

**CHILE SOLIDARITY
CAMPAIGN**



**ANNUAL
REPORT
1984**

INTRODUCTION

The great hopes of rapid liberation raised by the popular upsurge of 1983 were not fulfilled in 1984; instead, the year has seen both a new height in the struggle - the General Strike of October 30th - and new depths of repression, with the arrest of 15,000 people under the State of Siege in the last two months of the year.

The fears at the beginning of the year that the new freedoms won by the people, and the 'dialogue', had taken the momentum away from the popular movement were unfounded. The popular organisations made use of the 'quiet months' of the Chilean summer to rebuild, to hold major rallies, discuss policy etc. And in March, the Day of Protest was probably the most widely supported to that date, and for the first time Pinochet, flying in a helicopter over the shanty towns of Santiago, was forced to acknowledge the scale of opposition.

His response, to re-shuffle his Cabinet, oust the Chicago Boys and bring in a supposedly 'nationalist' economic team, gave the appearance of a real change, and bought off some of the opposition with the promise of limited reforms. But in reality nothing was done to halt the pauperisation of the people, and national wealth continued to be handed over to the wealthy and the foreign companies. Financial scandals began to touch Pinochet himself, with revelations about misdoings by his daughter, his son-in-law, and about his own property dealings.

The most dramatic confirmation of this came in September when, following IMF diktat, the peso was devalued by 23%, pushing food prices up by as much. It was as if the junta itself was determined to galvanise support for the General Strike.

Throughout the year, the tempo of repression was rising, and Pinochet himself repeatedly warned of a return to 'September 11 1973'. The dull statistics of arrests, torture, internal exile and so on continued to grow, and the most brutal forms of repression reappeared: the planned killing of 10 opposition activists one day in August, the scalplings in September, the disappearance and decapitation of a worker in October.

After the General Strike, Pinochet knew he had either to resign or repress harder. He chose the latter, imposing the State of Siege the day after Reagan's re-election. In the short term he has regained the initiative, but at the cost of international isolation (even the UK voted against him at the UN in December) and shown to the people that more militant methods will be needed to oust him.

Britain's UN vote was a great step forward, but does not mean the end of British support - the same week, the handover of a British Antarctic base to the Chilean military was announced, possibly in return for the use of a Chilean airstrip to service the Falklands/Malvinas.

The Campaign's delegation to Chile was a great political achievement and has created the basis for more pressure on the Government, and for strengthening the Campaign itself. Despite other 'calls' such as the miners' strike, CSC has managed to maintain a high profile and level of support in the labour and trade union movement.

1985 is therefore a year of opportunity for the Campaign, but also a year when greater demands will be made on us for solidarity in many ways with our comrades who are waging the fierce struggles in Chile today.

CONTENTS

Main Events in Chile	2	Right of Return	9
Campaigning against British policy	4	September demo	9
Delegation to Chile	5	Inti Illimani tour	9
Support for the resistance	6	Local Committees	10
Work with British labour movement	7	New materials and fundraising	10
Work with Chilean org ^{ns.}	8	Chile Fights	11
Womens' Section	12	New office	11
CCHR	13	EC Report	11
		Membership	11
		Chile Democratico	14

MAIN EVENTS IN CHILE

January

A series of bomb attacks blacked out a 1,000 mile section of central Chile, in the first public action of the newly formed Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front. The first draft of the Anti-Terrorist legislation is published, blanketing all opposition activity as subversive, anti-state, and therefore terrorist. Beate Karsfeld, in Chile to seek the extradition of nazi war criminal Walter Rauff, is arrested. In the Copperworkers' union, R. Seguel is re-elected President for 2 more years, and of the EC of 14, 11 of those elected are 'opposition'. On 23rd, Chile and Argentina sign a friendship treaty in Rome as a first step towards a Beagle Channel agreement.

