

INTERNAL (for AI members only)

NS 157/76: (3)

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
53 Theobald's Road
London WC1X 8SP
England.

Chile Coordination Group Meeting (10 - 11 July 1976)

Agenda Item 3:

REPORTS FROM COORDINATION GROUPS

Belgium

The Co-gp in Belgium is a Latin American Co-gp also involved in work on other Latin American countries: Uruguay and Argentina.

The Belgian co-gp's work is closely linked with refugee activities; Jacques Poll is the co-gp's representative to COLARCH, a group composed of representatives from Belgian trade unions and other organizations which work together to obtain visas for Chilean political prisoners from the Belgian government.

The co-gp in recent months has sent relief money to the Vicaria and to the Bochum group for distribution to the families of prisoners adopted by Belgian AI groups.

There has been contact by the co-gp with the Belgian government who have been provided with information on Chile. There has also been some contact with, in particular, the Socialist Deputies of the Belgian parliament, who convene regular meetings to discuss human rights issues in Chile. There have also been briefings to this group on the position of exiles in Argentina and the Uruguay Campaign.

France

A summary of the report from the French Chile Co-Gp was made by Lise Weill:

The Co-gp was the first group established in France to work on Chile. Recent months have seen the development of other Chile Committees, eg Comite de Defense des Prisonniers Politiques Chiliens. This committee handles campaign work on Chile whereas Amnesty covers work for individual cases.. The Comite de Defense des Prisonniers Politiques Chiliens have now established local groups in France outside of Paris where the main office is located.

2. General work of the Co-gp

The Co-gp meets once a week to discuss the following topics:

A. Intervention on behalf of Individual Cases

This work is done either by AI members only, or with the help of other organizations, eg League for the Rights of Man, trade unions, professional people, etc.

B. Visas

We support requests for visas at the French embassy in Santiago and very rarely at the Foreign Office in Paris. We first of all try to be certain that the prisoner wants to leave his/her country. In the meantime, we contact the family of the prisoner or the prisoner him/herself in certain cases..

The requests come from the prisoners themselves, their families (in Chile or in France), their former friends from prison who are now free etc.

C. Publicity and Action on the Situation in Chile

Letters or telegrams are sent to the authorities concerned in major international cases and the information distributed to the press in order to achieve the widest coverage possible.

D. Work with the Refugees; Collection of Information

Given the existence of the Comite de Defense des Prisonniers Politiques Chiliens in Paris (which has very complete files), the majority of refugees who arrive in our country, are generally contacted by this committee. However, some of the exiles, especially those who AI has been able to help in one way or another, do come in to see the co-gp with information or to ask us to sponsor applications for visas for their comrades.

We receive numerous letters from prisoners in Chile (from Temuco, Antofagasta, Illapel, Concepcion, Capuchinos, Copiapo).

E. Helping Refugees in France

Although we are concerned with this problem, our activity is not very extensive. In this area, help comes from one association, France Terre d'Asile, which welcomes the refugees and supervises their accommodation in the different reception centers where they live for

a period of six months. They benefit, during this period, from financial aid provided by the government also from the provision of classes in French.

F. Contact with the other Amnesty Co-Gps

Contact has been made with other sections for quick actions (cases sent on with visa requests). Unfortunately, sections contacted have not replied. But, we have well-established contact with the German Section in Frankfurt.

The Co-Gp expressed hope in their written report that the meeting might help increase and improve their contacts with other Chile Co-Gps.

Germany (Written report in English attached)

A very large card index (approximately 5,000 cards) is in existence in the German Section of Chilean detainees - examples of these cards were distributed to those attending the meeting.

As regards relations between the German Embassy in Santiago, the German Foreign office and German Amnesty, cooperation is not very good.

There is regular contact between the Co-gp and the Inter-governmental Committee on European Migration (ICEM) on the position of certain prisoners whose cases have been referred to them by the co-gp for information.

In the past year, the co-gp have had a book published. This book entitled "Chile - letters and documents" is comprised of testimonies from ex-political prisoners and their families.

The coordination group has centralized correspondence with the Vicaria de la Solidarid, ICEM and the German Foreign Office.

Luxembourg

The Chile specialist group existing in Luxembourg is not in fact a co-gp, but has a particular interest in the situation of refugees and has been doing a lot of work in this area. For this reason, it is of particular importance for this group, that they receive visa information and they would welcome the receipt of lists from FASIC and any individual information other co-gps could provide. The group reported under the item, "Refugee Work".

Netherlands

Work on Chile is done by the Latin America Co-Gp which consists of between four and five persons. There is a newsletter on Latin America being produced by the Dutch Section twice a month. The Co-gp gives advice to adoption groups and provides information on the situation in Chile. Due to the structure of the Dutch Section, the co-gp itself does not take action on CAT cases or specially for refugees. The different departments of the Dutch Secretariat undertake this work.

Switzerland

The group will be expanding in the next few months and they hope to be able to do more work. In general, they have been active in the provision of relief money via the Vicaria de la Solidaridad for the families of adopted prisoners and, also in campaign work. They do not handle CAT actions; there is a special action group for this in the Swiss Section. They have good contacts with the media and have found that since the Uruguay Campaign there has been a revival of interest in Chile and also in Argentina by the press.

USA

Ginetta Sagan summed up the work done by the West Coast and Washington in the USA and Paul and Robin Martin were able to give additional information on current activities on the East Coast and in the New York Co-Gp.

The work of the co-gp which has been set up in recent months is mainly concerned with the coordination of adoption groups with Chilean cases. The reason behind the location of the Chile co-gp in New York is due to the success of two to three AI groups located in that area who had been successful in working for Chilean cases. Other areas of concern are closely connected with refugee work:

1. US Parole Program for Chilean Refugees: in operation since July 1975 and at the present time, the USA is not accepting any more applications from Chileans for visas. They hope very much to see a change in this present situation and the quota for refugees enlarged.
2. Helping Refugees on Arrival in the USA: because of the apparent lack of adequate support to Chilean refugees from the US government, the co-gp has gradually become involved in this area of work and has produced a document in Spanish concerning refugees rights, etc.

Other activities: There was extensive preparation done by the co-gp for the visit to New York of Esmeralda - the ship which was sent by the Chilean government to the USA on the occasion of the Bicentennial celebrations. This ship had been used immediately after the military coup as a torture center. The preparation had very good results and there was a lot of response from the press. One of the results of the publicity was a decision by the Long-shoremen's Union to "black" the ship which resulted in the Esmeralda not being serviced by members of this union at its port of call in the USA.

World Bank Action: Members of the Board were able to have an interview with MacNamara (President of the World Bank) prior to the decision by the World Bank to grant aid to Chile; this action will be discussed later under the Agenda Item on Trade and Aid.

There has been a lot of work done by the co-gp vis a vis the media, eg briefing for American correspondents going to Chile on the occasion of the OAS meeting in June. There is also a lot of work being done briefing US congressmen about human rights in Chile through personal visits and general distribution of AI material.

Ginetta Sagan gave a brief description of the Telegram Tree used for CAT actions: CAT actions are photocopied and distributed widely through the Telegram Tree which is a very fast and effective method of activating a large number of people to pay for telegrams for CAT actions to the relevant authorities. The telegrams are then sent to the authorities concerned and go in the names of a wide variety of individuals in the USA who have consented to having their names used in such appeals. The cost of the telegrams is billed to these contacts.

