

Amnesty International
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To: National Sections, Chile Coordination and Specialist groups,
selected adoption groups.

From: Pat Stocker - Research Department

Date: 11th. July, 1975.

Re: U.S.A. Admitting Chilean refugees and detainees.

Many of you will already be informed that the United States Government has agreed to admit a number of Chilean refugees and detainees to the country on a parole basis. Up to present, only 16 visas have been known to have been granted to Chilean citizens by the United States government but now, as so many Vietnamese refugees are being admitted on parole, there has been strong pressure on the government to restore balance to their immigration policy by admitting Chileans aswell.

400 Chileans and their immediate families will be admitted to the United States, and of this number, it is expected that 100 will come from Peru in the very near future. The government has only stated that it is prepared to receive refugees from Peru - no other country. Unfortunately, we must assume that Chileans living in Argentina would not be eligible for visas, but this point is being investigated by Amnesty International in the United States at the moment.

Eligibility All detainees in Chile are eligible to apply for parole in the USA. Detainees are people who are (i) in prison (ii) under house arrest or (iii) relegated to remote parts of the country.

The following categories of people will not be eligible: (i) known members of the Communist Party (ii) known terrorists or common-law criminals (iii) economic hardship cases (ie. people who would have to depend on the State entirely).

It is honestly expected that these conditions will not be interpreted in the most harsh and literal way which would lead to the disqualification of any person who has been politically active in Chile either before or after the coup. The US State Department must certainly be aware that there exist other political parties of the left apart from the Communist Party, but make no mention of these parties. Each case will be studied individually and the American authorities will decide themselves on the basis of all the evidence available to them whether the charges against a convicted political prisoner bear any relation to the real reasons for arrest. It has also been stated that the 'economic hardship' cases will not necessarily exclude widows of Chileans living in exile in Peru.

Situation in Santiago and Selection An official has been sent from Washington to Santiago to take charge of the program and the American Ambassador has been instructed by Dr. Kissinger to give his full support to this project. The official will study all applications received by the American Embassy, the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) and will liase closely with the latter on the selection of candidates. Final decisions as to the outcome of the application will be made by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) in consultation with the State Department of the USA.

We have been advised that people who have the sponsorship of American institutions or American citizens will be given preference.

Method of application

- i) Chileans in Peru should apply to the American Embassy in Lima, Peru.
- ii) Detainees in Chile: In the case of a prisoner who has been sentenced, wherever

possible, the prisoner himself must formerly inform the prison governor that he wishes to apply under the Decree number 504 of 30 April '75 for his sentence to be commuted to exile. The prisoner should inform the prison governor that he wishes to apply for a visa to the United States.

Meanwhile, and wherever possible, the prisoners family, friend or lawyer should inform the United States Embassy and ICEM (CIME in Spanish) in Santiago that the prisoner is making this application. Again, wherever possible, if a member of Amnesty International becomes aware that a prisoner is applying for a visa to the USA, that member should immediately inform Ginetta Sagan in California and she will arrange for the case to be brought to the attention of the relevant authorities in Washington in the name of Amnesty International. Her address is:- Ms. Ginetta Sagan. 177 Toyon Road, Atherton, California 94118.

iii) For prisoners who have not been charged or sentenced, applications can be made by the family but there is not legal procedure that will guarantee that the prisoner be considered for a safe conduct pass to leave the country in the event of him being offered a visa.

iv) Prisoners under house arrest or relegation: (see 'Detainees' (ii)).

If a member of Amnesty International writes to Ginetta on this subject, they should be sure to enclose the fullest possible details of the case including the name and address of a contact-person in Chile. We would appreciate it if Amnesty Members could let us know of any letters that have been written on behalf of a prisoner to Ginetta.

Special Appeal to Adoption Groups

If you are in touch with your prisoner's family in Chile, you should write immediately to tell them of this offer by the US government unless, of course, you have positive reasons not to do so - eg. if your prisoner has a visa to another country. Remember to ask the prisoner's family to let you know immediately should they decide to apply for a visa for the prisoner, as you will be able to help the application be successful by informing Ginetta Sagan in the United States. Please remember as well to let us know also if your prisoner applies to go to the USA.

If anyone has any queries on the case of their individual prisoner, please write for our advice. If you are an American group, however, write direct to Ginetta Sagan.

Note for National Sections and Chile Coordination and Specialist groups

Please share this information with your national Chile Committees (at your own discretion). It is likely that applications that are supported by Amnesty International in the United States will be sympathetically considered.

Please do not send lists of prisoners without any further details or without contact addresses in Chile either to us or to Ginetta Sagan. Unfortunately, we cannot do anything for people about whom we know nothing. This also applies for applications for adoption. We have several thousand names of prisoners on file, but can only help a limited number. The more information, the easier it is to help someone.

The Research Department is now preparing material for a special campaign for disappeared people in Chile for September 1975. If Sections have special plans for action on behalf of Chilean prisoners in September, we would like to know now please. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome!

Ret. samtal m Pat Stocker 24.7.75