February

The first MDP Congress takes place on 4th & 5th, with a mass rally at the end. Almeyda's speech at the closing session receives wide publicity. Four members of MIR, fearing for their lives, take refuge in the Papal Legation, but Pinochet refuses free passage. Demonstrations meet Pinochet in Punta Arenas, the first time he has been opposed in public. Rafael Retamal, of the Supreme Court, criticizes the use of torture and repression, the Ant-Terrorist law, and the use of military courts, saying that they reduce the power of the judiciary. On the same day as a (faked?) attempt to blow up CNI boss Contreras, Jorge Lavandero, a Christian Democrat, is attacked and beaten almost to death. Documents about Pinochet's land dealings are stolen from him.

March

At a rally for International Womens' Day on 8th, 40 women arrested. Hints at reforms in the political system hinted at by Mattei and Pinochet, with a proposal to legalise political parties if they provide signatures of 150,000 members! Almeyda arrested. State of Emergency reimposed on 24th after only 8 months. On 27th, Day of Protest supported by MDP, Democratic Alliance and CNT. Universities and school shut, buses and taxis halted, many demonstrations assemble and are attacked by police; many shanty towns barricaded to stop police entry. Wide support shown by professionals, small businesses and self employed. 358 arrests, 6 killed, Funerals turn into secondary demonstrations. Pinochet observes from helicopter. Support is seen as encouraging for proposed General Strike.

April

Cabinet reshuffle, with Finance & Economy Ministers Caceres and Passicot sacked, replaced by Luis Escobar & Modesto Calleados. Editor JP Cardenas arrested under security laws. Magazine 'Cauce' censored for carrying articles about Pinochet's land deals. Raids on Mapuche organisation (8 arrests) and CODEPU. Catholic bishops finally publish statement calling for clear timetable for return to democracy. CNT Assembly banned April 14th, reduced meeting takes place on 28th, calls -or May 1st rally, protest on May 11th and strike 'within 90 days'. Almeyda released, but MDP leaders Insunza, Ortega and Cecilia Suarez expelled. Four MIR members expelled to Ecuador.

May

May Day rally of 100,000+ in Santiago, joint slogans and speakers from DA, MDP and CNT. Police attack at end. In Concepcion, police attack crowd outside cathedral, firing teargas inside. Archbishop accuses police of desecration. Pinochet forced to hold official celebration outside Santiago. On 9th, copperworkers begin hunger strike for reinstatement after June '83 sackings. Protest on 11th is 'modest', but 200 arrested, 22 injured, and numerous bombings take place. Twenty-four opposition figures try to sue Pinochet over his land deals, but on 26th judge rules that he has no authority to try the President. On 17th, Anti-Terrorist Law enacted. Woman is blown up by CNI making it look like blown up by own bomb. On 25th, CODELCO agrees to reinstate hungerstrikers. Legal changes made to ban magazines from printing articles about Pinochet's dealings etc.

June

On 3rd, a rally of 2,000 Relatives of the Disappeared attacked by police. MDP figures Rafael Maroto (a priest) and Jose Sanfuentes internally exiled. CODEPU offices raided in Santiago and Concepcion. Communist Party holds national congress in secret inside Chile. Right-wing parties make legal threat to ban MDP, while new manoeuvres on right to halt drift to left lead to short-lived formation of 'Group of Eight'. More bomb attacks, and continued high level of popular activity despite growing repression esp. of MDP. Pinochet declares support for joint meetings of Latin American debtor states. Ortega and Insunza return from exile, court ruling allowing them in is overturned, they go underground. Two men shot dead 'while planting a bomb' say CNI.

July

More attacks on MDP, with expulsion of Luis Godoy (CP ex-senator), Ociel Nunez (MDP General Secretary), Juan Parra (MIR), Rene Largo (CP and radio personality) to Buenos Aires. Argentina returns them to Chile, who sends them to Colombia, who returns them to Chile again, where they are sent into internal exile. MDP appeals to other countries to continue refusing to accept people expelled from Chile, to make this tactic more difficult for regime. Warrants issued for Ortega and Insunza. Severe press harassment. On 13th, miners' offices raided, property destroyed or stolen, people tied up and threatened with death by masked gunmen. Reports of Argentine anger over renewal of Chile trade with Malvinas in timber, coal, gas and oxygen.

