fought wherever they do appear. On this understanding our Labour Movement has acted.

On October 25 1975, the Chile Solidarity Campaign, of which I am Hon. Treasurer, held a trade union conference in London. More than 440 delegates from 266 different trade union organisations came to discuss what they had achieved so far, and what to aim for in the future. They declared their full support for the struggle of Chilean trade unionists to free themselves from the brutal oppression of the fascist military dictatorship, and they told of their own experience, their successes, their difficulties and their failures in this work.

This pamphlet is a report of the conference, a summary of solidarity actions so far, and a practical guide to solidarity work in the future. I recommend you to read it, and to take action.

ALEX KITSON, Executive Officer, T&GWU

CHILE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN
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What is happening in Chile?

Military Rule

Since September 11 1973, Chile has been under military rule. There is still, today, a curfew every night. Congress is closed, and no elections of any kind are permitted. Political activity is completely forbidden, and all political parties, without exception, are either suspended, or illegal. The Government is a junta of four generals, one each from the army, navy, air force and police. The head of the junta and president of Chile is the army general, Augusto Pinochet Ugarte. They rule by the simple device of signing decrees. The press, radio and television are all under direct or indirect censorship. The law, if "law" it can be called, is military law under the State of Siege, and "offenders" are dealt with by military tribunals. Even education is under direct military control, and the rectors of the universities are military officers.

Chile at War

Chile is at war – the war of the combined armed forces of a country against its own people. Massive raids are still conducted, particularly against working-class housing estates, and the shanty-towns. The chosen neighbourhood is surrounded by infantry (and often tanks) while soldiers methodically search every single house, arresting on suspicion, intimidating the women and children, and looting personal possessions that take their fancy.

DINA

But there is a more selective and more sinister means of control – the DINA, a gigantic intelligence service, which can only be compared to Hitler's Gestapo. DINA agents are at work in every factory and office, listening and taking note. By night they go in plain clothes and unmarked cars to make arrests. Their victims, most of them trade unionists, simply disappear – there are no documents or warrants, and the arrests are always denied. Bound and blindfolded, the prisoners are taken to private houses which conceal special torture centres.

Sheila Cassidy

In one DINA torture centre, the British doctor, Sheila Cassidy, was tied naked to a bed and given violent electric shocks to the breasts, body and genitals. She has told of other women she met in prison, who had been in another centre, the "Venda Sexy", where they were raped by a dog specially trained for the purpose, and had rats inserted in their vaginas. Husbands are tortured in front of their wives, and both in front of their children.

The "Missing" Prisoners

There is no record of the arrests of these people. The junta denies that they exist, or invents false stories. A group of teenage boys was shot "while attempting to blow up an electricity pylon" — in fact all had been arrested two or more days prior to the alleged incident, and the bullet holes in their bodies showed that they had been executed by firing squad, with targets pinned to their chests, and subsequently the bodies dumped beside the pylon. The luckier ones reappear after weeks or months, among the thousands of detainees in the prisons and detention centres with which Chile is now littered.

The Real Generals

This war is being waged by the Chilean armed forces. But the real generals are as usual miles, and the chief of them thousands of miles, behind the firing line. These are the men who sit in the corporation offices of ITT, Anaconda and Kennecott, the staff of the CIA, and last, but not least, Henry Kissinger. They, together with a handful of Chile's big businessmen and landowners, planned the coup in Chile, and today ensure that the new "government" acts in their best interests. Crucial to their planning were the middle sectors, and the right-wing leaders of the Christian Democrat Party, who held or manipulated the allegiance of a portion of the working class.

The Camp Followers

Besides the men in uniform, there are plenty of civilian spectators, gathered at the field of battle, in hope of taking home the spoils. Doctors, businessmen, shopkeepers, engineers, lorry-owners — people who were persuaded that the Popular Unity Government threatened their interests. But their ranks are thinning now. The military have treated them with contempt. Most are suffering economically as never before in their lives. And some, indignant, have been imprisoned. Others still hover in the wings, hopeful of inheriting the power of the junta, without the responsibility for the massacre that made it possible.

Genocide

The war in Chile is also a massive blockade against the Chilean people. Inflation and unemployment are given free rein, while wages are savagely restrained, and social services, health care and education are

reserved strictly for the wealthy. In two years prices have risen by 32 times, while wages have gone up only one third as fast. On the day of the military coup a loaf of bread cost 11 escudos. Today it costs 2,500 escudos, or 2.5 pesos, because the new unit of money, the peso, was set at 1,000 units of the old. One in every four families now has no means of support. An entire generation of children is growing up with the physical marks and the mental retardation produced by severe malnutrition.

The Resistance

Confronting the terrible apparatus of repression is the great mass of the Chilean people. They have not submitted. Each night the slogans of resistance are painted on the walls. An entire borough of Santiago recently staged a rent strike. The political parties print and circulate their illegal newspapers. CUT, the Chilean TUC, has circulated a platform of struggle. In the factories, trade unionists publicly and angrily reject the miserable wage awards offered by management; they demand not only more money and better conditions, but freedom for the prisoners, and reinstatement for those laid off. Small farmers, shopkeepers, professionals, small businessmen add their protests. The churches, under direct attack by the junta, with priests and nuns imprisoned, set up a Committee for Peace to defend the prisoners and help their families. The junta closed it down, but still the work continues. Church services are turned into mass protest meetings. The miners held a public act of homage to four of their leaders, killed by the junta. A mass movement of protest forced the junta to abandon plans to introduce a new, corporatist, labour code. Publicly in the churches, trade unions, and every remaining legal mass organisation, and underground in the cells of the political parties, in the CUT, and in committees based on the workplace or neighbourhood, a powerful movement of anti-fascist resistance is being forged.

The Balance Sheet

Two and a half years of military rule have taken a terrible toll:

30,000	Killed
2,500	Missing
150,000	Arrests
8,000	Long-term political prisoners
300,000	Exiles — refugees from the political repression, or simply from starvation
750,000	Unemployed — 25% of the total labour force
70%	Unemployment in poorer urban areas
300%	Annual inflation
65%	Reduction in wages
Abolished	Free milk for children
Closed	9 provincial universities
Confiscated	All property of the Chilean TUC
Burned	Hundreds of tons of books
Shut down	5 daily newspapers, dozens of radio stations, hundreds of magazines

Repression of Trade Unions in Chile

The Central Unica de Trabajadores (the Chilean TUC)	– BANNED
Textileworkers	
Metalworkers	– FEDERATIONS DISSOLVED
Bakeryworkers	
Copperworkers	– UNIONS SUSPENDED, FUNDS FROZEN
Teachers	
Elections of officers	– BANNED
Collective bargaining	– SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY
Strikes	– ILLEGAL
Working hours	– INCREASED
Meetings during working hours	– FORBIDDEN
Meetings outside working hours	– SUBJECT TO MILITARY CONTROL

Two years in the life of the people is like a drop of water in the ocean, but for our people it has seemed like one long unending night. In scarcely 800 days the junta annihilated every vestige of democracy and freedom . . . it has brought our country to the very edge of total disaster. Our workers, our people do not accept this situation, and they are fighting in the struggle to overthrow the dictatorship – men and women are joining from different political backgrounds, with different ideas, and different religious beliefs. You can see ordinary workers in company with priests and nuns going round the working class neighbourhoods to distribute food and the necessities of life to the unemployed, or going to visit the prisoners in the concentration camps, carrying out different forms of protest action against the junta. From January (1975) until October, there have been some 2,500 different actions, strikes and others, in industry and in the countryside. They take different forms – sit-ins, work-to-rules, go-slows and so forth. It is not easy for workers to take this kind of action, because of the highly organised system of informers the junta has in industry, and also because strikers are subject to the death penalty. More than 100 trade union leaders have paid with their lives

because of their decision to fight against the dictatorship of General Pinochet. But we can say that CUT, our TUC, is working clandestinely. It has an underground newspaper which is sent to every part of Chile, and passed on from hand to hand to be read. The Popular Resistance Movement is also carrying out similar actions, including the regular scrawling of slogans in the streets (despite the curfew). Not only all political forces, without exception, but also the entire Trade Union Movement is opposed to the junta. In two years the dictators have been unable to create a sham trade union movement (and they have been trying to do so with every means at their disposal) – a movement which would be to their taste and which would do their work. We can say with pride that despite the limitations that the trade unions suffer in Chile today, not one single trade union is on the side of the junta.

