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República de Chile *Arte Schuster*
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores *a Dinacos*
Embajada en Caracas

EJEMPLAR No. _____ HOJA No. _____

E. CARACAS RESERVADO No. 416/83

OBJ: Remité artículo que critica falta
objetividad para tratar caso chileno.

REF: No hay.

CARACAS 28 DE julio DE 1978

DEL EMBAJADOR DE CHILE EN CARACAS

AL SEÑOR MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES (DINEX)

1.- Como anexo al presente oficio, cúpleme remitir a US. el recorte del artículo "Chile: a victim of a hit-and-run press?" publicado el 24 del presente por el diario "The Daily Journal".

2.- El artículo en referencia fue preparado -a nuestro pedido- por la señora Dorothy de Rosales, norteamericana casada con un compatriota residente en este país. En dicha publicación se puso énfasis en la falta de objetividad mostrada por los medios de comunicación al tratar el tema de Chile y para su ilustración se usó una de las fotografías de S.E. el Presidente de la República que US. tuvo a bien emitirme.

3.- La publicación ha tenido extraordinaria repercusión y ya he recibido muchos comentarios favorables a su respecto.

Dios guarde a US.

R. Díaz Gronow
Rigoberto Díaz Gronow
Embajador

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Autorización de: 1
solicitada por: ALEXANDRA SCHUSTER - DINEX
Cargo: CONTRATA
Objeto: DINACOS
Fecha: 9/8/78
Nota: usado un
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Chile

A victim of a hit-and-run

EDITOR'S NOTE — The following statement was prepared by a member of Venezuela's Chilean community and the views of one segment of the colony. The remarks paint a portrait of a nation and its leaders which does not frequently appear in the world's press.

Special to the Journal

A few short weeks ago, we read a headline in the Daily Journal (as well as in other local papers) that said, "Chilean press editorial on CAP called slander."

The Venezuelan Ambassador in Chile was indignant. It dealt with a criticism of President Perez with respect to Venezuela's "servilism" to the U.S., based on events at the OAS meetings. France's "Le Monde" came out with the same criticism, strangely enough.

We know what it feels like to be indignant. We are a sizeable Chilean colony here in Venezuela, readers of the Daily Journal and we sincerely believe it is now time to ask for space to present a more logical picture of Chile than we have read in the local press for nearly five years.

Glaring headlines appear on page one that are exaggerations, events lifted out of their context, twisted according to source bias or simply the personal opinions of a columnist.

Chile has been a favorite target for "violations of human rights" for these five years. While no country on earth is ever really free of some violations, Chile has been the butt for the press since September 11, 1973 when the military took over the communist fiasco in our country.

This press concentrates on us, it would seem, and the flagrant and often bloody violations of human rights in so many other countries are glossed over.

We had thought that once the real details of what happened in Chile under Allende were better understood by the outside world, our events would have become much clearer. This did not happen.

Allende's Chile

... General opinion was not aware of Allende's Chile — the camping ground for the world's ultra-left including Fidel Castro, in person, his "architects of democracy," Manuel Pineiro and Carlos Rodriguez, Tupamaros, Montoneros, reds from North Korea and China, Russians, Hungarians, Czech arms and all of this by the thousands.

But where was the press cry of "violations of human rights" in the Chile of those days?

"Who" cried for us?

No press defended the loss our rights to live in peace, to work, to eat if you please, to live in law and order.

We had to leave Chile and who cared then?

Now, nearly five years since peace returned to Chile, we have come to a logical conclusion with respect to our distorted international image: Chile represented a loss to Russia.

Russia was interested in 3,000 miles of South Pacific coastline and waters. As we looked back into history, we realized that once Russia had gotten in, she never lost, but this time she did. It was bound to hurt. And thru the voices of her people, her satellites and even "armchair liberals", the campaign came into being.

It is now becoming very obvious that this campaign against Chile is well-organized and financed from outside.

Recently, relatives of persons they claim "disappeared" staged a hunger strike in several Santiago churches. By some miracle, hunger strikes broke out in several countries at the same time. Coincidence? What wasn't printed later was that the



ANOTHER IMAGE — Gen. Augusto Pinochet Ugarte.

Chilean church, at first humanely sympathetic, realized it was a political maneuver and ended the strike.

A hit-and-run press?

The Daily Journal of July 17th printed yet another big headline with a Santiago (AP) dateline, of a Ms. Shirley Christian.

"Terror and prisons force Chileans to flee abroad."

On reading the article, we found that it was misleading and those choosing to leave Chile were doing so on their own, complete with crates of wine and absolute tranquility. However, Ms. Christian's obvious bias tripped her up when she wrote... "with Chile's jails now cleared of all but a handful of political prisoners..." Well? Where from here?

Several years ago, Gen. Pinochet invited Sen. Edward Kennedy down to see for himself after reading of the good Senator's opinions on "human rights" in Chile. He didn't accept the invitation because of these so-called violations, but he did accept an invitation to visit Moscow. Ironic.

Now that we have the anguished results of the "dissidents" trials, we have Cuba 90 miles from Miami and infiltrated into Africa, we need a definition of "human rights violations."

Occasionally we read something that helps. A Copley News Service writer, William Giandoni, recently wrote, "Chilean

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Exiles Returning." In this article he says, among other things, "the Chilean scene is really much better than we have been led to believe." "... the accusations against the government headed by Gen. Pinochet have been tremendously exaggerated."

What is it then?

Added to the communist's loss of Chile, we have the exiles forming strange bedfellows. The Washington Post recently offered a solution for the "liberation of the Chilean people" that suggested a union of the exiles with the so-called middleroad Christian Democrats to "return democracy to Chile." Considering the make-up of this union, we ask what "democracy," Allendes?

"Sour grapes" is a much used phrase but we think it is involved with the Chile of today, seen from the outside by the "outs." Since the military gave us back our sanity and our tranquility, faced up to the horrible problem of the imported violence and terrorism that had overtaken our country, Chile has come a long way back to normalcy, economically and socially.

We haven't had much help from abroad, thanks to our image, but Chileans are very good at belt-tightening and we believe deeply in what we are doing, and in our government.

What are human rights? It would seem that from the left, it is one definition for Chile, but for the Chileans, human rights are what we have now. It's as simple as that.