August

Catholic Church calls for day of protest 'In defence of life' on 9th. Tens of thousand gather to sing, pray etc for end to torture and repression. Police attacks on some gatherings, followed by rapid condemnation by Church. On 23rd, ten people shot dead in separate incidents, where police claim victims were armed or running away, contradictory to eyewitness reports. Seen as deliberate tactic to frighten people in run-up to September protests.

September

Massive protests all over Chile on 4th September, turning into a widespread stoppage of commerce etc on 5th. Many killed including French priest Andres Jarlan. His funeral becomes huge demonstration filling central Santiago. Loud condemnation from abroad espec. France. Delegation arrives in Chile September 8th, leaving on 15th. Pinochet announces intention of staying in power his full term, and in interview reaffirms his belief in his own divine mission. Strongly dissident speech by Air Force chief Matthei indicates stress within junta. Eight leading TU & political figures arrested on charge of organising illegal protests. Protests in universities continue later in month. Arrested leaders freed. Peso devalued by 23.6%.

October

Prices of foodstuffs and basic utilities and fuels rise by around 20-25% as a result of devaluation. Trade unions call for General Strike and protest on 30th, for democracy and against price rises, and junta threatens TU leaders with arrest. Santiago blacked out on 18th by MRRF attacks. Catholic bishops in Rome meet with hundreds of opposition figures in exile, issue call for return to democracy, and national unity. First free student union elections at U. of Chile in Santiago gives united opposition slate big majority, including 17% for Communists. As student elections are seen as opinion polls, this alarms junta. Massive support for protest on 29th, followed by unexpectedly successful strike on 30th, with big industrial stoppages for the first time as well as closures of schools, shops etc. On 31st, bomb exploded few hundred yards from Pinochet while he opens Trade Fair in Santiago.

November

Bomb attacks kill 6 carabineros in two attacks. Cabinet, headed by Jarpa, resigns in face of Pinochet's intention of reimposing State of Siege, but resignation not accepted. On 6th, within hours of Reagan's re-election being announced, State of Siege, lifted in 1978, is back. Six opposition publications closed, 'Hoy' and others heavily censored, likewise radios etc. Raids on offices of MDP, Bloque Socialista, Miners' Confederation and El Surco peasants union. Leaders arrested. Fanny Pollardolo internally exiled. I. Gutierrez, Vicar of Solidarity, refused re-entry to Chile after Rome conference. Church calls for fast against repression on 23rd. Massive raids on shanty towns - over 15,000 arrested in Nov. & December. Hundreds sent into internal exile or to prison camp at Pisagua. CNY calls protest for 27 & 28th, but repression stifles most assemblies, except on campuses. Ten bombs explode on one day in Santiago & Manuel Rodriguez Front issue first manifesto. Foreign journalists ordered to re-apply for permits, and one British reporter expelled. Signing of Beagle Channel deal with Argentina leaves much bitterness from nationalist sentiment especially in Navy. Mass suspensions at U. of Concepcion.

December

Raids on shanty towns continue, with football stadiums again used to house detainees while they are 'sifted'. Emphasis on repression is on lower level leadership of resistance. Some leaders of Miners' Confederation and El Surco released as result of international protest, others get internal exile. Small scale meetings and protests continue, and bomb attacks. Peasants Unions call for ILO observer to monitor repression of unions, especially raids on offices. Archbishop Fresno's call, for aid to the poor and the shanty towns rather than expensive Christmas gifts and decorations, receives wide support and journalists report decline of tinsel !