Sweden (Written report attached)

Work on Chile by the Swedish Section is coordinated by the Latin America Co-gp. CAT actions are coordinated by a part-time employee separate from the Latin America Co-Gp. The group has well-established contacts with trade unions, the Swedish government and the media. Relations with the diplomatic corps are positive with regard to the refugee situation. There is a good relationship with the Swedish Foreign Office. The Swedish government can have urgent refugee cases referred to them and can deal with such situations within three to four days. The Latin America Co-Gp also keep a card index on Chilean prisoners.

Summary of Discussion which followed the Reports of
the Chile Coordination Groups

There was a request made by several coordinators for the names and addresses of the persons involved in Chile coordination work in other countries. Although a list was passed round at the meeting, the official list which we use at the International Secretariat for your information is enclosed with these minutes.

There were a lot of points raised by the US Co-Gp vis-a-vis financial support from the national section office for the work of the Chile co-gp and a questionnaire was passed round by Paul and Robin Martin, the results of which they will forward to the Chile co-gp in New York. There was a wide discussion among groups concerning their relationships structural and otherwise, with their national section offices. All co-gps, with the exception of the USA group, received some kind of financial assistance from their national section offices.

The question of the use to be made of the European Parliament was raised by several co-gps. Several suggestions were made that more approaches could be made by Chile coordinators to their country's delegation to the European Parliament, where in the past few months the human rights situation in Latin America has been the subject of recent debates.

During the meeting an additional questionnaire was passed round which was prepared by Werner Stangier of the Bochum group and which dealt with the responsibilities of the various co-gps: how many groups they are responsible for, etc.

Mention was made of complaints received by the Chile co-gps from ex-prisoners about the local committees of the Red Cross in Chile.

Doubt was raised about CARITAS - there was a lot of uncertainty about the reliability of this organization as a distributing agency for relief money.

The Research Department reported that similar complaints had reached us and that caution was advised in our contacts with the Chilean Red Cross and CARITAS.

January 1951. The report was prepared by the Director of the State Department.

There was a report made by several persons that the State Department was in possession of a copy of a letter from the Chinese Government to the United States, dated in 1949, in which the Chinese Government stated that it was willing to discuss the possibility of a truce in the Korean peninsula.

There was a lot of interest shown in the US by the Chinese Government's proposal for a truce in the Korean peninsula. The Chinese Government stated that it was willing to discuss the possibility of a truce in the Korean peninsula, and that it was willing to discuss the possibility of a truce in the Korean peninsula.

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Frankfurt/Bochum, 7 July 1976

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Report about the work of the German Chile-Coordination Group 1975 - until the beginning of 1976. (Prepared by the Frankfurt Coordination Group)

In 1975, the work for political prisoners in Chile has become much more effective. This tendency which can be observed in general is also reflected in the work of our coordination group, which could be systematised in many areas. Nevertheless, we have been confronted again and again with new problems, as the form and scope and repression in Chile changes very quickly. One example is the disappearance (desaperaciones) of about 2,000 persons after their detention, something which is in this scope unique in the world.

The activities of the Chile-Co-Group between 1975 and May 1976 about which has been informed already in four circulars to German AI Groups and to further organizations participating in the work for Chile consisted essentially of the following areas:

Organizations:

There has been a correspondence for about 1,000 individual prisoners so far; this includes questions, documentation work, evaluation of reports of released prisoners etc., For each of these prisoners a file has been set up. In addition, the group has a file about approximately 5,000 prisoners. This file, apparently the only one of this scope in Europe, helps to inform other groups and to avoid parallel work.

Cooperation with magistrates and institutions:

Because of the aim to receive important information first-hand and to establish contacts to the deciding authorities have been developed regular and good relations to some magistrates and institutions. Because of this our coordination group as the only one which in this area worked regularly and had up to date information and got more and more requests. Quite often, we made suggestions which have been put into practice - on the other hand were those permanent contacts of course very time-consuming.

In detail we worked together with The Ministry of the Interior and The Foreign Office. This cooperation above all refers to those lists which have been presented by the Comite Pro Paz (now Vicaria de Solidaridad) and by Amnesty with prisoners which should be granted asylum in the Federal Republic of Germany and refers also to some cases in which such prisoners have been denied immigration.

Trade Unions:

Here above all the "Stiftung Mitbestimmung" of the DGB (comparable to the TUC) should be mentioned. The cooperation with the trade unions resulted from the fact that many of the Chilean prisoners have been detained because of their activities

in trade unions. Offers of employment which have been granted by the institution mentioned above (sometimes due to our suggestions) have been proved very valuable when asking for the commutation of the penalty to exile by one of the commissions established by the Junta especially for this purpose.

Churches:

Because of the role of the churches in Chile, which have founded with the now dissolved Comite Pro Paz a well-functioning organization for the defence of human rights in Chile, it seemed useful to work together with the two big churches in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In spite of moments of distanciation as far as the institution as a whole was concerned (especially the Catholic Church) one can say that the cooperation is good. For several months we did the work for the cooperation with the Comite Pro Paz in Chile (which should have been the task of the church) and therefore the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk) initiated a coordination office temporarily limited to the Chile work. This office's work was done by a member of our group who could take over a great deal of the work with respect to those lists mentioned above. This office should have been dissolved by 1 April 1976, but has been prolonged until 31 December 1976. But when this office is dissolved, there will be much more work for us.

In addition, there is irregular cooperation with some political parties, independent organizations, Chile-Committees, and initiation groups, etc.

Air Passages:

When we have trustworthy documents that the booking of a ticket can accelerate the release and the leaving of the country of a prisoner, we often book a ticket with our own money or the money of other people (Santiago-Germany).

Urgent Action Cases:

Cooperating with the International Secretariat in London and the CAT group, we work for the urgent action cases which we give if possible to groups which are especially experienced and active. Due to the increasing repression in Chile, this work is one of our most important tasks.

Actions and Lecturing Tours:

In connection with information given by the Junta, by which we were informed about the death of 119 prisoners who had disappeared after detention, our Coordination Group organized a silent demonstration in front of the Chilean Embassy in Bonn and a protest demonstration of 119 persons in the city of Frankfurt.

With information stands the group participated in the National Protestant Church Congress, the Frankfurt book fair and was also present at a meeting of the "Junge Union" (CDU) in favour of the week of the political prisoner.

We made use of the week of the second anniversary of the military putsch and of the weeks preceding Christmas for fund-raising the advertisement of which was published in several newspapers and magazines.

In December 1975 we wrote to all Federal Ministers of the Interior (resp.

Senators) and to the Federal parliamentary factions, asking for an increase in the number of visas for Chilean refugees.

A group member visited Chile in 1975. Our employee, Dieter Maier, went to the International Secretariat in London for a few days.

Several group members participated in the International Chile Meetings in Paris and Liege and in the Annual Amnesty Meeting of the German Section in Berlin.

There have been several discussions with parliamentarians, party leaders. At several opportunities some group members gave lectures on the situation in Chile.

In January 1976 there was a well-visited meeting with the former Chilean Bishop Helmut Frenz in Frankfurt which was repeated in April in Bochum.

Trials:

The Bochum "branch" of the Chile CO-Group, our group members Werner and Gundel Stangier, took care of the naval trial against the 57 marinos in Valparaiso, Concepcion and Talcahuano. Besides we tried to draw the attention of lawyers and their associations to the trial against "Corvalan and others" and to individual cases of detained jurists in Chile.

Documentation and cooperation with journalists:

The documentation "Chile - letters and documents" which has been put together is finished and so far 3,000 copies have been sold. Furthermore, we produced several background reports to individual themes for example to the "Desaparecidos", the Comite Pro Paz, the Church in Chile and summaries of trials.