Luis Figueroa, President, CUT

What has been achieved in Solidarity in Britain

The solidarity of the workers and of the people of Great Britain constitutes a moral encouragement, a stimulus for the struggle for democracy and freedom in our country. But it is not only that we are fighting to try to win back our democracy, our freedom. It is a question of annihilating the policies imposed upon us by the multi-national corporations that put in their present place the fascist regime in Chile.

Luis Figueroa, President, CUT

International solidarity is indispensable for the struggle of the Chilean people against fascism; only in this way can the military junta be weakened and isolated from its principal sources of support, which are the US Government and its agencies, the CIA, the international financiers, ITT and the other multi-national corporations of the US, Europe and Japan.

Conference Declaration

Two Years of Solidarity in Britain

- (September 1973) Massive protests force Tory government to send telegram urging junta to spare life of Chilean Communist leader Luis Corvalan.
- Half of Chile's Hawker Hunter jet fighters grounded for lack of engines. Rolls-Royce workers at East Kilbride refuse to service engines. Later T&GWU transport workers refuse to move them to be shipped to Chile.
- AUEW blacking at Rolls-Royce persuades government to cancel Rolls-Royce contract.
- 1300 Chilean refugees settled in Britain. Most are found housing, English classes and ultimately jobs. Scholarships provided for study.
- 200 Chilean political prisoners adopted by British trade unions and other organisations. Seven are freed as a result of this pressure.
- (September 1974) More than 10,000 demonstrate in Trafalgar Square on the first anniversary of the coup in Chile. Welsh miners and Merseyside trade unions send special trains.
- (February 1975) Mass campaign within the labour movement persuades the British government to refuse to renegotiate Chile's debts. Cost to the junta in 1975 alone £2.5 million – less to spend upon repression.
- Britain votes condemnation of junta at United Nations, after campaign to stiffen government position.
- (December 1975) Britain withdraws ambassador from Chile following torture of British doctor, Sheila Cassidy.
- NUR crane drivers at Newhaven refuse to unload Chilean onions. Cargo rots.
- (January 1976) TUC demands halt of all arms supplies to Chile, and end to training of Chilean military personnel.
- 600 unemployed seamen in Liverpool refuse work on ships sailing to Chile, following NEC instruction of NUS.
- Over half total membership of TUC affiliated through their unions to Chile Solidarity Campaign.
- Liverpool dockers hide leaflets in cargoes bound for Chile, with message of greetings and solidarity to Chilean workers.
- Welsh miners offer jobs, housing and support to 50 Chilean miners.
- NALGO makes adoption of Chilean prisoners official policy.

Put Pressure on the Government

Achievements so far:

- The AUEW blacking of Rolls-Royce engines persuaded the government to cancel a servicing contract with the Chilean Air Force.
- Pressure from the trade unions and the Labour Party twice forced modification of the British position at the United Nations to a firmer stance of condemnation of the junta.
- A mass campaign from May 1974 until February 1975 finally persuaded the British government to refuse to renegotiate Chile's debts to Britain, and to assert that it would not renegotiate them until the junta's record on human rights improved.
- Following the debt decision, Britain has twice abstained at the World Bank, rather than vote in favour of loans to the Chilean junta.
- Trade union pressure has helped to keep the doors open to Chilean refugees, and to ensure continued government finance for the refugee programme.
- Thousands of letters, telegrams and resolutions have persuaded the government to take up the case of individual prisoners in Chile, and to grant visas to those released.
- Strong public protest over the detention of Dr. Sheila Cassidy persuaded the government to withdraw the British ambassador from Santiago, when it was revealed that Dr. Cassidy had been tortured.
- Britain continues to give no aid to the junta, and will grant no further export licences for armaments.

Britain's Labour government is now identified by the Chilean generals as one of their principal opponents in Europe. But its policies were formed and carried out because of the mass pressure and concern at the situation in Chile expressed by tens of thousands of working people in Britain.

Striking against the Junta's Finance

In February 1975 the British government refused to renegotiate the Chilean debt. Chile owes Britain about £120 million, of which £15 million

were due to be repaid in 1975. The junta, faced with its own appalling economic mismanagement, requested "renegotiation"; if conceded this would have meant postponing repayments for a number of years. In other words the loan would have been extended.

The Treasury and Foreign Office prepared their arguments: it was a "strictly financial matter" — political considerations should not be allowed to enter in. But when the Labour Party Conference (November 1974), the TUC, and scores of trade union branches and local Labour Parties sent in a flood of resolutions denouncing such arguments, the government changed its mind.

A number of other countries followed Britain's lead. The World Bank postponed a loan to Chile, on the grounds that the junta was not credit-worthy. And the junta's cabinet resigned to make room for a major reshuffle. Now the junta is refusing to pay up, and the pressure is on to persuade our government to exact repayment, applying sanctions if necessary.

Three weeks ago (September 1975) the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party carried a resolution saying that Chilean assets in this country should be seized. ("Because . . . the Chilean junta are now defaulting on the debt payment to Britain . . . and the ECGD is having to pay out indemnity to the British exporters, the NEC calls on the government to now impound Chilean assets in Britain, such as submarines, aero engines and other investments, and in addition, to demand that the World Bank and the IMF stop all loans to the junta.") That resolution was not carried unanimously; it was opposed by Cabinet Ministers on the National Executive. The vote was successful as far as the Labour Party itself was concerned. So it is our job, the trade unions' job, the TUC's job, to ensure that the pressures have got to be put on Callaghan, the pressure has got to be on Denis Healey, on the issues of the assets as well as the debt."

*Alex Kitson, Executive Officer,
T&GWU, and Member,
Labour Party NEC*

The government is still resisting implementing the Labour Party NEC resolution, and is not making any effective move to obtain payment. If this policy continues, then we are making a free gift of our loan to the junta. The government says that to seize assets would be illegal, that contracts must be honoured. But what honour can there be in supplying the fascist junta in Chile? What legality is there in the junta's refusal to pay its debts? The junta is waging economic war upon the Chilean people. We must wage economic war upon the junta.

Britain should not merely abstain, but actively oppose loans by international agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to Chile. And at home our Export Credit Guarantees Department (ECGD) should cease to supply insurance cover to British companies exporting to Chile.

Diplomatic Blows

The Labour Party opposed diplomatic recognition of the Pinochet regime in September 1973, but in government Labour did not withdraw recognition. It is argued that the presence of a British embassy in Santiago permits pressure to be put upon the junta to release prisoners, and to moderate its violations of human rights. Breaking off diplomatic relations would be a stronger pressure still, but at least, in the light of the torture suffered by a British citizen, Dr. Sheila Cassidy, the British ambassador was withdrawn (January 1976). He should not be returned to Santiago.

Votes of condemnation against the junta in international organisations are important to emphasise its growing isolation. They also give strength to the resistance, and multiply the contradictions within the ever-shrinking ranks of junta supporters. At ILO, UNESCO, the UN Human Rights Commission and the UN General Assembly, the junta has been isolated, exposed and condemned. Pressure is necessary to ensure that British delegates at these organisations take the lead in moves against the Chilean regime.

Arms for the Repression

The British government will not grant any new contracts for armaments to the Chilean junta. And it has finally agreed to cancel the contract for servicing Rolls-Royce engines. But it steadfastly refuses to cancel outstanding contracts. Since Labour came to office, two brand new frigates and a refitted destroyer have been delivered by British shipyards to the junta's navy. But work on a second destroyer and on two new submarines continues. Not only are the crews of these ships in Britain, but they are being trained at Ministry of Defence establishments. And thousands of spare parts are being shipped from British military supply bases to Chile.

How the Government Justifies Shipping Arms to Fascists

The government believe that the proposal to prevent the Chileans from taking delivery of their submarines oversteps this line and could be seriously damaging to our own interests. This is why we have consistently said that the existing contracts for naval sales would be allowed to go through. To seize or to refuse to permit the export of the submarines could not be justified in international law, quite apart from exposing us to allegations of bad faith. As a major trading nation, we have a strong interest in upholding international law, whatever others may do.