CAMPAIGNING AGAINST BRITISH POLICY

At the end of 1984 the Bow Group delegation visited Chile, and presented CSC with an immediate responsibility to challenge the distortions and lies that they broadcast on their return. The MPs Ivan Lawrence and Keith Best were pursued by arguments and facts, with controversy over their visit in the local press of their constituencies. In Best's area, the Welsh Language Society joined Latin America activists in condemning his actions. Best boasted that he had won a major order for the Lairds Engineering factory in Anglesey to export Centaur half-track military vehicles to the Chilean Army. There was considerable local protest, and CSC through the AUEW District Committee was able to distribute a leaflet about the deal to the workforce. Since then, apart from a test vehicle, there has been no news about a firm order.

In March CSC discovered that a potential order for 200 new tank engines for the Chilean Army, from Rolls Royce motors, had been blocked by the Board of Trade on human rights grounds. In mid-March Caceres, then Finance Minister, came on a secret visit to Britain, but CSC & CCHR were able to picket a meeting he had in Canning House.

A meeting and dinner for visiting military students to meet local trade unionists and others in Cheltenham was cancelled when the unionists discovered that one of the diners would be a Chilean Air Force colonel, and threatened to picket the meal.

In April came news that the England soccer squad was to play in the National Stadium in Chile. A petition quickly distributed got over 1,100 signatures, and letters with background about the Stadium was sent to all the squad and to the FA. The match went ahead but with a very small crowd,

The sale of 40 AMAC-1 riot control vehicles, equipped with every device for driving people off the streets imaginable, was announced in June, and a rapid campaign of protest was mounted, before the news emerged that the Board of Trade had ruled an export licence to Chile impossible, because the vehicle could be used for internal repression (and, indeed, not much else).

In July the Bow Group delegation to Chile held a Fleet Street reception to announce its forthcoming report. Those attending included Chilean Embassy staff. CSC helped get critical coverage of this and the paucity of facts in the report in 'The Guardian'. When in August the report finally appeared, a slim and overpriced paper, a critique of it was released. Very little was heard of the report after this.

The Conservative Conference in Brighton was leafletted with CSC material specially produced, pointing out that even the 'Tories' in Chile, the Christian Democrats and the Nationalists, were opposed to Pinochet, and that one of the calls of the September protest had been to reduce arms spending and replace it with productive investment, so that British Tories should assist by stopping arms sales. Following up the same theme, the Campaign Against the Arms Trade and CCHR produced a joint petition against arms sales to Chile, in October, and CSC promoted this, helping to distribute more than 6,000 copies of it and collecting many signatures directly.

On November 8th a CSC delegation, including members of the delegation to Chile, met Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, to raise with him matters arising from the delegation, and to press for changes in policy on certain specific issues: the UN vote, arms sales, and British protests about acts of repression in Chile, particularly the State of Siege. Sir Geoffrey gave little away but accepted that the Bow Group report was no longer an accurate picture; that the situation in Chile had changed for the worse; and that HM Government would take this into consideration. A few weeks later Britain did indeed vote to support the UN Resolution on human rights violations in Chile, for the first time in three years. This was a major advance, and the solidarity movement should claim some credit for it. No doubt however other factors, such as the 'expiry' of the deal between Britain and Chile, revealed by the New Statesman on Jan. 25th 1985, played a part too.

This vote followed a resolution in the European Parliament condemning the State of Siege in Chile, and a Statement by the EEC Council of Ministers also critical of it, and seeking more moderate solutions to Chile's problems. There have been a growing number of EEC Parliamentary statements about Chile, increasingly critical of the junta, and this has been reflected by the Ministers as well. The pressure this exerts on Britain, to harmonise policies on Chile with other EEC countries, has so far been a beneficial one. Additional pressure for the UN vote was seen in the Early Day Motion in November, which condemned the State of Siege, called for an end to arms sales, and for a positive vote at the UN, which got over 100 MPs signatures.