Apart from some notes in newspapers, letters to the editor, we could draw attention to our work by numerous broadcasts and TV interviews.

Integration of Refugees:

The number of Chilean people who sometimes under most dramatic circumstances have to escape from their country is unchangeably high. We provided them with apartments and furniture, helped them to find employment and initiated the application for political asylum. The fight with German bureaucracy was very time-consuming; language courses etc. had to be found. Quite often we were confronted with the situation to give a family with little children who did not possess anything apart from a suitcase and their clothes, room and board.

Amount of Work and Staff Situation:

Apart from the work which has to be done irregularly (actions, circulars to all groups which are cooperating with us), we daily receive approximately 25-35 letters and we send away ourselves even more during a normal day. On an average, we receive 30 phone calls a day. Nearly every day there are several visitors who mostly want to get information about certain themes or prisoners.

Apart from our employee Dieter Maier, whose employment has been financed by a grant and which has been prolonged until 1 March 1977, there are about 20 members in the group, who spend several hours a week apart from the weekly meeting for our work. In addition, some Chilean refugees work partly on a regular

basis handling the Spanish correspondence and the filing work.

Our staff is handling such an excessive amount of work that more work even for a short time causes immense difficulties.

Perspectives for the future:

After the close-down of the Comite Pro Paz in Chile it is still uncertain in how far we will cooperate with the Vicaria de Solidaridad. According to our momentary information from Chile we will have to support two tasks which have been done so far by the Comite Pro Paz: documentation work (regular reports on the state of repression, the economic situation etc.) juridical work (trial missions, studies on the legal situation).

In the future, we will have to oppose more strongly the tendency to do the work for the political prisoners in Chile which should be done by other institutions. The fact that we are permanently overburdened forces our group to delegate certain fields of our work. For example, it should not be the case that we given information to Chile to everybody on everybody's request but there should be outside Amnesty an adequate information-handling agency, because this type of work is only one of many Amnesty tasks and could be done by any other organization. However, our experience so far has shown that it will be hard to establish such fields of work in a well-organized way outside of our coordination group.

Swedish Section - Latin America Work

At the Swedish Secretariat five persons are employed. Eva Alander is working four days a week (Wednesdays free) only on Latin American countries. This is a try to explain the work:

"Prisoner Work"

Every day visits (try to limit these to two hours a day) from exiles telling about relatives and friends missing, arrested, families to political prisoners who need financial help, etc. The Swedish Amnesty Fund is monthly sending aid to about 80 families in Chile and try to find channels for sending money to Uruguay and Argentina as well.

Telephone calls two hours a day from exiles and adoption group members.

Working on CAT Urgent Actions in cooperation with Britt Arenander, sending telegrams in Spanish to Latin American countries.

The reception of a lot of letters from Latin Americans in- and outside Sweden, giving information and asking for help..

Contacts with other organizations working on Latin America.

"Refugee Work"

Contacts with Swedish authorities (immigration office, foreign department, swedish embassies in Latin America, refugee office, "camps" in Sweden)

Every day visits from exiles telling about relatives and friends imprisoned or living underground in Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay ...

Contacts with Swedish organizations working for refugees:

"Latin American Refugee Fund" helping with applications to the Swedish Immigrant Office for Latin Americans who need to leave Latin America for Europe

Swedish Refugee Council gives free juridical assistance to political refugees who have arrived in Sweden without having necessary working and residential permissions.

The address to the Latin American Refugee Fund and the Swedish Refugee Council is: Tunnelgatan 20 B, 5th floor, 111 37 Stockholm, Sweden.

Swedish Section's Coordination Group for Chile

The Swedish Section's coordination group on Latin America is mainly working on Chile and Uruguay in the first place; Argentina and Bolivia in the second. The group only consists of five persons - all working full time and consequently only able to do Amnesty work during evenings and nighttime.

The co-gp's Chile activities:

- subscribing 'Latin America' weekly news magazine, extracting interesting information which is distributed to the adoption groups
- collecting press-cuttings from Swedish newspapers on all Latin American countries
- checking up the adoption groups' contacts with their prisoners/families. Is there any contact? Do they send money? Why not? Special problems? etc.
- Continuous registration work on the groups, addresses, prisoners; prisons; etc.
- Campaign activities in cooperation with the Swedish secretariat. Example: September Campaign 1975 (exhibition, 24-hour vigil, money collecting ...); preparations for September Campaign 1976.
- Contacts with other organizations working on Chile.

Internal (for AI members only)

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Chile Coordination Group Meeting
(10 - 11 July 1976)

Agenda Item Number (4): Discussion on Refugee Work

The aim of this discussion was to cover Amnesty's responsibility for refugees, visas, governments lists, coordination, settlement and international coordination.

Gordon Hutchison from The Joint Working Group for Refugees from Chile in Britain began the discussion with an introductory talk about the situation of refugees from Chile. He prepared a short paper giving useful books for back-ground reading on the problems of refugees and a resumé of the numbers of prisoners who are presently going through the program for refugees under Decree Law 504 (a copy of this paper is attached for your information).

Another topic covered in this paper from Gordon Hutchison is the very serious situation of the Chilean, Uruguayan, Bolivian and other Latin American nationals who compose the refugee population in Argentina and have come under ever-increasing pressure to find other countries of exile since the military coup d'etat in Argentina in March of this year. The work of the refugee organization in Britain for Chileans is now beginning to extend into this area of concern.

The Joint Working Group for Refugees from Chile in Britain will soon be publishing its Annual Report. Copies of the report will be circulated to Chile Coordination Groups; the report covers many of the points raised in this part of the discussion:-

- (a) Latin America: Gordon began the discussion by referring to the availability of visas in other Latin American countries for Chilean refugees. At the present moment, it is very difficult for a Chilean to obtain a visa to another Latin American country. Certain countries (Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela) have accepted Chilean refugees, but they tend to make visas available only for particular cases. Chilean refugees are still entering Peru and Argentina, but there is no guarantee as to their safety when they do this.
- (b) Europe:

Great Britain is still accepting refugees (mostly Chileans who have been condemned to prison sentences of 5 years and over). There is also a family reunion program in operation. The length of time taken by the British government before the processing of a visa request is completed can often take between 7 - 8 months because of the security check which is run on all the applicants.

The Netherlands has an annual quota for Chilean refugees; approximately 150 persons.

Germany is still accepting refugees as their quota is not completed. However, there are often long delays in the processing of visa requests because of security checks.

Switzerland did take some Chilean refugees but their program now appears to be closed.

Eire (Republic of Ireland) took about 100 Chilean refugees; there may be a possibility of further visas being made available by the Irish government.

Portugal - the Portuguese government does not have a formal refugee program, but many Chileans who came to Portugal on tourists' visas have been allowed to stay.

Spain has also taken Chilean refugees.

Sweden continues to take Chilean refugees and can process requests for visas in urgent cases within 4 - 5 days.

In Australia, there was a quota for refugees, but since the change in government, this quota now appears to have been closed.

For information on visas available for Chilean prisoners, it is felt that FASIC (Fundación de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas) is the best source of information in particular, for condenados (sentenced prisoners). It is important to keep a constant check on this type of information, especially where a government may be preparing a quota. ICEM (Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration) centralizes all information on visas, coordinates the visa work with the embassies concerned in Santiago, and interviews prisoners in jail about their visa applications.

For general information on asylum, the International University Exchange Fund has produced a handbook entitled "Asylum in Europe" which is a very useful reference document on advice for refugees coming to Europe.