There are also financial and commercial arguments for not interfering with the delivery of ships which we are under contract to supply. Our

reputation as a reliable supplier would be bound to suffer seriously if we prevented the export of ships owned by foreign countries. British shipbuilders and manufacturers might effectively be excluded from a number of export markets if, in addition to the fierce competition they are now encountering, they had to overcome the fears of potential foreign buyers that the British government are ready to interfere with contracts. There are, at the moment, prospects for contracts worth over £200 million for constructing merchant marine and naval craft in Latin America alone. To impound the submarines might well increase the risk that overseas governments would entertain doubts about our reliability and endanger jobs at home. The same consideration must apply to the return to Chile of the refitted destroyer and the overhauled aero-engines. Of course, I can confirm that we shall conclude no further contracts of this kind with the Chilean government.



*Letter from Ted Rowlands,
Under-Secretary of State at the
Foreign Office, to the Chile Solidarity
Campaign. November 1975*

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

GENERAL SECRETARY, LIONEL MURRAY OBE

CONGRESS HOUSE · GREAT RUSSELL STREET · LONDON WC1B 3LS

The TUC have written to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary expressing the deep concern of the General Council at the continuing inhuman activities of the Chilean authorities, and in particular at reports of torture being inflicted on Dr. Sheila Cassidy, and at the repression of the Chilean interdenominational Co-operation Committee for Peace.

They urged the British government to take all possible steps in opposition to the regime, which should be denied any assistance whatsoever. In particular they asked that no military equipment, such as aero-engines or naval vessels should be delivered to Chile until democracy is restored there.

TUC Statement, January 1976

Evidently, more pressure is required to convince the government.

What to Press for

- Britain to demand payment of the Chilean debt to us, and to apply
- sanctions for non-payment:
- seizure of Chilean assets in Britain
- arrest of Chilean ships docking at British ports
- freezing of Chilean bank accounts in Britain
- an end to ECGD guarantees on export credits for short- as well as medium- and long-term contracts

- Britain to vote *against* loans to Chile at the World Bank and IMF
- No delivery of the two new submarines, the refitted destroyer, and the overhauled jet engines, to the Chilean armed forces
- Embargo on delivery of spares for Chilean armaments
- Halt to training of Chilean military or police personnel
- An open door policy for Chilean refugees, and continued support for the resettlement programme
- More rapid granting of visas to political prisoners in Chile whose release and safety depends on this
- An end to British Council scholarships for Chileans nominated by the junta
- Firm British opposition to the junta at the United Nations and other international organisations
- Action to secure the release of the British citizen William Beausire, detained by the junta, and now missing
- Expulsion from Britain of the junta's ambassador, who called Sheila Cassidy a liar and a coward

Solidarity with Political Prisoners

Achievements so far:

- (October 1974) Freedom for Carmen Castillo, arrested by the junta after a shoot-out in which her husband, Miguel Enriquez, a resistance leader, was killed
 - (August 1974) Two British lawyers visit Chile to assist the defence at the trials of Chilean Air Force officers and ratings accused of sedition and treason
 - John Platts-Mills QC goes to Chile to gather evidence of repression in the universities and to assist the defence of Luis Corvalan
 - More than 200 Chilean prisoners adopted by British trade unions, trades councils, student unions, women's organisations, etc.
 - Pedro Cornejo, CUT leader adopted by NUPE Hammersmith Branch, released and arrives in Britain as refugee
 - Thousands of letters and telegrams are sent to Chile, bringing moral support to the families, and pressure for the release of the prisoners themselves
 - Delegations of MPs and trade unionists demand from the Chilean Embassy information about the whereabouts of prisoners, and their immediate release. British government pressed to take up many individual cases through diplomatic channels.
 - Jack Jones twice visits Chile (1974 and 1975) on behalf of the ITF and ICFTU to press for the release of trade union prisoners and to discuss their defence with the Committee for Peace
- Special campaign for the sailors imprisoned in Valparaiso

There are about 8,000 persons in prison in Chile today. The vast majority are ordinary workers and students who have committed no crime other than to be supporters of the constitutional government of President Allende. They are packed into overcrowded cells in prison camps which have sprung up all over the country. They are left for years without charges or tried by military courts that make no pretence of justice. They are tortured with electric shocks and subjected to sexual perversions of all kinds. Their families are left without support and suffer more than any in the deep economic crisis raging in Chile at the moment.

Adoption of Prisoners

Every kind of pressure helps — letters, telegrams, resolutions, demonstrations, questions in Parliament, etc. The crucial point is publicity: a prisoner's life depends upon a constant spotlight of international attention upon his or her case.

Adopting Workmates

One of the most effective means of pressure on behalf of prisoners is by their adoption by organisations. Trade union branches can adopt a prisoner from a similar union in Chile. Through the *Chile Committee for Human Rights* they obtain the name of the prisoner, place of detention and details of the case. Letters are written to the prisoner, to the prison authorities, and efforts are made to establish contact with the family. Even when there is no response, or letters do not reach the prisoner, he or she is already helped — because the junta discovers that a foreign organisation is concerned, a fact which will make it hesitate before torturing or killing the prisoner.

Writing Letters

In many cases, letters reach the prisoners and their families, and are a source of inspiration and comfort. Replies, read out in trade union branch meetings here in Britain, seldom fail to bring home the reality of the situation in Chile in a direct way which is much more effective than second-hand propaganda.

Finding Jobs

Efforts are made to find a job in Britain for the prisoner and to press the British government to grant him or her a visa. Meanwhile the pressure is maintained upon the junta and the prison authorities to commute the prison sentence for one of exile.

Publicity

Publicity is vital. Local press and radio are usually interested in publishing the adoption and any letters received. Members of the adopting organisation must be regularly informed, so that all can participate. NALGO now publishes information about adoptions as a regular item in its journal, *Public Service*, and other unions are beginning to do the same. If the prisoner is eventually released and reaches Britain, there are tremendous opportunities for publicity.

Cost

Many trade union branches ask about the cost of adopting a prisoner, fearful that they might be committing themselves to paying fares and

maintenance. If the prisoner is released, fares to Britain are paid by the United Nations. On arrival, the refugee has access to social security, and there is a special organisation, *The Joint Working Group for Refugees from Chile in Britain*, which will receive the prisoner and make arrangements for his or her welfare. The adopting organisation has no further responsibility, although of course many will wish to meet 'their' prisoner and provide whatever assistance they can. While the prisoner is still in Chile, the only cost is that of postage for letters. Some adopting organisations have sent money directly to the prisoner's family, though more usually such donations are made through the Chile Committee for Human Rights, which channels money to organisations in Chile which help all the families of political prisoners.

Unions at Present Participating in Adoption

Trades Councils	ASTMS	CPSA	NUR
Burnley	Manchester	Manchester	London SE
Cambridge	Paddington	Edinburgh	North London
Edinburgh	Charing Cross	Salford	West Ealing
Greenwich	Swansea		
Gravesham	Crystal Palace	NALGO	NUJ
Hackney	Oxford	Camden	Edinburgh
Hyndburn	Preston	Clwyd	London West
Halifax		Herts	Oxford
Hull	AUEW	Crawley	E. Northants
Harlow	Hull	Bury	
Ilkeston	Medway	Oxon	NATFHE
Lewisham	Dundee	Manchester	Cambridge
Liverpool	Crawley	Southwark	Oxford
Manchester	Kirkstall	Essex	West London
Nottingham		Livingstone	Ewell County
Redditch	APEX	Nottingham	Barnet
Southampton	London SE	Avon	Herts
Southwark	Industrial	Dorset	Coventry
	London City	Telford	South London
	& Central	Greater London	Thames
AUT	Leeds General	Wandsworth	
Manchester	Holborn		
Liverpool			

also: NUT, NATSOPA, NUGSAT, T&G, EETPU and students unions

Patience

It may take months or years to secure a prisoner's release. But adoption is important because of the protection it affords, and because of the encouragement it brings. Much patience is required.