In December CSC got news that a British specialist printing company de la Rue, was in negotiation for a contract to print passports for the Chilean government. As passports are denied to many Chilean refugees in Britain, this item of trade was seen as particularly repugnant, and de la Rue were written to, calling on them to cancel the deal. Further news was awaited on this at the time of writing.

Throughout the year, CSC members have been asked to write on many occasions to the British Government, calling for an end to arms sales, and for stronger protests against repression. There is no doubt that Britain is still very influential in Chile, particularly amongst the armed forces, and that this sort of protest would have great impact, as indeed did Britain's vote at the UN.

LABOUR MOVEMENT DELEGATION TO CHILE

It had long been CSC policy to send a delegation to Chile, and in 1984 with the new situation created by the economic collapse and the rise of the protest movement this was more than ever necessary. Much work was done in the first half of the year to canvass support for the idea, and to win trade union financial backing. September had been fixed on as the ideal time both because great activity could be expected in September and also so as to have greatest impact at the Labour Conference.

It was not obvious that the delegation would be allowed to enter Chile, and while a refusal would have had some propaganda value, it would mean a huge waste of effort for the Campaign. The Chilean authorities were therefore informed of the proposed visit, and the British Foreign Office intimated to them that a refusal would be undiplomatic. They replied that the delegation would be allowed in on strict condition that it abided by the laws, took no part in political activity etc.

The activity of the delegation is described in the report 'Chile Now', and Chile Fights No. 47 gives further coverage especially of the press reaction to the visit both in Chile and Britain. It was probably the best publicised of any CSC activity for many years, with radio and very good TV reports, articles in the major papers and in the left press. Trade Union journals have continued to carry reports into the new year.

The coverage in the Chilean press left no doubt that the delegation had been a great embarrassment to the junta; no other delegation has spoken out and received such coverage in Chile since the coup. Coming at the time it did, just after the September protests and in the run-up to the General Strike, this was a great boost to the opposition forces.

The first report-back of the delegation was on Sept. 19th in the TUC's Congress House, with over 160 people in attendance and all the members of the delegation speaking. Frenetic activity resulted in the written report being completed, typeset and printed within two weeks of the return, and the first copies were available for the Labour Conference on September 30th. At the same time, the video footage brought back by the delegation about the September protests was being expanded with film of the September 11th demo and interviews with the delegation, and this too was finished by Sept. 30th.

Local report-back meetings with the delegation have provided the impulse in many places for a revival of CSC activity. Meetings have taken place in Birmingham (2), Cambridge, Portsmouth, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Leeds, Dunstable, Norwich, Croydon, Lewisham, Liverpool and are planned in Hull, Sheffield, Manchester, Bristol and elsewhere. At many other trade union and Labour Party meetings, delegation members have spoken about Chile.

The most important political result of the delegation so far has been the meeting with the Foreign Secretary (see preceding section).

By the end of 1984, almost all the first print run of 5,000 reports have been sold, and a second run of 3,000 ordered. Fifty copies of the video are in circulation and have been seen by thousands of people.

Another very important outcome is the greatly strengthened links between the Campaign and popular organisations in Chile. Much more information is now received from Chile, which enables more to be passed on to appropriate organisations (especially trade unions), more interesting material to be produced, and the basis laid for improving direct links between trade unions.

SUPPORT FOR THE RESISTANCE IN CHILE

In January an Urgent Action was sent out asking for protests to Chile about the arrest of Socialist Party leaders. This set the pace for an escalating need for protest throughout 1984, in response to the growing repression by the regime.

Solidarity messages from British brother and sister organisations were organised for the MDP Conference in February, for the first C.U.T. anniversary celebration in Chile since the coup, and for women's rallies. A very large number of protest letters and telegrams were sent to the Interior Ministry about the arrest of Dr. Manuel Almeyda, the MDP President, and we were later told that more protest had come from Britain than any other country; and that this had played a big part in his eventual release.

CSC organised a big picket of the Embassy on March 27th, the Day of Protest in Chile, which received some radio coverage. The event was marred by a minor incident of paint-throwing at the end which led to one arrest.