In certain countries, where there is no organization similar to the organization in Britain for Chilean refugees, the responsibility for encouraging governments to open or increasing their refugee quota, and for helping refugees when they first arrive, may often involve AI Chile coordination groups.

It is therefore very important, that coordination groups try to centralize and exchange information on prisoners who have requested visas for particular countries, and to keep up-to-date on prisoners who have left Chile, having successfully gone through the 504 program.

Reference was made to the problem of Chilean refugees who went to Rumania but have since left, and have been trying to be accepted as refugees in other European countries. If you have a problem with this particular category, you should consult the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and also, your country's Ministry of Interior.

There was a further discussion where the Chile coordination groups contributed information about the refugee programs in their own countries:-

U.S.A.: Under the "Parole Program" set up in mid-1975 the government established a quota for refugees from Chile totalling 400 persons. It has been found in practice that it was useful to try to arrange a university place in the U.S.A. for a Chilean prisoner - this often led to a U.S.A. visa being made available in such cases. The "Parole Program" quota of 400 now appears to be filled, but AIUSA hopes that it can be extended and are working towards this end at the moment.

BELGIUM: Visas are available, although the government tends not to provide Belgian visas to Chilean prisoners, who already have visas for other countries. There is a committee - COLARCH - which coordinates work to obtain visas from the Belgian government, and Jacques Poll from the Chile coordination group in Belgium, is the AI representative on this committee.

FRANCE: Chilean refugees are arriving under the 504 program. The French Embassy in Santiago sends on requests for visas to the French Foreign Office. The Foreign Office takes the final decision. The time taken by the French authorities to process visa requests is approximately 4 months.

ITALY: Chileans entering Italy on tourist visas are accepted and it would appear that family ties with Italy are often useful in obtaining a visa for this country.

Conclusions:

It would appear that many AI Chile coordination groups are becoming more involved in refugee work. This can be seen as a natural outcome of the effect of Decree Law 504, but it is also due to the fact that in some countries where there is no main refugee coordinating committee, Amnesty members often become involved in such work through their own work for Chilean prisoners.

It is therefore very important for Chile coordination groups to maintain good contacts with FASIC and ICEM in order to check the situation of particular cases with them if the governments of the countries where the coordination groups are located are drawing up lists of priority cases, or, are extending their quota for refugees.

Copy of paper prepared for the Chile Coordination Groups' Meeting (Discussion on Refugees) by Gordon Hutchison of The Joint Working Group for Refugees from Chile in Britain (Address: 446 Uxbridge Road, London W12 0NS, England. Telephone: (01) 749 5851).

Amnesty International Chile Coordination Group Meeting
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Useful Addresses:

- (1) Fundación de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas (FASIC)

Address: Ricardo Lyon 3004, Santiago, CHILE. (Telephone: 743979)

FASIC deals only with condemned political prisoners and their families - provides social and legal assistance. Operates both in Santiago and in the provinces. You should write to them to find out if your adopted prisoner has a visa or is applying to other countries for a visa.

- (2) Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration (ICEM)

ICEM normally deals only with travel arrangements for the prisoners and their families. However, since the start of the 504 program, they coordinate the visa work with the embassies etc., They also interview prisoners in jail for visa applications.

Address: Casilla 761, Santiago de Chile.

ICEM's Head Office Address: 9, Rue du Valais, Geneva, Switzerland.
(Telephone: 342200).

Information on Refugees:

- (1) "Asylum in Europe" - a handbook for refugees and exiles.
Very informative - social help, legal aid, etc.,

Published by International University Exchange Fund (IUEF)
Address: IUEF, 72, Boulevard San George, Geneva, Switzerland.
(Price: 15 swiss francs).

- (2) "Aplicación de las Declaraciones y Convenciones Internacionales referentes al Asilo en América Latina".

Excellent study by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) (Address: ICJ, 109 Route de Chene, 1224 Chene Bougeries, Geneva, Switzerland). Has special focus on the situation of refugees in Argentina. Includes cases of refugees who have been returned to their country of origin (refoulement). Available in other languages.

Other Information:

Prisoners moved under the 504 Program as of 13 June 1976

United Kingdom	68
U.S.A.	69
France	67
Holland	64
West Germany	36
Denmark	36
Sweden	22
Rumania	16
Norway	11
Belgium	10
Canada	80
Others	20
Total =	<u>499</u>

At the beginning of June 1976, there were 380 prisoners "aprobado" - that is, they were passed by the 504 Commission but were waiting for visas to leave the country.

There were also 180 condemned prisoners with visas who have not left prison. Many are waiting for a reply from the 504 Commission, others are "diferido" or "rechazado" (i.e. the 504 Commission has decided to delay taking a decision on a particular case or, has refused the prisoner's appeal to the commission to have his/her sentence commuted to exile). Priority should be given to pushing for visas for the "rechazados" - those who have been rejected by the 504 Commission. At present there are approximately 100 of these cases.

ICEM are at present transporting approximately 400 persons per month from Chile (prisoners + families + family reunions). ICEM reckon the 504 Program will continue for at least 1½ years more?

Refugees in Argentina - Emergency Situation

On 23 June 1976 the UNHCR in Geneva made an appeal to 34 countries to resettle immediately 1,000 cases of refugees in Argentina. The situation of the refugees has deteriorated gravely since the military coup of 24 March 1976. Many political exiles have been kidnapped and murdered in the past few months (Uruguayan politicians : Zelmar Michelini, Hector Gutiérrez Ruiz and the Ex-Bolivian Presidente Juan J. Torres and many more). Every week, the UNHCR receives over a dozen cases of refugees who have been kidnapped, or have disappeared.

The Argentinian Minister of Finance, Martinez de Hoz and the Argentinian Minister of Interior, have stated publicly that they want the refugees out of Argentina. They said that those countries protesting against the situation of human rights in Argentina should receive all the refugees. There are some 12,000 refugees registered with the UNHCR (approximately: 9,500 Chileans, 1,500 Uruguayans, 500 Bolivians and another 500 - mostly Paraguayan; and Bazilian). There are thousands more refugees in Argentina. They are not considered as being "refugees" in Argentina (nor are those who are registered with the UNHCR), because,

when Argentina signed the 1951 U.N. Convention and 1967 Protocol on Refugees, they signed it with a geographical limitation i.e. they recognize as refugees only those coming from Europe.

Most of the refugees are illegally in Argentina. Before they can apply for temporary residence they have to present good conduct certificates from their countries of origin - a very difficult situation for political exiles from Chile and Uruguay. Many are in danger of being expelled back to their countries.

Some of the atrocities committed against refugees recently have been:-

- (1) After the coup, several refugee hostels were raided by the federal police (Hostel José C. Paz, Hotel Corrientes etc., on 28 March 1976). In José C. Paz, some 20 refugees (including children) were detained, beaten, tortured, subjected to mock executions, and released after several days. Also detained was the head of one of the refugee agencies - Pastor Ihle of CAREF. One of the socialworkers in José C. Paz was also detained and tortured along with refugees.
- (2) On 9 June 1976, 15 armed men in plain-clothes raided one of the refugee offices (Comisión Católica Argentina de Inmigración), and stole some 2,000 files with the names of 4,000 refugees.
- (3) On 11 June 1976, 24 refugees were kidnapped by 40 heavily-armed civilians from the hotels "Pinot" and "Ilton" (both hotels were financed by the UNHCR). Two children were among the detainees. They were tortured with electric shocks, hung from the ceiling and beaten with rubber truncheons - and threatened with return to their countries of origin (Chile and Uruguay). They swore that the torturers and interrogators were from the Chilean DINA (National Directorate of Intelligence) and the Uruguayan secret police. It has been proved that they used information from the stolen refugee files. They were released after 24 hours.
- (4) There are at present over 100 refugees detained under the Argentinian state of siege regulations. 5 refugees are in the Italian Embassy as asylees. On 2 July 1976, 27 Chilean refugees took asylum in the Canadian Embassy. In Mendoza, on 20 June 1976, over 100 Chileans were detained for not having their documents in order. At present, over 60 refugees are on hunger strike in the hostels in Buenos Aires, trying to raise world public opinion over their plight.