Our overall aim is to overthrow the junta. But while that is being engineered, we have got to help people as far as possible . . . In my experience we have put a lot of pressure and embarrassment on the junta . . . and it's not only for the prisoner as an individual — the grapevine is great, and it's going the rounds in the prisons in Chile that the people of England are concerned about them . . . My own trades council (Southwark) adopted Manuel Rosales because he was a municipal worker, and it was done in conjunction with the local NALGO branch who did most of the donkey work and paid for the postage to get him out. As a municipal worker he had been a union official for about 15 years, and for that crime, being an obvious target for the junta, he was detained indefinitely without trial. And I am very pleased to say that through the efforts of NALGO that man is with us today. I had the honour and privilege to buy him a drink last night here in London . . . (applause)

Tom Pilfold, Chairman, Greater London Association of Trades Councils

CHILEANS ADOPTED BY TWO MORE BRANCHES

TWO MORE NALGO BRANCHES — the GLC and Livingston new town — have decided to adopt Chilean trade unionists and try to obtain their release from prison and permission for them to come to this country.

At its meeting last month, the GLC branch executive decided to adopt two public service employees imprisoned by the Chilean government — Carlos Olivera Villacuro and Oscar Soto Bustos. If it proves possible to obtain their release into exile in Britain, the branch will approach the GLC to provide for their accommodation in one of the "low-letting" properties specially set aside for Chilean refugees. The branch will also help both men find suitable employment.

In the meantime, the GLC branch is to make a donation of £50 to the Chile Committee for Human Rights to help it in its work on behalf of imprisoned trade unionists.

Livingston new town branch has adopted Francisco Gomez, a former state employee in the Chilean department of employment and finance who has been in prison without trial since last

May. He held an important position in the Chilean TUC. The branch hopes to get Senor Gomez released for trial and then allowed to come to this country with his wife and two children.

● The Chile Solidarity Campaign has asked British trade unionists not to buy the Chilean wine that is now being sold in increasing quantities in this country at cheap prices. The wine is understandably cheap — since the Junta took over the incomes of the peasant producers have been halved, their leaders arrested and their organisations banned.

*Public Service
The voice of NALGO
January 1976, Vol. 50 No. 1*

HULL BRANCH TASS Journal January 1976

Former Chilean political prisoner expresses gratitude

IN June the Hull branch decided to adopt a Chilean political prisoner, Gabriel Rodriguez, a twenty-nine year old civilian engineer who was teaching at the School of Engineering at Santiago University at the time of his arrest in January and who was currently in a concentration camp in Valparaiso.

In line with the request of the Chilean TUC in exile to demonstrate international solidarity in a concrete fashion, the branch wrote both to Senor Rodriguez's camp commandant, expressing our concern and requesting information about the prisoner's health and welfare, and also to his mother in Santiago.

Four weeks ago the branch received the following reply from the ex-prisoner, now resident in Britain.

Dear Brothers,

My mother in Chile sent me a few

days ago your letter in which your union expressed its concern for my situation as a political prisoner.

I would like to thank you all most sincerely for your concern and solidarity. This along with support from other organisations, helped to get my release from the concentration camp and to bring me to your country. Now I am studying at Oxford University with the aid of a British Government grant.

My experience during the last months that I stayed in my country has strengthened my belief that we must fight unceasingly for the human rights, release of prisoners and an end to the tortures and state of internal war in Chile. But I am convinced that the struggle will be a long one. It is necessary to eradicate fascism so that workers will again have the right to live freely and with

dignity. I knew of the Resistance and I work-d for it and I can assure you that it continues even under such hard conditions of repression.

Actions like the one your organisation has achieved help to keep high the morale of the thousands of prisoners and in general of all the Chileans who seek for democracy and peace.

Please accept my most sincere gratitude.

*Fraternally,
GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ.*

As a result of this success, the branch has now won support for both our Divisional Council and the Hull Trades Council to take similar action and thus further assist the campaign to isolate the Chilean junta and win support among British workers for solidarity with the people of Chile.

Press for Release of Political and Trade Union Prisoners What You Can Do

Protest at the continued detention of Popular Unity leaders, and the mock-trial that is being prepared against them in Valparaiso
Publicise the plight of 100 Chilean naval officers and ratings detained before the coup for refusing to participate in it, and the similar situation of many other soldiers, airmen and police who refused to jail, torture and fire upon their own people

Demand the release of the women prisoners and an end to the imprisonment of children

Publicise the tortures and demand justice against the torturers

Contribute money to send British lawyers to Chile to take up the defence of political prisoners

Adopt a political or trade union prisoner and press for others to do likewise

Report regularly to your members on the progress of your adoption case and publicise it in local press and radio and in your union journal

Contribute to the Chile Committee for Human Rights, which administers the adoption programme and sends funds to church organisations in Chile which assist prisoners, their families and the unemployed

The address to write to is: Chile Committee for Human Rights

1 Cambridge Terrace

London NW1

Tel: 01-935 5953

Helping Refugees from Chile

Achievements so far

Over 1,300 Chilean refugees have been settled in Britain, 800 in 1975 alone. Over 90% of all the Chileans have been found permanent accommodation. Of the 300 families, 102 have been housed in local authority housing (45 in Scotland, 21 in Greater London). 42% of the heads of families and single adults have received awards to study through the World University Service (WUS) scholarship scheme, which is funded by the Ministry of Overseas Development. 27% are working full-time. 25% are unemployed (this includes new arrivals who are studying English). 6% are on full-time or part-time government training courses.

Distribution

Greater London—
277
Scotland—248
Yorks/Humberside
—177
North-West—146
South-East—119
East Anglia—93
West Midlands—64
South-West—56
North-East—37
East Midlands—37
Wales—31

During 1975 the flow of refugees into Britain has been steady at 50–70 per month. This rate will continue throughout 1976, which means that we must house another 200 families. With the exception of some of the students, most of the refugees have been settled and cared for by local committees of the Chile Solidarity Campaign, or special refugee reception committees set up for the purpose.

Refugee Programme

While the British government maintains its 'open door' policy, refugees will continue to arrive from Chile, so long as the repression there continues. Most of the new arrivals come directly from the prisons and concentration camps. They are taken under military guard to the airport in Santiago, reunited with their families, and 16 hours later arrive in London. Many have been tortured, and are seriously weakened physically, and often psychologically as well, by prolonged imprisonment. Their families, and in particular the children, often show signs of malnutrition.

Argentina

In all, the coup in Chile has created more than 300,000 exiles people who were forced to flee in danger of their lives, or simply because they were dismissed from their jobs and had no possibility of supporting their families. Many are now in Argentina, where the political situation is steadily deteriorating, and they are subjected to police harassment, and attack by right-wing terrorist groups. They cannot find work, are forbidden political participation, and live the terrible and listless lives of stateless, homeless persons. It may be necessary to bring some of them to Britain, particularly if matters in Argentina worsen.

The Open Door

The right for refugees to come to Britain was one of the earliest demands of the Chile Solidarity Campaign. It must be preserved so long as the need remains.

No Mere Charity

Most Chilean refugees want to return to their country as soon as they can. Helping them here is an essential part of solidarity. And they must be helped not only to survive in Britain, but to take the best possible advantage of their stay to acquire training and skills which will be desperately needed in Chile when the junta is overthrown and they can return. Finally, as Chileans they can speak with the moral authority of direct experience. We must give them platforms, invite them to our meetings, and publish their stories as part of the work of informing our members, and the public as a whole, about the situation in Chile.

Refugee Reception

On arrival in London, refugees are taken to a hotel used by the Joint Working Group as a reception centre. As soon as a committee has made arrangements to receive a family or group, they are sent on to the town which will become their place of residence. **Accommodation** must be provided. Individuals can be lodged in the homes of British families, but it is usually better to move families, especially those with several children, into permanent or semi-permanent housing. Some local authorities will provide council housing. Others provide access to short-life houses. The refugees must be signed on with **social security**, and introduced to the essential services, especially **medical** and **dental care**, and **schools** for their children. **Furniture** must be found for their homes, and often they arrive with little in the way of **clothing**. Arrangements can be made with local colleges to provide **English classes** for medium and large groups. Small groups and individuals will probably have to be taught on a voluntary basis by

local teachers. **Community Relations Councils** generally provide assistance, and in a number of towns which have received larger groups of refugees, the local authority has paid for a full-time Spanish-speaking social worker — in many cases a member of the local Chile Solidarity Group. Trade unions can help by urging local councils to provide housing, and by cooperating in the search for **employment**, encouraging the refugees to become members of and play an active part in the trade union movement. The refugees easily become isolated, so that every effort should be made to involve them both in local life and in Chile solidarity work.