Many messages of support were sent by British TU organisations to the CNT for its major assembly on April 14th. This assembly was banned by the police, but took place on a reduced scale on 28th. This meeting was

due to have called a General Strike, but in fact only called for one within 90 days. Nonetheless CSC began to publicise the Strike call, and to collect money to support it; over £80 was collected on one Local Democracy march in London, while giving out leaflets about the strike call, and linking the attacks on democratic rights in both countries. Many more messages of support were sent to individual unions to assure them of international support for their actions.

In April a telegram was sent by Labour MPs to the Interior Minister protesting about the attack on the MDP leadership. When this attack became a legal threat to ban the MDP, at the behest of Jarpa, acting through his right-wing civilian allies, a further wave of protest messages was sent.

An appeal for funds to re-equip the offices of the Miners' Confederation in Chile was sent out to Trades' Councils in July, and over £100 received, despite competing demands for the delegation and of course the British miners.

The biggest effort was reserved for the General Strike when it was finally called in October. A considerable sum of cash was sent over for the trade unions organising the strike; messages were sent out by many trade unions in Britain; an Early Day motion in Parliament got over 45 signatures, supporting the strike; Neil Kinnock issued a statement; and the T&GWU issued an instruction to dockers calling for an embargo of Chilean goods on that day. News of all these actions was sent to Radio Moscow and Berlin so that it could be transmitted into Chile.

Because of the Inti Illimani tour, CSC was unable to organise any major public event to support the strike, but events were put on outside London, and CSC supported a day-long cultural and political vigil held by Chile Democratico on October 29th, and a picket of the Chilean Naval Mission on the 30th.

After the announcement of the State of Siege, CSC put out an Urgent Action about the arrest of trade union leaders (mainly from the Miners' and El Surco peasants' confederations), and soon heard that some of them had been released as a result of international protest.

In support of the protest against the Siege on Nov. 28th, CSC joined with CCHR and Chile Democratico in street leafletting and petitioning at five sites in London, getting a very good response. CSC also secured the signatures of eight trade union general secretaries on an open letter drawn up by CCHR, and handed in to the Embassy with others signed by MPs etc during a CCHR picket on Nov. 30th.

Throughout the year newsletters have included many calls for protests to be sent to Chile and to the Chilean Embassy, over and above those listed above.

WORK WITH THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT

Nearly all CSC's activities involve work with the labour movement, whether it is appeals for protests to Chile, organising local meetings, holding marches and pickets, fundraising or even putting on concerts. Every year tens of thousands of CSC leaflets go out in various union mailings.

More specifically, work directed at the labour movement in 1984 included the following.

Fringe meetings were held at a number of union conferences, including CPSA, SCPS, NALGO, NATFHE, and NUSMW/TASS, with numbers usually over 30. At the CPSA Conference a speaker from CSC spoke at a larger Tribune fringe meeting.

Stalls and leafletting and sales of raffle tickets were organised at a number of the other union conferences.

This altogether represented the greatest input to TU conferences for several years.

At the TUC in Brighton, a fringe meeting held jointly with ELSSOC and the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign attracted ninety people, a much higher proportion of them delegates than in previous years.

The greatest impact however was at the Labour Conference in Blackpool in October. CSC helped to organise a 'Fiesta Socialista' on the Sunday before Conference, with 150 people, Donald Anderson and Judith Hart both spoke about

their visit to Chile; the report and the video both made their debut; and Patricia, a Chilean singer, made a very good impression. Other speakers covered Central America and Grenada, and the group Barricada also played.

At the Conference itself CSC had a stall showing the video, and distributed a lot of material. The conference agenda included a composite on Latin America, including specific reference to Chile; this was spoken to by Alex Kitson, who again referred to the delegation, and held up a copy of the report. A representative of the Sandinista Government addressed the hall and received a standing ovation, and the composite was passed nem. con. There was also an emergency resolution on the order paper about the sale of HMS Antrim to Chile in September. There was some confusion on the as to how this had been submitted, however, and it was not reached, although the sense of it was included in the composite.