Pressure on governments to open up new refugee quotas is necessary now, not only for Chilean refugees but also for the other Latin American refugees who are in a very difficult situation today in Argentina.

Internal (for AI members only)

NS 157/76: (5)
Amnesty International
International Secretariat
53 Theobald's Road
London WC1X 8SP
England.

Chile Coordination Group Meeting
(10 - 11 July 1976)

Agenda Item Number (5):

(1) Adoption Work:-

Techniques, Policy, Block or Group Adoptions

(3) Handling of Contacts

(1) Adoption Work:- Techniques, Policy, Block or Group Adoptions

Priorities: As a result of a long-term research decision taken in September 1975, we have been taking up the cases of prisoners held in prisons outside of Santiago, in the provinces of Chile. Very recently, a large group of forestry workers detained in Valdivia Prison were taken up as investigation cases. We hope to continue our work in this area and in the past few months, a special file system has been opened to containour increasing amount of information on the many provincial prisons being used for the detention of political prisoners. Two of the provincial prisons we are studying at the moment are Chillan and Antofagasta. We are researching prison conditions and hope to be producing case sheets for political prisoners held there during the next months.

We concentrate on the adoption of political prisoners who have been sentenced but recently, the cases of several women prisoners in Tres Alamos detention camp who are being held under the State of Siege (without charges or trial) were taken up because we received information that they were very ill. In the future, we will be taking up a certain amount of State of Siege prisoners as investigation cases and will follow them very closely to enable us to see what effect Amnesty pressure has on them and what the main problems are for these prisoners.

The overall total of adopted prisoners in Chile is regularly being affected by released into exile (the vast majority of released Amnesty adopted cases in Chile are in exile.) It is a necessity therefore, to take up new cases at regular intervals to replace these releases. At present, 273 cases are formally under adoption and investigation. It is not envisaged that more than 300 cases will be active at any one time.

Amnesty International Groups with Disappeared Prisoners

We are very much aware of the problems facing groups working for political prisoners who have disappeared. These cases were taken up soon after the arrest of the individuals concerned and it is almost certain that they are now dead. However, AI groups working on such cases must never, of course, state this publicly, as in the case of those disappeared prisoners who have been adopted by AI, their bodies have never been found and there is not enough factual evidence to make such a statement.

The feeling of the meeting was that groups with such cases, should continue to send relief money and maintain contact with the prisoner's families where they are already in contact. If the group wants to discontinue working, it is entitled to do so, but the work done by Amnesty groups for these cases maintains a constant focus on the problem of disappearance through letters to the Chilean

authorities and other actions, publicity, etc.

Block Adoptions

There is a method which we are beginning to use more often - Block Adoption. This is the adoption of an identifiable group of political prisoners, e.g. the naval prisoners in Valparaiso, and the forestry workers in Valdivia. In both cases, they are groups of prisoners who are all in the same trial. The cases are taken up and allocated to individual AI groups. One of the adoption groups is responsible for the coordination of work done for the group of prisoners. This type of coordination can involve channelling of relief money, special actions, publicity, with reference of course to the International Secretariat. This technique has worked very well for the naval prisoners and we hope that it will work for the Valdivia cases. A German group in Hamburg has asked to coordinate these cases. It is important when this technique is used to inform the adoption groups of the existence and function of the overall coordination group.

Handling of Urgent Cases by Coordination Groups

Often, Chile Coordination Groups receive information about prisoners which requires that urgent actions are taken immediately. The regular practice is that coordination groups will respond to such cases by sending telegrams/ letters to the Chilean authorities but not as Amnesty. The case is then sent on to the International Secretariat. Often, cases are referred by the Chile coordination groups to Chile Committees in their own countries which often imitate the technique used by Amnesty groups and often have more time to do something for these cases.

Handling of Visa Requests

Where coordination groups receive requests from adopted prisoners for visas to other countries, they should notify the Chile coordination group in the country concerned. If it is a request for a British visa, contact should be made with Gordon Hutchinson and Anne Brown in London.

Investigation Cases

There was a very large discussion on the subject of how groups handle investigation cases. The coordination unit in the International Secretariat is now sending out case sheets with a printed paper which, among other things, explains the distinction between the two categories, but there appears to be still a lot of confusion among adoption groups as to what actions they should take on behalf of this category. Often adoption groups working on investigation cases do find that the case should be up-graded to adoption status, but unfortunately the Research Department does not have the time to submit investigation cases to periodic review. However, once a group has done initial work on an investigation case and if at that time the group believes that the prisoner should be a full adoption case, then they must write to the International Secretariat asking for the case to be up-graded and giving the reasons why. Their request will be given serious consideration.

With regard to sending relief money to investigation cases, if the group have been requested to do so in the case sheet, or discover in the course of their work that there is a need for relief money to be sent, they should proceed

to channel relief. It should be remembered that an investigation status implies that AI believes that the prisoner is likely to be a prisoner of conscience but needs additional information to be sure of this fact.

It would appear from the discussion about the handling of investigation cases that groups do need a lot of guidance on:-

- 1) whether or not to send relief money and
- 2) whether or not to take action to obtain visas.

We are now indicating precisely on the case sheet of an investigation status prisoner what action to take as regards relief (where we know that relief is needed) and on visas.

In our Chile work, there should be no distinction made between adoption and investigation cases where matters of relief and working for visas are concerned. The distinction is, traditionally, only to be made in the way letters are worded to government and other authorities in Chile. For an investigation case, a group should only be requesting information from authorities; for an adoption case, they may request the release where practical.

Adoption Techniques

The meeting felt that more low-level work should be done by adoption groups e.g. writing to provincial authorities and the trial judges asking for precise and limited improvements like the speeding up of the trial. It will therefore be important to continue to collect names and addresses of local authorities in Chile for such type of action and send them to the Research Department. The Research Department has already been doing this sort of thing and a list of provincial authorities was produced at the beginning of 1976, although it has not been updated.

Two "lawyers' committees" are now in existence which are studying the Junta's violations of the Chilean constitution. Such studies are also being made by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). They would welcome contact with coordination groups who have information of this nature.

The address of the French lawyers' group is:-

Maitre Colette Auger,
2 Avenue Hoche,
75008 PARIS, FRANCE Telephone: 227-32-30

The other lawyers' group, in Germany, can be contacted through the Chile Coordination Group in Frankfurt.

It is important to extend contacts with and involve other organizations such as trade unions and professional associations in work for individual prisoners.

Ginetta Sagan mentioned a rather successful technique employed by AIUSA when writing to the government. To ensure that your letter is replied to, you could note at the bottom of the letter that copies have been sent to several newspapers. Apparently, this technique has met with some success

(2) Handling of Contacts

The meeting felt that there should be an up-dated leaflet in Spanish about the work and aims of Amnesty to show to contacts.