But the real success will be when we are saying 'Cheerio' to the refugees, and they return to a free Chile. We'll not rest until we've achieved that.

*Alex Ferry, AUEW Glasgow
District Secretary*

What You Can Do

- Contact the Joint Working Group or local Chile Solidarity Committee to find out whether there are refugees in your area
- If there are none, then there is much to be done to involve the local labour movement in the formation of a committee to prepare to receive refugees
- Press for the provision of local authority housing
- Teachers unions can help in the provision of English classes
- All trade unions can help to find jobs and to provide union membership for refugees
- Invite refugees to address your organisation, and ensure publicity for their story in local press and radio

Blacking

Achievements so far

- (November 1973) Liverpool dockers black Chilean ship
- AUEW workers at Rolls-Royce East Kilbride refuse to service Chilean fighter engines
- T&GWU Scottish transport workers refuse to move fighter engines
- Weir Pumps, Cathcart. Pumps for Chilean warships blacked
- Anderson Mavors, Glasgow. Gear-boxes for conveyor belts for Chilean mines blacked
- GEC Bradford. Switchgear for Chilean submarines blacked
- STUC and TUC make official consumer boycott of Chilean wine
- (February 1976) Simultaneous pickets in 14 towns throughout Britain of Ravel shoe shops selling Chilean footwear
- (September 1975) NUS instructs British seamen not to sail on ships calling at Chilean ports. 600 unemployed seamen in Liverpool refuse to sign up on PSNC ships
- NUR crane drivers at Newhaven docks refuse to unload Chilean onions. Cargo rots
- BMC workers refuse to allow export of spares and components to British Leyland factory in Chile
- ICI Northwich workers resolve to produce nothing more for Chile
- ITF orders affiliates to commence systematic harassment of Chilean transport from January 1 1976
- Port workers at Rosyth refuse to service Chilean frigate
- Workers at Pirelli, Southampton, urge management to obtain copper elsewhere than from Chile

Blacking is Important

The Chilean junta depends on foreign finance and foreign investment; on its ability to import arms and machinery and to export copper, nitrates, timber products, and the vast surplus stocks of food, clothing, shoes and other goods which the Chilean people need, but cannot afford to buy.

Blacking actions took place in Britain within days of the coup itself, and have since been one of the most important contributions of British solidarity. Even partial or temporary blackings have useful effects:

- they make trade with the junta more expensive and more risky
- they make British companies hesitate before investing in Chile
- they set an example to be followed by trade unionists elsewhere and abroad
- they disrupt the junta's plans, and shake the confidence of its supporters
- they bring great encouragement to Chilean workers

These boycott actions have helped to secure the freedom of almost 10,000 prisoners. It is true that the junta is still there, in power, and that it continues with its policy of repression, but we have achieved partial successes, and the freeing of these prisoners would not have been possible without international solidarity, and above all without these boycotts . . .

Each action, however tiny it may be, has two effects: it strikes a blow at the junta, and creates worries for the businessmen, who start getting a bit shy about signing commercial contracts if they think the goods might get blacked. But it also helps to raise class consciousness, because if today we can get a blacking carried out on behalf of a distant country, and it's a successful action, it shows the working class its own immense potential for confronting in the future any difficult situation which crops up in its own country.

Luis Figueroa, President, CUT

Blacking isn't Easy

It's no light matter to ask workers to risk their wages, and even their jobs, in solidarity with the workers of a distant country. So that people can understand why they should take such action, they must first know about what is happening in Chile, and why that should concern them.

They should be told clearly and without exaggeration and as honestly as they can be told, and they will understand why economic sanctions and boycotts should be imposed on Chile. Not for one day, not for two days, not even for a week, but until Pinochet and his regime are dead and democracy returns to Chile.

Jimmy Symes, Chairman, Merseyside Docks Shop Stewards Committee

Inevitably, requests for blackings tend to be made to the dockers. They naturally look for support to other workers . . .

. . . we don't think that it's just a problem for the dockers, or the seamen, but it's also a problem for the lorry-drivers, the railwaymen, the engineers, the chemical workers and others.

Luis Figueroa, President, CUT

. . . Jimmy Symes is quite right. Boycotts do not start and end at the docks: boycotts start with seamen in Chilean ports like San Antonio, and ports like Antofagasta and Valparaiso. That's where it starts, and that's why the Executive Council of the National Union of Seamen took the decision to boycott goods, because we believe that it would act as a catalyst to every other trade union in Great Britain. We know the results of the boycott, we know how it will affect the transport workers, the dockers, and the road hauliers. We know how it will affect the motor car workers and all that depend on copper.

Joe Kenny, NUS, Liverpool Branch

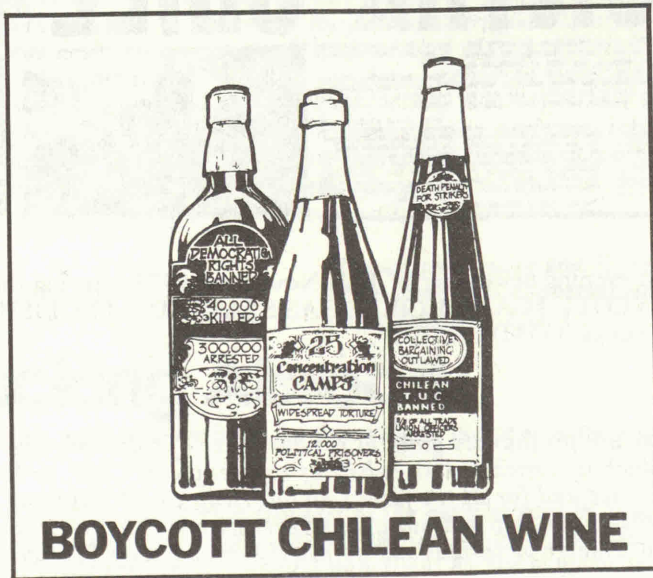
We will certainly examine our lists of imports into Vauxhall vehicles and see if there is any Chilean copper, and we will do our utmost about that . . .

*John Conibeer, Vauxhall Luton
Shop Stewards Committee*

Whatever the difficulties, blackings are continuing.

There are 600 unemployed seamen in Liverpool at the moment, and there is a ship just sailed from Liverpool to Chile with 670 tons of cargo on it. And not one of those Liverpool seamen would step aboard that ship. If this isn't a solidarity response, following NEC leadership, I don't know what is. Our NEC is 90% unemployed seamen, and they made the decision, and they got the response quite rightly from the Liverpool seamen.

Joe Kenny, NUS, Liverpool Branch



Poster produced by the Chile Solidarity Campaign, and later distributed by the STUC.

This representative council supports a complete boycott of all goods to Chile, especially armaments. Conference pledges its support to all workers who engage in this form of action and further demands that the British government withdraws all recognition of the military junta.

AUEW-TASS 1975 ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

La Segunda
con las noticias de mañana

£º 30

PRECIO AEREO: £º 40

AÑO XLI — 12.578 — Martes 13 de Noviembre de 1973

■ EL Comandante en Jefe del Ejército y Presidente de la Junta Nacional de Gobierno, general Augusto Pinochet, ha designado los nuevos mandos que tendrán a su cargo el año 74 los altos cargos que a continuación se indican:

General Manuel Torres de la Cruz, a la Inspección General del Ejército; general Héctor Bravo, Director General de la Defensa Nacional, general César Benavides, Comandante en Jefe de la 3.ª División de Ejército; general Joaquín Lagos, Director del Comando de Apoyo Administrativo; general Sergio Arellano, Comandante en Jefe de la Segunda División de Ejército; general Augusto Lutz, Director de Instrucción y Secretario de la Junta de Gobierno; general Javier Palacios, Director de Comando e Institutos Militares; general Washington Carrasco, jefe de la Misión en Italia; general Fernando González, Comandante en Jefe de la División de Caballería; general Agustín Tora, Comandante en Jefe de la 3.ª División de Ejército; general Nino Flody, Comandante en Jefe de la División de Ejército; coronel Pedro Yochum,

Comando de Tropas del Ejército; coronel Aquiles López, Comando de Infraestructura; coronel Rolando García, Director de Operaciones; coronel Sergio Pallos, Director de Inteligencia Militar; coronel Carlos Osvaldo, Comando de Apoyo Logístico; coronel Sergio Caldeza, Director de Material de Guerra; coronel Ricardo Sepúlveda, Director de Sanidad.

