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Chile: meeting with Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary

This meeting will presumably be short. The points we have to make have almost all been raised in the Commons debate at the end of November.

The regime is a military dictatorship, and the coup was particularly violent and brutal.

The silencing of all those who might have supported the previous government is an obvious objective of the regime. It has included the dissolution of the Chilean TUC (CUTCH). Many prominent trade unionists have taken refuge in foreign embassies. There is a problem of getting them out of the country.

The most prominent is Luis Figueroa, President of CUTCH, now in the Swedish Embassy.

The British Embassy have apparently refused asylum to non-British nationals, and have not made representations about Mr. Figueroa. Fifteen other embassies have done so, and most West European embassies have given asylum to some people.

Work is going on for the Chilean regime in this country on military planes, warships, and submarines. Allowing it to continue will be taken as approval of the regime.

Aid is also continuing. It should certainly be reviewed, and those elements helpful to the regime discontinued. The government should adopt the same attitude in the international aid agencies, such as the World Bank.

/Admission

Admission and settlement of refugees in this country is apparently hedged about with restrictions and conditions. They should be reduced to the absolute minimum.

The regime will continue to be challenged by worker representatives in the ILO, and the government should support them in pressure to bring the regime to account, publicly and internationally.

JAH/DG
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