We discussed how contacts with Chilean refugees are handled by the coordination groups. Coordination groups have a constant problem with security. All practical attempts should be made to keep any information received about prisoners in a secure place.

Some coordination groups have people fluent in Spanish who are delegated with the job of interviewing Chilean refugees. However, this type of work is often unnecessarily time-consuming, especially where the information is not of very great use to the coordination group. One delegate suggested to the meeting that refugees might be encouraged to write their information down and to send it on to the coordinators; this would discourage people with very little information. However, it was objected that this procedure may also discourage people who do have information. The meeting felt that taking information from refugees by telephone was a security risk and there are only two real alternatives: personal interviews or asking refugees to submit written information. The Research Department has prepared a short paper to give interviewers some guidance with interviewing with a view to seeking, in a scientific manner, the same kind of information from every ex-prisoner. This report, called "Notes on Interviewing Ex-prisoners from Chile" is enclosed for your information.

Contacts

The discussion on contacts was divided into two parts:

(a) Handling of International Contacts

(b) Handling of National Contacts

(a) Handling of International Contacts

Coordination groups who have not tried to establish a secure contact with the Vicaria, ICEM, FASIC and their country's embassy in Chile, should do so and should maintain centralized correspondence with these organizations. The addresses of the Vicaria and FASIC should not be given to adoption groups unless under exceptional circumstances. This is for the better efficiency of AI and also for the greater safety and convenience of these agencies. Very confidential information for any of these organizations in Chile can be sent via a special channel; you should refer to the International Secretariat for guidance.

It is important that we do not over-load these organizations with correspondence. The Chile coordination groups in Paris and Frankfurt, as well as the International Secretariat, have large card indexes and you should check with them before writing to Chile.

When contacting the Vicaria, it is advisable to write to the Santiago office and not to the provincial offices directly.

It was noted that some coordination groups who have sent letters to the Vicaria have no had replies. It was suggested that the International Secretariat should inform the Vicaria of the names and addresses of the Coordination Groups

so that they will know which people from AI are corresponding with them, as all correspondence with them should be on plain paper.

One further point about contacting ICEM, is that often the Geneva headquarters have as much information about visas as the Santiago office. It would be better therefore to write first of all to ICEM in Geneva for information before writing to Chile.

(b) Handling of National Contacts

As regards national contacts in Chile, the International Secretariat would like to be informed where the coordination group has established contact with a national contact e.g. a local vicaria/prison visitors/etc.

Finally, Coordination Groups reported that there is still a problem with adoption groups writing to Chilean authorities on Amnesty-headed paper. It must be stressed that contacts in Chile, especially with the prisoner and the prisoner's family must be treated with great care. Amnesty International paper should not be used for such contacts, neither should you identify yourselves as an Amnesty International group. Groups can of course, when advised in the case sheet, write to the Chilean government on Amnesty-headed paper.

Chile Coordination Group Meeting (10 - 11 July 1976)

Agenda Item Number (6):

- (1) Campaigns - International and National
- (2) Special Campaigns for September 1976
- (3) Campaign Planning until September 1977

Campaign work can be divided into two parts:-

- (a) International Campaigns: which are devised by the International Secretariat, and in which all countries participate.
- (b) National Campaigns: which are planned by national sections and/or Coordination Groups for that particular section.

The discussion centered around forward planning of Chile campaigns for the period September 1976 - September 1977.

(1) Campaigns - International and National

Under the topic of International Campaigns, several suggestions were put forward as possible areas on which such a campaign could focus.

- (1) International Campaign on the Club of Paris. The Club of Paris is the annual meeting of Chile's creditors to discuss the terms under which re-negotiation of the debt will take place for the particular year concerned. The campaign could only be on a very limited, high-level scale.
- (2) Campaign on the State of Siege. Campaigning for the release of prisoners held under State of Siege legislation who have neither been charged nor tried.
- (3) Campaign on Children in Prison.
- (4) Campaign for Disappeared Prisoners.

(1) International Campaign on the Club of Paris.

Such a campaign would involve only certain national sections/coordination groups (Canada and Europe). Several Chile coordination groups did do some campaigning on this topic last year. Both the French and German Chile Coordination Groups took initiatives to publicize and distribute information on the situation of human rights in Chile. Senor Zalaquett raised a point of information, that according to recent statistics, the Chilean government is expected to be in a strong position to pay off the external debt. The Chilean economy has been strengthened by recent injections of finance from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and several banks in the United States and Canada. This finance has been in the form of short-term loans and is expected not only to pay off the external debt, but also to cover the deficit in the Chilean government's budget. The Chilean government has also received a large amount of foreign investment and promises of more investment in the future. It is also expected that the price of copper (Chile's most important export) will rise from 60 cents per pound to 66 cents per pound.

After further discussion, it was felt by the meeting that this subject of debt-renegotiation was worth watching and that Coordination Groups should continue to provide information on human rights for their country's delegates to meetings such as the Club of Paris. However, given the possible strengthening of the Chilean economy as a result of investment and loans in recent months, and consequently the possibility that a campaign of this nature may only have a limited effect, it was thought unlikely that an international campaign on this subject would be appropriate in this coming year. *

(2) International Campaign on the State of Siege.

There are practical difficulties involved in making the public aware of the definition and implications of a State of Siege. This Campaign may be rather involved, e.g. explaining the various decree laws which have resulted in the loss of civil liberties, explaining that decree laws which have been passed to protect arrested persons (Decree Law 1009 and Decree Law 187) do not really give any protection at all.

(3) Campaign on Children in Prison.

There was a lot of interest in this subject and it was felt that more work could be done in this area; researching instances of children arrested with their parents, collecting photographs of children who were detained with their parents, etc. The meeting felt that we could mount such a campaign but at a later date when more information is available.

(4) Campaign for Disappeared Prisoners.

The meeting finally decided that we should have a major international campaign on this issue. Discussion followed on the form that such a campaign would take and when the campaign should begin.

The meeting felt that the problem of the disappeared political prisoner would have a very good response from the public. It is a problem which is very easily understood and could gain much public sympathy.

The meeting of Chile Committees (non-AI) which took place recently in Liege decided to plan a campaign for disappeared prisoners and is going to have a press conference on 10 December 1976. This is also the date of Amnesty's Promotion Campaign's official beginning. It was therefore decided that the timing for AI's disappearance campaign should be from March 1977 - May 1977, thus avoiding coinciding with other AI initiatives which have been planned for the end of 1976 and also ensuring an adequate amount of preparation time for a subject which will involve a large amount of work.

There were several very good suggestions from Coordination Groups on the form the campaign should take. It was decided that a poster for international use should be designed to illustrate the problem of disappearance. Reference was made to the disappearance poster designed by the Coordination Group in Frankfurt for the 1975 September Campaign for Chile. It was suggested that a well-known artist in Germany might be commissioned to design the poster. The International Secretariat's Information Department has a collection of photographs of disappeared prisoners already in existence (these were exhibited at the co-group meeting). An appeal was made to co-groups for information on

* See paper by R.N. Barbor-Might - "Pressure on the Junta".

similar photographs which they may have on file in their own offices. It was suggested that a list of available disappearance publicity photographs should be circulated to the co-groups prior to the campaign. This would enable the International Secretariat to have prints made on request by the co-groups for these photographs; unfortunately, we cannot supply co-groups with negatives unless the press department is willing.

The Campaign should also be directed to authorities outside of the Junta; again emphasizing the importance of low-level work with provincial authorities and others.

The Campaign could also be directed to the local Chilean Bar Associations. Perhaps Bar Associations in other countries could be encouraged to pass resolutions condemning the lack of protection given by Decree Laws against disappearance and send this to Bar Associations in Chile.