En el mismo boletín se señala que los siguientes generales han solicitado su retiro voluntario de la institución, al comandarse en Jefe del Ejército y Presidente de la Junta, general Pinochet, pero, considerando que en los voluntarios que vive el país, se hace necesario más que nunca contar con su eficiente colaboración se ha decidido que continúen desempeñando sus cargos, como se indica: general Ernesto Barza, Director General de Investigaciones; general Raúl Contreras, presidente de la Comisión de Energía Nuclear; general Carlos Araya, alto cargo del Arca COBRO.

La nota señala además los oficiales superiores designados para cumplir comisiones en el extranjero y el nuevo director de la Escuela Militar, que será el coronel Suro Robbe.

Portuarios ingleses se niegan a descargar la carga

PARTICULAR BOYCOTT CONTRA CHILE

■ LONDRES, 13 (AFP).— Los estibadores del puerto británico de Liverpool, se niegan a descargar los barcos provenientes de Chile, anunció hoy aquí el Sindicato de Transportes.

Liverpool, principal puerto por donde pasan las mercancías provenientes de Chile y con destino a este país, es el único puerto inglés afectado por este movimiento de boicot.

Por ahora la medida no ha producido efectos importantes, pues no se ha señalado la llegada de ningún carguero proveniente desde Chile.

Sin embargo, esta actitud podría tener importantes consecuencias para las exportaciones británicas hacia Chile si el boicot se prolonga.

municipal de la ciudad decidió no comprar más mercancía chilena.

Gran Bretaña importa por año unos 100.000 toneladas de cobre chileno que en su mayoría llegan por Liverpool.

Este boicot provocó una reacción en el mercado de cobre en Londres donde se esperaba una estabilización de la cotización de este metal y en el día de hoy, la cotización de 80 libras (unos 2.185 dólares) se ha abierto a 86 libras (2.160 dólares) al cierre del mercado.



■ LA PAZ, 13 (Latin).— Carlos Castedo Velasco, acusado de haber organizado en Chile el secuestro del ex Ministro boliviano Jorge Gallardo Lora, fue retirado del servicio consular boliviano hace cuatro meses, informó Mario Gutiérrez, Cónsul de esta país y actualmente presidente boliviano.

En declaraciones formuladas al diario "Prensa" Gutiérrez negó que Castedo Velasco fuera miembro del cuerpo consular boliviano en Santiago. Agregó que fue retirado de esas funciones hace ya cuatro meses por estar ausente marítima.

■ TEMUCO.— Severas sanciones están recibiendo los Ritractos, el fogón de queda en Temuco. Antrax de

A Santiago evening newspaper of 13th November 1973 carrying the headline — "THE BOYCOTT AGAINST CHILE HAS STARTED — ENGLISH DOCKERS REFUSE TO UNLOAD CARGO".

... We are profoundly grateful for every act of solidarity and support which is carried out on behalf of the people of Chile, to help us overthrow once and for all the fascist dictatorship which rules our country. With your help and our own efforts we are absolutely sure that we will emerge victorious and defeat those who staged the coup.

We ask:

- 1) Don't move any cargo whatever, be it bound for or from Chile.
 - 2) Don't load or unload a single ounce of copper.
 - 3) Every Chilean ship should be blacked. Don't load arms for Chile. Refuse every kind of economic aid or support for the Chilean fascists.
- LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**
VENCEREMOS — WE WILL OVERCOME

Translation of hand-written leaflet, discovered by Italian dockers in a cargo of fishmeal from Chile

Protecting Chilean Workers' Interests

People often wonder whether they might not be harming Chilean workers by boycott action. But the call for this action has come from the Chilean workers themselves and from the CUT, their TUC. They believe that foreign trade will bring them no benefit. The profits will go directly into the coffers of the junta, and be used to finance still greater expenditure on armaments and repression. No amount of trade could benefit the workers of Chile more than the speedy overthrow of the military junta. The contribution that they ask of trade unionists abroad is to isolate that junta, by a complete diplomatic, political and economic blockade.

These so-called 'non-traditional' exports, which the junta is promoting at the moment — items like wine, fruit, vegetables, meat, shoes, textiles and so on: why are they non-traditional? Because our country has never produced enough of these to supply our own people, let alone to export them. Why are they being exported now? Because the prices are so high, and the wages are so low that our people cannot afford to buy them, even though they are starving, and our children go barefoot and are dressed in rags. The military dictators are taking the food from our mouths and the clothes from our backs to export them. That is why you must boycott these products.

*Humberto Elgueta and Rene Plaza,
CUT leaders, in conversation with
Alex Kitson (T&GWU)*

Blacking Abroad

British workers have been far from alone in the actions they have taken.

In Australia, the service-workers at the main airport in Sydney agreed to start a boycott against the Pinochet dictatorship. With much pomp and pride the junta opened a new flight by the Chilean airline LAN across the Antarctic to Sydney. The comrades of the airport unions refused to unload baggage, and blacked the fuelling and servicing of the planes. After four days the military junta agreed to allow an Australian trade union delegation to go to Chile, visit the prison camps and talk to the prisoners. Only then did the workers agree to service the planes. The delegation went to Chile, and on its return reported that it had been able to certify the truth of all the denunciations that had been made about the horrors of the repression. From that day on no Chilean plane has been able to land in Sydney. [Applause]. The comrades of the of the Water Board in Sydney agreed to join in the boycott, and twice a week they cut off the water supply to the offices of LAN, the Chilean

airlines, in Sydney. [Applause]. But in addition, a public campaign was started. Quite a number of passengers had bought tickets and could not travel, since there were no flights. They were invited to sue the airline, and quite a number did so. Now, LAN-Australia is bankrupt, because they cannot afford to refund the ticket money. [Laughter and applause].

Luis Figueroa, President, CUT

Australian trade-unionists forced their government to cancel shipments of wheat to Chile. Italian banking workers have refused to handle the documents for exports to Chile. In Holland the imports of Chilean fruit and vegetables were terminated after action in the ports, and there have been similar actions in Sweden, Hamburg, Marseilles, Le Havre and even on the Pacific coast of the United States.

International Coordination

Blackings in one country are an important incentive for similar actions elsewhere. The arguments for some international coordination are powerful, and there are signs that this will be achieved soon. Both WFTU and IEFTU have established special committees to liaise with the Chilean trade unionists in CUT.

We are now moving towards a higher stage in the organisation of boycotts. We are going to discuss this in the Athens conference, and the discussion won't be a theoretical one. We shall be asking, "When, Where and How?" I can tell you that we've had talks with the dockers in Helsinki, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Genoa, Le Havre and Marseilles . . . We're working on getting a coordinated boycott at the European level . . . and we're working in Latin America, and even in the USA, on the possibility of getting a simultaneous boycott along the entire Pacific coast . . . But it would be impossible to even think of a European or American boycott if it had not been for the 24 or 48 hour boycotts that you, the workers of Britain, have already carried out. Your actions opened the way forward for the new plans we have now. And we are even more optimistic. The way forward is being opened in the international trade union movement for a simultaneous and coordinated international boycott. And let the multi-nationals stop and think of what they are going to be up against if they continue with their policies of aggression.

Luis Figueroa, President, CUT

One of the most optimistic signs of progress was the circular sent by ITF in December to all its affiliates:

(from circular to all affiliated organisations dated 10 December 1975)

The ITF has cabled the leader of the junta, General Pinochet, denouncing the dissolution of the Committee for Peace and informing him that this action has strengthened the ITF's determination to do all in its power to weaken his dictatorship.