On the Thursday night CSC held its own Fiesta, with the Chilean group from Manchester playing in the Planet Room. Alex Kitson and Barry Fitzpatrick both spoke briefly, and a raffle of a patchwork sold out of tickets before being won by a striking miner. About 300 people came and it made enough profit to cover the entire costs of CSC's presence at the Conference.

Towards the end of the year discussions began about establishing better links with Chilean unions, with a number of British unions. It was felt that the direct links campaign in 1982 had been rather premature, but that the state of the unions in Chile now, despite the State of Siege, was much better for entering into this kind of work.

WORK WITH CHILEAN ORGANISATIONS IN BRITAIN

Early in 1984 it was agreed between CSC, CCHR and Chile Democratico that more regular meetings between the three organisations were needed to co-ordinate activities. These meetings took place but were not sustained. It is recognised that this is a weakness that needs remedying. There was however greater cooperation on most public events than in the past. Pickets and vigils were mutually supported, and CSC supported the Chile Democratico Festival on September 22nd.

In January 1985 CSC and CCHR were invited for the first time to take part in the Chile Democratico National Congress, for discussions about solidarity work. This provides the basis for better levels of co-ordination in the future.

The C.U.T. has operated for the last year as the trade union commission of Chile Democratico. Liaison has continued to be very close with CSC. Early in the year CSC secured the fares for four C.U.T. representatives to attend a C.U.T. conference in Brussels. Two leaders of the Miners' Confederation visited Britain in the first months of the year. Rigoberto Lillo spoke at the CSC AGM and had meetings with the NUM in February. In May Juan Antinao met TUC representatives, and spoke at two major rallies in support of British miners. He also brought many recent trade union documents including a construction union bulletin which reproduced our report of solidarity activity in Britain in the first quarter of the year.

The C.U.T. continued to pass on requests to CSC for support and other help from Chilean trade unions, including the appeal for the Miners' office; a request for protest about the refusal of the junta to re-admit builders' leader Hector Cuevas into Chile, although he was very ill; an invitation from the builders' union to UCATT to send representatives to their national conference in November; and an appeal for financial aid from the newly-established National Commission of Municipal Workers. CSC has been able to make some sort of response to all these requests.

CSC has also worked with the Victor Jara Committee to assist the Victor Jara Festival in March at the Royal Festival Hall; and again for the Pablo Neruda Commemoration in November.

Right of Return

Another area of joint work with the Chilean community has been the right of return. From 1983 into 1984, a joint committee of CSC, CCHR, CD and some of the aid agencies like WUS, Christian Aid etc were meeting to provide information about the legal and financial situation of people returning to Chile, and to try to find increased sources of funding to assist those who do return. Such sources are meagre, but the British Government through the Overseas Development Agency did make more grants available to WUS for people to return. CSC recognised that it would not be able to make much impact on the huge existing need, but did commit itself to establish a fund to assist activists who had no other means of getting support.

Various delays meant that the Fund was not launched until June, when the Miners' Strike was already taking up a lot of TU support, and when some of the major unions had already committed themselves to supporting the delegation. However, some unions made contributions, and others sent appeals out to all their branches. This has brought a response, especially from CPSA and NALGO branches, many of whom have had no previous activity on Chile or contact with CSC. The fund has at least brought us many new contacts. So far limited assistance has been given to a number of people who have returned. Two others are expecting more substantial help from unions. In general however the fund has taken a back seat and will need fresh initiatives to revive it.

Meanwhile there has been continued campaigning over cases of exiles who have been definitely banned from returning, especially over the 'lists' issued of names of exiles banned. It is not yet clear how the State of Siege will affect the flow of exiles back to Chile. So far it has not prevented any returns. Altogether it seems clear that the whole issue, of those banned from entry to Chile, and those able to return but without means of support, will continue to be a responsibility of the solidarity movement for a long time to come.

