

MSS. 109/144/139

1973 — 1983: Ten years of resistance

Chile September 11th 1973

Ten years ago a CIA-organised coup overthrew an elected socialist government and began a 10 year reign of terror, which cost 30,000 dead, a million exiled, thousands more tortured, and a nation ground down by fear and hunger. But now, the people of Chile are back on the streets, fighting for freedom. Hundreds of thousands have taken part in recent strikes and protests. Pinochet's regime is tottering.

El Salvador 1979 — 1983

In 1979, a US backed coup marked the beginning of a massive escalation in US arms and aid to prop up the Salvadorean regime in an attempt to crush the popular movement. Since then, the Government's security forces have butchered 40,000 civilians, but the massacres and torture have failed, and the opposition has responded by forming a broad-based coalition — the FDR, with its military wing, the FMLN.

Despite \$1 billion in US arms and aid, the FMLN has made great advances and now controls more than one third of the country — in the end, popular support counts for more than US guns. The FDR has won international recognition as the true representative of the people of El Salvador, and as the FDR/FMLN begins to take the initiative, international opposition is crucial to prevent a 'Vietnam-style' intervention by the US.

Nicaragua 1979 — 1983

The forty-year dictatorship of the Somoza family was brought down by the Sandinista revolution of 1979. They took over a country in ruins. But in four years they slashed illiteracy from 50% to 12%, built hospitals and schools, reduced food prices and extended democracy. In response, Britain and the US have blocked all aid; Washington has slashed sugar imports, and spent millions of dollars arming Somoza's old troops to invade and sabotage the new nation.

Britain

Thatcher has backed Reagan every inch of the way in Latin America. And since 1979, the Tory government has become the No.1 ally of the Pinochet regime in Chile — supplying arms, encouraging trade and loans, and lobbying in diplomatic circles.

This demonstration demands:

* NO BRITISH ARMS FOR CHILE

* END US INTERVENTION IN

EL SALVADOR AND NICARAGUA

* PEACE AND FREEDOM FOR

LATIN AMERICA