We now ask you, in accordance with the Board's decision, and with effect from 1 January 1976, to take any action you can against Chilean ships and aircraft whenever the opportunity arises. It is not always easy, we know, to undertake a full boycott for an indefinite period, but the junta can be seriously embarrassed by measures such as selective boycotts (with the minimum of notice), go-slows, "technical "difficulties", over-scrupulous observance of administrative or legal formalities and any other devices which serve the same purpose. The range of possibilities will obviously vary according to national circumstances but we are sure that the ingenuity of our affiliates is such that almost all of them will be able to find one way or another to respond to the Executive Board's call.

What You Can Do

- Support the National Union of Seamen's boycott of ships sailing to Chile. Send telegrams and resolutions of support to **Jim Slater, General Secretary, National Union of Seamen, Maritime House, Old Town, London SW4**
- Support the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) programme of harassment of Chilean transport
- Look out within your industry for any products or materials coming from or bound for Chile
- Ask your union's research staff to find out what Chilean goods might be being handled by your members
- 85,000 tons of Chilean copper is imported to Britain annually. Find out where it is used, and how it is transported
- Forward resolutions on blacking and boycott to your union's national conference, and to the TUC
- Press for an end to the stocking of Chilean wine, fruit, vegetables, shoes, etc. in shops in your area
- If you are in a position to black something for Chile, Chile Solidarity Campaign can supply leaflets, speakers and information to help you to put the case
- Sometimes a partial blacking — of a crucial component, for instance — is as effective as a total one, and easier to arrange because less work will be lost by it
- Inform and seek the support of other trade unionists who may handle the same goods, further along the line, in transport, despatch, clerical sections, etc.
- For further information contact the Chile Solidarity Campaign.

Why should we care about Chile? Fighting Fascism

Not for nothing did thousands of British workers enlist in the International Brigade and fight in Spain. And it is no coincidence that shortly before Franco's death, General Pinochet wrote to him, stating that their regimes, in Spain and Chile, were a common cause, and that the two of them should stand together. But fascism can occur anywhere, including in Britain. And the continued struggle of our labour movement against fascism is linked to our work of solidarity with the people of Chile.

In attacking the resort to fascist methods in Chile, the British labour movement is contributing to its own defence against any similar attempt in Britain.

Conference Declaration

Our solidarity is no mere charity. For what we can achieve in defence of the workers of a strange and distant country is a powerful demonstration of what a struggle we will wage in our own defence against the same forces that acted in Chile, and which, in more subtle ways, act here — imperialism, the multi-national corporations, and monopoly capital.

*Alex Kitson, in Labour Monthly,
January 1976*

I think we have got to review the situation of fascism in the world, not just as a question of what good we can do for the people of Spain, or Chile, or anywhere else . . . but more particularly with regard to the defense of our own position.

Sid Easton, T&GWU Region 1

The engineers in this audience should remember or know that Babcock & Wilcox, British Leyland, EMI, Joseph Lucas, British Ropes, are British based companies which operate in Chile. Bowaters, British

American Tobacco, ICI, Lloyds Bank, Shell, Unilever and many others are the same. These companies in which we sweat make profit out of the misery of the Chilean people. But beyond that they gather experience in exploiting a working class, stripped of all legal organisation and expression.

*Harry Smith, National Organiser,
AUEW-TASS*

U.S. Imperialism and the C.I.A.

We cannot stand by and let a country go Communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people.

Henry Kissinger on Chile

We acted in the best interests of the people of Chile, and certainly in our best interests.

President Ford, September 1974

The CIA spent \$4 million in 1964 to finance the election campaign of Chilean Christian Democrat Eduardo Frei, who became president. In 1970, despite 750 stories about the 'threat to democracy' planted in the international press, they were less successful. Allende was elected. During the Popular Unity Government, the CIA fed stories to the right-wing press, and supported it directly with finance, and sophisticated packages of black propaganda. A CIA operative, Michael Townley, was sent to Chile to direct the instalation of an illegal right-wing television network. CIA money was used to finance the strike of lorry owners in 1972, and CIA money purchased the weapons used by right-wing terrorist groups. All this, and much more has been documented by the United States Congressional Committees charged with investigating the CIA.

I want to emphasize the role of the multi-nationals, because the reason for the situation in Chile, as the United States government has openly recognised, is the manoeuvres of ITT and Kissinger, who helped overthrow the Popular Unity Government, and not only helped overthrow, but actually gave the instructions for the time it would be overthrown.

*Barry Denny, NGA London Region
Political Committee*

But the CIA is also active closer to home — in France, in Italy — where it has funded the Christian Democrat Party, and undoubtedly also in Britain.

Let there be no mistake about it — the CIA operates in Britain.

*Harry Smith, National Organiser,
AUEW-TASS*

The Multinationals in action in Chile

I told Mr. Vaky to tell Mr. Kissinger that Mr. Geneen (ITT Senior Vice President) is willing to come to Washington to discuss ITT's interest and that we are prepared to assist financially in sums up to seven figures. I said Mr. Geneen's concern is not one of "after the barn door has been locked", but that all along we have feared the Allende victory and have been trying unsuccessfully to get other American companies aroused over the fate of their investments, and join us in pre-election efforts. Mr. Vaky said to thank Mr. Geneen for his interest and that he would pass all of this on to Mr. Kissinger. He offered to keep us informed.

*ITT Internal Document,
September 1970*

ITT made every effort to prevent the election of Salvador Allende as President of Chile in 1970. They offered "a sum in seven figures" to the US government to "assist" in preventing the confirmation of Allende's election by the Chilean Congress. And when the Popular Unity Government was installed, in November 1970, they produced a plan for its destruction by economic sabotage, identical in every important detail to the "destabilisation" which was in fact applied from 1970 to 1973.

The US copper companies, **Anaconda**, **Cerro** and **Kennecott** fought against the legal expropriation of 'their' mines in Chile. When they lost this battle, and the entire Chilean Congress, including the right-wing opposition, confirmed the nationalisation, they made every effort to disrupt Chile's copper exports — by taking out injunctions in European courts against Chilean cargoes which took many months and thousands of pounds to overturn.

Ford and **General Motors** closed their plants in Chile when Popular Unity came to power, and prevented the supply of spare parts to Chile, thus immobilising thousands of vehicles, especially buses and lorries.

The Chilean subsidiary of the British company **Unilever** was deeply implicated in the economic sabotage of Popular Unity. Supplies of soap and detergents were restricted and then channelled into the black market.

Shortly after the military coup in 1973, the manager of **British Leyland's** Chilean subsidiary presented a gift of four MG cars to the members of the military junta, despite the protests of BMC workers in Britain.

Trade unionists have on several occasions actively opposed the actions of the multi-nationals in the third world.

In 1974 the Philip's workers in Holland supported the strike action of workers in a Philip's subsidiary in Columbia. As a result of a

campaign that included the setting up of a strike fund for the Columbian workers, higher wages and social security payments as well as security of employment was won.

A group of workers in the Polaroid factories in the US started in 1971 to question the company's policy in South Africa. Not only were conditions for black workers in Polaroid's subsidiary very bad, but Polaroid cameras were used by the South African authorities to take pictures for the hated pass-books that all non-whites have to carry.

The Fight for Socialism

Solidarity with the people of Chile is also a part of their fight, and ours, for socialism. The overthrow of the junta is a vital step, but it is only the first step. We can be sure that the Chilean people will need our continued solidarity. Even after a complete victory, they will still require our solidarity, as the Vietnamese people do today, in the struggle to rebuild their country.

Why do we have to take up Chile? First . . . it is part of our job, which activists have in the unions to fight for socialist policies . . . and we have to explain very clearly . . . that if they are adopted by the labour movement in this country, at a certain stage, if they go far enough, the ruling class is going to put a road block in your way . . . And it seems to me, that that's the first point you've got to make . . . that the fight for socialist policies is bound up in understanding what happened in Chile and that you must be prepared to fight against that road block which the ruling class puts in your way.

**S. Potter, NALGO Coventry
Metropolitan Branch**

The torch of socialism, once having been ignited, will never die. But it is the responsibility of us, as a Labour Movement, as socialists, as internationalists, to support the people of Chile in their struggle.