Perhaps another area where efforts could be made to publicize the problem of disappeared prisoners is among foreign firms with large investments in Chile.

Senor Zalazuet mentioned that the Vicaria de la Solidaridad has made a close study of disappearances, in particular, their most recent report concentrated on the location of disappeared persons; according to this report several bodies of disappeared persons were identified in Santiago morgues. He believed that this report would be released before the end of the year.

(2) Special Campaigns for September 1976.

The meeting then went on to discuss national campaign work. There is no international campaign on Chile for September 1976 being planned by the International Secretariat. Actions for September 1976 will be national campaigns initiated and controlled by the co-groups.

Each co-group reported on activities they are considering for September 1976 on Chile:-

(Note: most co-groups will be undertaking actions along the lines of last year's September Campaign.)

Sweden

There will be an appeal circulated for signatures calling for an amnesty for Chilean political prisoners, and an end to torture. There will be fund-raising and leaflets/posters designed. A 24-hour vigil will be held in Stockholm's main square during which leaflets will be distributed, etc.

France

They will be preparing actions similar to those planned by the Swedish co-group.

Germany

The International Book Fair in Frankfurt this September has as its main

theme "Latin America". The co-group will be attending the book fair, distributing leaflets, and selling the co-group's book on Chile.

Netherlands

There will be actions by adoption groups with Chilean prisoners, public appeals, etc.

Belgium

They will be planning actions for September very much along the lines of the other co-groups.

Switzerland

They are going to do a campaign in September but have not yet finalized their plans. They will probably be doing fund-raising and designing posters and leaflets for distribution on the anniversary of the coup.

(3) Campaign Planning until September 1977

Conclusion:

(1) There will be national campaigns for the third anniversary of the Chilean coup in September 1976. There will be no special action emanating from the International Secretariat as there was last year. Most Coordination Groups are already planning actions for September 1976.

(2) There will be an international campaign for disappeared political prisoners which will commence in March 1977 and finish at the end of May 1977. The campaign will be initiated by the International Secretariat and will involve national sections, Chile coordination groups and specialist groups, as well as AI groups with adopted prisoners who have disappeared. Such a campaign may also involve CAT.

Internal (for AI members only)

NS 157/76: (7)

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
53 Theobald's Road
London WC1X 8SP
England.

Chile Coordination Group Meeting (10 - 11 July 1976)

Agenda Item Number (7): Amnesty's work for Disappeared People for
the next 12 months

Several AI groups are currently working for disappeared prisoners who were adopted soon after their arrest. It is important to look at the definition of the "disappeared" prisoner as there are persons within this group who have in fact been recognized as detainees by the government; although, the vast majority are unrecognized. According to a recent report compiled by the Vicaria de la Solidaridad, some bodies of disappeared prisoners were identified in public morgues (Note: this report will possibly be released at a later date according to José Zalaquett). In some cases, letters written to the Chilean government have resulted in the recognition of the arrest of approximately 7 cases of disappeared prisoners.

The meeting felt that AI work for these cases is important in that the adoption group is providing a constant focus on this problem and is often in contact with the prisoner's family and providing relief money.

There was a discussion about the possible whereabouts of the disappeared prisoners. It is believed that a large number of these persons may now be dead. However, until AI has enough factual evidence to substantiate this assumption, we should never state publicly that persons who have disappeared are assumed to be dead. There is always the possibility that they may be alive but are perhaps being held in unrecognized places of detention.

There are several studies being made into unrecognized places of detention e.g. Colonia Dignidad, Monte Maravilla, etc., At the recent Liege meeting of non-AI Chile Committees, it was resolved that research would be made about Colonia Dignidad (collecting testimonies if possible). There will be a report-back of this research to another meeting of these committees later this year.

The meeting felt that it would be necessary to produce a document in the near future on disappearances. There was also some discussion about putting together an exhibition of photographs or, arranging a slide-show to illustrate the problem of disappeared political prisoners. Apparently, the German and AIUSA sections of Amnesty do have slides available on Chile but these are from immediately after the military coup, and are becoming out-of-date. It was agreed that coordination groups and adoption groups who have been

.../...

sent photographs of disappeared prisoners or detention camps, should send copies to the research department; likewise, the research department will be circulating soon to coordination groups a list of photographic material on Chile which is available from the International Secretariat.

On the most recent list of Chilean prisoners under adoption by AI, the disappeared prisoners are marked. This should help coordination groups in the collection of information about these cases from Chilean refugees and ex-prisoners whom they have the opportunity of interviewing. Any information collected in this way, should be forwarded to the research department where it will be classified and will be very useful for the preparation of the documentation for the disappearance campaign.

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
53 Theobald's Road
London WC1X 8SP
England.

Chile Coordination Group Meeting (10 - 11 July 1976)

Agenda Item Number (3): Discussion on Trade and Aid to Chile.
To what extent should AI intervene?

* Dick Barbour-Might gave a paper to the meeting entitled Chile: Pressure against the Regime. An expanded and improved version of the paper is submitted for your information.

Sr. Zalaquett was not entirely in agreement with Dick Barbour-Might on his interpretation of events or on his presentation of statistics and advised caution when dealing with these matters. Moreover, he advised coordination groups that any research undertaken on these matters should be of a scientific nature and should bear in mind the political arguments put forward by both sides.

The discussion was seen as a contribution to a wider discussion which is at present taking place both among members of the International Executive Committee and within the International Secretariat. It was decided to include this item on the agenda of the meeting because of the several actions that have already been undertaken either by Chile coordination groups or by national sections to bring the details of a situation of gross violations of human rights to the attention of members of their governments or large companies trading with or financially assisting the regime.

What are the implications for Amnesty action?

A precedent for this type of action on trade and aid, was already established by the Dutch Section vis-a-vis Indonesia, and the Austrian Section vis-a-vis Malawi. The Canadian Section, at its AGM, passed a resolution urging the Canadian government to withhold financial aid to Chile until torture and arbitrary detention have stopped. At the moment, the International Secretariat and the International Executive Committee is preparing to discuss this form of action at the September Council Meeting. Marie José Protais of the French Section will be presenting a paper on this subject. Until this has happened, actions like those undertaken by the Canadian Section can neither be approved, nor disapproved by the Secretariat. A further question raised by this issue is whether sections resolve that trade and aid to Chile be cut-off completely, or whether to attempt to arrange for concessions (e.g. freedom for certain prisoners) when trade and aid agreements are made.

Resolutions:

It was resolved that coordination groups and the research department in the International Secretariat would begin to gather detailed information

.../...

* Dick Barbour-Might - political scientist and member of AI (British Section).

about Chile's commercial and economic links with other countries - especially those countries where Amnesty International has its membership.

It was further resolved that, given that information on such relations between a country and Chile is often difficult to discover from another country (in this case from London), that the coordination groups would send all the information gathered on its country's relations with Chile to the International Secretariat.

Conclusions:

There is nothing in the Statutes of AI which might prohibit its members from providing information on the violations of human rights in Chile to governments or to companies or banks that might have commercial or other relations with Chile. However, if this work is contemplated by the coordination group, the International Secretariat should be consulted beforehand. The quality of information provided to such entities must be of the highest possible standard and the coordination group should be in a position to be able to reply to arguments put forward by the entities which they might approach in this connection. We can only hope to be successful through scientific work.

Those interested in this debate should follow the discussion which will take place in the International Council Meeting of September this year, where the paper to be prepared by Marie-José Protais will be discussed.

