

BELFAST AND DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL

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Chile

With the Compliments of the

SECRETARY

Miss Betty Sinclair

Waring House, 6 Waring Street, Belfast, BT1 2EA
Telephone No. Belfast 26283

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The Belfast and District Trades Union Council protests most strongly against the destruction of the democratically elected Government in Chile by a brutal and reactionary military junta acting on behalf of the exploiters of the Chilean people and especially the international monopolies.

The Allende Government had expropriated the international monopolies, nationalised the large banks, established for the first time a public sector in the economy, carried out a land reform in the interests of the landless peasants, had largely overcome the chronic unemployment which had always afflicted the people under former Administrations and had, for the first time in the history of the people of that country, given the working class the opportunity of building a society of peace and progress.

The military junta is responsible for the murder of President Allende and thousands of others who supported democratic government, it has imprisoned and tortured thousands of others, it has outlawed the trade unions and all political parties, made bonfires of progressive and educational books and literature, including the poems and writings of the Chilean Nobel Peace Prize winner, the late Pablo Neruda.

The crimes of the military junta will go down in history alongside those of the German fascists. But the working class and progressive peasantry of Chile will rise again. To enable them to do this as quickly as possible they must be given the support of progressive movements, especially the trade unions, and persons everywhere. The Belfast Trades Union Council calls upon the British Government to cease forthwith its recognition of the military ~~govt~~ junta as the legal government of Chile. It calls upon the British and Irish Trade Union Congresses to take steps towards that end. It also calls upon the international trade union centres to act together immediately in defence of the common people of Chile.

Belfast & District Trades Union Council
Monthly Meeting, 4/10/73 - Adopted.