**Jimmy Symes, Chairman Merseyside
Docks Shop Stewards Committee**

From the last words of President Salvador Allende broadcast to the people of Chile on September 11 1973, shortly before the bombardment of the Moneda Palace began:

I am certain that the seeds which we have sown in the consciousness of thousands and thousands of Chileans can never be extinguished. They have the armed strength. They may be able to place their yoke upon us. But social change cannot be halted by crime nor by force. History is ours for it is made by the people . . . You can be sure that much sooner than later the broad avenues will be reopened whereon free men march to build a better society.

True Internationalism

I wish that this discussion could be translated into every language and published in every country of the world, because during the brief hours of this conference, absolutely fundamental issues have been touched on.

First of all I should mention the identity of interest between the workers of Chile and those of Great Britain. Delegates have expressed their concern at the resurgence of fascism in different parts of the world, and the idea that has emerged more or less clearly is that fascism has no nationality, and that wherever there is oppression, injustice or oppression, the seeds are sown for a resurgence of fascism. This is absolutely true. But in addition this conference has underlined the absolutely humanitarian nature of our class, the working class.

For me it has been truly moving to listen to the denunciations of tortures, rapes and murders. It is clear that the grief felt for these tragedies that have befallen others in a distant and foreign country, is absolutely sincere and heartfelt. This goes to show the fibre and quality of the consciousness of our class, and the fundamentally humanitarian character we have. Such gentle grief for the pain of others is never found among the monopolists and those who own and run the multi-national corporations. They are living through a period of moral and material decadence. They seek escape in drugs and pornography. Escape from a world which they see dying, but which will be born again through the work of the hands of the workers.

Forgive me for speaking in this way. I am deeply moved, because only through the kind of direct contact afforded by this conference can one get to know a class beyond the boundaries of nation, flag and language, and perceive the true nature of the international workers' movement.

But this conference has also underlined the internationalist character of the British workers, which is something they have as part of a rich heritage from the past, as a result of the struggles of many generations.

Luis Figueroa, President, CUT

Chile Solidarity Campaign Trade Union Conference
Saturday October 25 1975

DRAFT DECLARATION

THIS CONFERENCE OF TRADE UNIONISTS

Declares its full support for the struggle of Chilean trade unionists to free themselves from the brutal oppression of a fascist military dictatorship;

Notes that after two years of military rule, repression is still increasing, directly via arbitrary arrest, detention without trial, and torture, and indirectly via economic policies that have more than halved real wages, allowed prices to rocket and thrown hundreds of thousands out of work; that meanwhile all forms of collective bargaining are outlawed, elections to trade union posts are forbidden, and strikers face the death penalty; that thousands of trade unionists are detained without trial, and many have disappeared without trace since their arrest, while others are forced to flee into exile with their families; that DINA, the Chilean Gestapo, has paid informers in every workplace, and operates with complete immunity, responsible only to General Pinochet;

Recognises that it is the Chilean people itself which will overthrow the military junta, by the efforts and organisation of its political parties, its trade union movement, and with the support of all Chileans who oppose fascism;

But reaffirms that international solidarity is indispensable for the struggle of the Chilean people against fascism; only in this way can the military junta be weakened and isolated from its principal sources of support, which are the US government and its agencies, the CIA, the international financiers, ITT and the other multinational corporations of the US, Europe and Japan;

In the conviction that in attacking the resort to fascist methods in Chile, the British labour movement is contributing to its own defence against any similar attempt in Britain.

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO WORK:

- to publicise throughout the British labour movement the truth about events in Chile, through meetings, film shows, pamphlets, articles, leaflets, etc.
- to secure the freedom of trade union and political prisoners in Chile, through protests, resolutions, delegations and the 'Adopt a Prisoner' campaign.
- to press the British government to withdraw all forms of support for the Chilean regime.

- to assist Chilean refugees arriving in Great Britain, and to help them to explain their case to the labour movement.
- to bring an end to all British trade with or investment in Chile, while such action is requested by the Chilean trade union movement.
- to respond to the requests for solidarity made by the Central Unica de Trabajadores, the Chilean TUC, which has been banned by the junta.

AT THIS TIME WE MAKE A SPECIAL CALL UPON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

- to cancel all outstanding arms contracts with the Chilean regime and armed forces, and in particular to refuse to hand over those submarines, destroyers and aero-engines at present in Britain.
- to take the lead in the General Assembly of the United Nations to move the condemnation of the Chilean military regime for its persistent violations of human rights, to establish economic sanctions and an embargo on arms sales to the junta by member states.
- to persist in refusing to renegotiate the Chilean debt, and to take the further steps necessary to make this policy effective, by demanding economic sanctions, including the seizure of Chilean assets in Britain, if payment is not forthcoming.
- to take measures to secure the supply of copper to Britain from countries other than Chile.

AND UPON THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT:

- to give every possible support to the initiative of the executive council of the National Union of Seamen in calling for a boycott of British ships sailing to or from Chile.
- to support the stand of the Transport & General Workers Union in refusing to allow Rolls-Royce aero-engines to be shipped to Chile.
- to make every effort to halt the supply of goods, especially machinery, vehicles and chemicals to Chile.
- to bring every pressure to bear to halt British imports from Chile, especially of copper, nitrates, timber products, wine, fruit, and vegetables, all of which can be easily substituted from other sources.
- to give positive support to other trade unionists involved in boycott action.
- to speed up the adoption of Chilean trade union prisoners, which has already helped to secure several releases.

Conference Summary

Sponsoring unions: ACTT, ASLEF, ATTI, AUEW, AUEW-TASS, NALGO, NATSOPA, NUM, NUPE, SLADE, SOGAT
Chairmen: Alex Kitson, Brian Nicholson (T&GWU)
Platform: Luis Figueroa, Pedro Cornego (CUT), Geoffrey Drain (NALGO), Harry Smith (AUEW-TASS), Tom Pilfold (Greater London CATC), Jimmy Symes (T&GWU), Alex Ferry (AUEW)

Delegates:

*ACTT	4	FBU	1	NUT	14
APEX	3	FTAT	1	*POEU	4
ASLEF	2	G&MWU	1	*SOGAT	6
ASTMS	28	*Musicians Union	2	*SLADE	6
*ATTI	28	*NALGO	68	T&GWU	54
*AUEW	56	*NATSOPA	5	*Tobacco Workers	3
*AUEW-TASS	17	NGA	1	UCATT	11
AUT	2	*NUGSAT	1	USDAW	1
Boilermakers	1	NUJ	3	Union of Workers &	
Burnley & Nelson		*NUM	7	O.A.P.s	2
Textile Workers	1	*NUPE	13	Trades Councils	51
*CPSA	12	*NUR	8	Shop Stewards Cttees	19
EEPTU	4	*NUSeamen	4		

Totals:

Delegates	444	Trades Councils	35
Unions	34	CATCs	2
Unions represented officially at NEC level (*)	17	Shop Stewards Committees	9
		Different organisations represented	266

Publications produced by the CSC

Chile Monitor, in-depth news bulletin about the Chilean situation

Chile Fights, regular campaign magazine

Subscription rates for ten issues:	Chile Fights	£1.75
	Chile Fights & Chile Monitor	£3.25
	Chile Monitor	£2.25

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Affiliation fees to the CSC (12 months):

Trade Union, Trades Council, smaller D C and organisations, local political branches	£5.00
Individuals	£5.50
Student Unions	£10.00
Regional organisations, larger D C local CSCs	£12.50
National bodies	£25.00

“The Chilean military regime has systematically suppressed all democratic and trade union rights, killed, tortured and imprisoned thousands of men, women and children . . . We in Britain can be proud of our role in this international solidarity movement, protest actions, boycotts, the adoption of more than 200 Chilean prisoners, assistance in the settlement of 1,300 refugees, and continual pressure on our government to isolate and act against the military junta in Chile. We are involved in this because we know that the forces of fascism in Chile are the same ones that threaten us . . .”

Alex Kitson,
Executive Officer, T&GWU

Printed by London Caledonian Press (T.U.) Ltd., Watford, Herts.

The printing of this pamphlet was made possible by the generous assistance of:
The National Society of Operative Printers Graphical & Media Personnel
The Society of Graphical and Allied Trades
The National Graphical Association

Designed by Fiona Macintosh