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Chile Coordination Group Meeting (10 - 11 July 1976)

Agenda Item Number (9): Relief Distribution
Priorities, Techniques, and Problems.

- (1) In November 1975, the Comité Pro Paz, which up until that date had been our main distributor for relief monies to the families of prisoners adopted by AI, was forced to close by the government. As a result of the situation at that time, with the arrests of priests and workers of the Comité Pro Paz, the International Secretariat issued a paper instructing national sections, Chile Coordination Groups, and AI groups with Chilean prisoners to cease any further correspondence and to stop sending relief money to the Comité Pro Paz until further notice.
- (2) In March 1976, there was a circular to selected national sections who had AI groups with adopted Chilean prisoners, asking them to collect and centralize relief funds for Chile. Copies of this circular were sent to Chile coordination groups. This circular was part of the Research Department's investigation as to how best relief could be sent to Chile. There will be a follow-up circular in the near future in response to the national section's replies to the circular of March 1976 giving the procedure for channelling relief.

Distribution:

There are 4 main methods of distribution for relief money to the families of adopted prisoners:-

A. Vicaría de la Solidaridad

The Vicaría has assured the researcher in the International Secretariat that it will distribute monies ear-marked by Amnesty for distribution to individual families of adopted prisoners. The Vicaría is also in a position to distribute monies to families outside of the Santiago area; however, this is limited to the few provincial centers where local Vicarías have been set up. Groups are invited to inform the International Secretariat if they feel that there might be problems in communication with the Vicaría in this respect.

B. The Lutheran Church

There are some possibilities with the Lutheran Church for distribution of relief money; especially, in provincial areas, through individual pastors. Details, which are highly confidential, are available to coordination groups if necessary.

.../...

C. Individual Contacts

Some Chile coordination groups have their own individual contacts in Chile who are able to distribute relief monies.

D. Heads of groups of families of political prisoners

Often, as in the case of the Naval Trials, there are one or two families to whom money is channelled and distributed by them to the other families of political prisoners in the same trial who have been adopted by AI. In principal, this is considered a satisfactory method of relief distribution, but groups are advised to try to make sure that all families receive some money.

Who gets Relief?

In the present economic climate prevailing in Chile today with an ever-increasing rate of inflation and mass unemployment, most of the population is not at all well-off. When a prisoner is taken up as an adoption or investigation case, and when we have information on the need for relief, this is included in the case sheet with the request that relief money be collected. However, sometimes we are not able to clarify what the financial need of the prisoner and his/her family is, and the adoption group is recommended to enquire into the economic situation of the prisoner and his/her family. This advice is always given in new case sheets. Adoption groups with old cases should consult the coordination group or the International Secretariat for specific advice.

Where the need for relief has been established, the group are generally recommended to write to the International Secretariat for advice on how to channel relief to Chile. Often groups find that money can be sent directly to the family and this is usually done in one of 3 different ways by:-

1. Bank transfer.
2. Giro cheque.
3. Bank notes sent with correspondence (this method is not advisable).

In either case, it is advisable to send money in hard currency (i.e. U.S. dollars, Swiss Francs or German DM).

Where monies are being sent for families either via the IS, or directly to the family, or through coordination groups/national section office, it must be remembered that large amounts may often attract the suspicion of the Chilean authorities, and we normally recommend a monthly sum of between 100 - 150 dollars for a family of 3 - 4 people (this is an estimate based on the most recent inflation figures and the cost of keeping a family - this estimate will naturally increase with time).

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Block adoptions and the channelling of relief money:

In the case of block adoptions, the coordination group for the block adoption is recommended to centralize the collection of relief money from the various adoption groups and to take on the responsibility of channelling the relief money to Chile. This method is being used in the block adoption which we have undertaken (Valparaiso Naval Trials), and will be used, if possible, in the Valdivia Trial of forestry workers. The Valparaiso Naval Trials relief network has been operating for several months and we hope that the Valdivia Trials Coordination Group will be doing similar work in the near future.

General Relief Money - i.e. not for an individual family):

Money can also be sent to the Centro de Acción Solidaria, which is the part of the Vicaria de la Solidaridad that arranges the provision of legal assistance and medical attention for political prisoners, and supervizes the creation and administration of the prison work-shop schemes where prisoners are involved in making handicrafts to raise money to support their families. It also supports the comedores populares (popular dining-halls) where the unemployed or families of those imprisoned can obtain a midday meal.

When does a group stop relief money?

Most of our adopted prisoners are released into exile, and where the group would like to do so, money can often be sent to the prisoner and his/her family to give some initial financial support in the country of exile - this is normally not necessary in countries where refugees receive state benefits. Often, help of this nature can be very useful where the country of exile does not provide very much support for the ex-prisoner and his/her family when they are accepted as refugees.

Sometimes, prisoners are released in Chile under conditional liberty; they are almost never able to obtain work and are under constant threat of re-arrest under the State of Siege. In these cases, again, if the group would like to do so, financial help could be extended.

Even when a prisoner is unconditionally released, he or she may still be in very great need. The group must make its own decision on whether relief money is sent to an ex-prisoner and this will normally depend on other demands being on the group's finances.

In the case of families of disappeared prisoners, we normally strongly advise a group to continue supplying relief money for as long as possible - a little at regular intervals. When a group decides that it cannot continue any longer, every effort should be made to inform the family and to inform the International Secretariat so that other arrangements may be made if necessary.

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Summary of the Relief Discussion:

- (1) The main distributing agency for relief monies for the families of AI adoption/investigation cases is the Vicaría de la Solidaridad. The Vicaría undertakes to distribute money ear-marked by Amnesty for relief of the families of AI cases.

It must be remembered that the Vicaría is the major agency in Chile for relief and for other wider activities for political prisoners. These wider activities which are coordinated by the Centro de Acción Solidaria - the Vicaría department which arranges legal assistance, medical attention, and the provision of funds for prison work-shops as well as providing midday meals for the unemployed and the families of political prisoners. If possible, money should be sent to the Vicaría, not only for the families of AI cases but also for general relief, thus allowing the Vicaría a certain amount of flexibility to distribute money to those families who are in the greatest need - and also, to use such money for the work of the Centro de Acción Solidaria.

If general relief money is sent, it must be clearly specified that it is for the Centro de Acción Solidaria.

- (2) Money to be sent to the Vicaría should be centralized by coordination groups where contact has been established. In the future, money will also be centralized and sent through certain national section offices to the Vicaría (Note: Guidelines are being prepared by the Research Department).
- (3) Groups are sending money directly to families of AI adopted prisoners. Where this is occurring they should be asking their contacts in Chile for receipts to ensure that money has been received without difficulty. Groups should not be sending cash - such direct relief should be by cheque or bank transfer.
- (4) Where adoption groups, coordination groups and national section offices have centralized money for relief, and wish to send it to the Vicaría for general purposes - they can send the money on to the International Secretariat to be forwarded - but, where at all possible this should be avoided (because the £ is so weak!)
- (5) Money should be distributed to the greatest area of need. Priorities for relief include funds not only for individual prisoner's families, but also, for general relief (prison work-shops, legal aid, medical attention etc.,)
- (6) Finally, relief may be sent to the families of both adoption and investigation cases. As a general principle, because of the economic situation in Chile, no differentiation should be made between the 2 categories - adoption and investigation. However, when a case sheet goes out it is a normal procedure (where information on relief need is available), that AI groups are advised when relief is necessary. Otherwise, the group is encouraged to investigate the need for relief.