SEPTEMBER DEMONSTRATION

While the work of the delegation etc. prevented CSC holding a national demonstration in 1984, at the same time a mere picket on Sept. 11th was considered insufficient, and the brave step was taken of holding a demonstration on a Tuesday lunchtime. For once the weather was good, and a bright, colourful, noisy and optimistic march of 500 supporters - including contingents from Bristol, Leeds, Sheffield, Cambridge, Norwich and elsewhere - made its way through crowded West End streets to a rally in Red Lion Square, addressed by Jeremy Corbyn MP and Malcolm Pitt of the Kent NUM, as well as Chilean women.

It was the first time a march had been held on a weekday and was considered a great success.

INTI ILLIMANI TOUR

In October the famous Chilean group Inti Illimani performed their biggest ever tour in Britain, organised by CSC and other Latin American committees in association with the co-op, LMS. The concerts, which also involved a variety of support artists, were in Cardiff, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield and London's Royal Festival Hall.

An estimated 15,000 people attended altogether, an every evening was a political as well as a musical event, with speakers from the solidarity campaigns and from the British labour movement. While concerts outside London were not always profitable themselves, every committee made a considerable profit from collections, and sales of literature and records.

CSC's concerts were Liverpool, Leeds and London. These were all successful in terms of audience size, atmosphere, political impact and profits. Liverpool had over 1,200, Leeds full to capacity at about 1,800 and London sold out at 2,700. A great deal of records, literature, greetings cards etc was also sold at the concerts. Alex Kitson spoke at the London

and the collection raised about £800.

LOCAL COMMITTEES ACTIVITIES

The concerts were a major focus of local committee activity, but by no means the only one. In general, local activity has greatly increased in 1984, partly due to increased awareness of Chile as the struggle intensified; partly due to the delegation and the surrounding publicity; and partly due to the stimulus given by Chilean exiles in many places, pushing for the revival of solidarity activity.

Some of the longer established committees, such as Sheffield and Manchester, continue to give support to projects in Chile. Others like Cambridge have combined this with giving support to exiles who have returned. The potential for increasing such links between local committees and projects in Chile is now much stronger, and should be encouraged.

When Isabel Letelier visited Britain in April, she spoke at very successful meetings organised in Leeds, Birmingham and Manchester, before going on to meet TU leaders at the Scottish TUC in Aberdeen.

Leeds has been constantly active, with film shows, videos, a report back meeting with Donald Anderson MP, a very successful concert, etc. Sheffield has also kept up a high profile, with steady involvement of the local labour movement in a number of day-schools and conferences, a concert with Inti Illimani, etc. There has been a big revival of activity in Birmingham, with an all-day event on September 19th, other day conferences, a film showing, actions in support of the General Strike, etc. Manchester has had meetings, a pena in September, participation in a very popular Latin American Week, and a campaign against the deportation of a Chilean resident in Britain. In Cardiff the Latin American solidarity group held a well-attended day school, including sessions on Chile and human rights. There has been a lot of activity in Bristol, with campaigns around relatives of exiles in Bristol who have been sentenced to death and subject to other repression.

New local committees have come into being in Edinburgh and Hull, and there is the possibility now of renewed activity in Scotland more generally. Student committees have been set up in Hull, Kent and other colleges. Norwich has also seen new action, with a demonstration there in the summer, and a major event including a speaker from the delegation in September.

NEW MATERIALS AND OTHER FUNDRAISING

CSC veteran John Keane set the pace in 1984 by taking part in a Triathlon, to raise money for the Campaign. That meant swimming two miles, cycling 120, and running a full marathon afterwards. He survived and has so far raised about £1,000, including £200 from London Region UCATT.

The national raffle launched in April and drawn in November also netted about £1,000, having grossed nearly £1,400. The major selling point of this had been the trade union conferences in the spring and early summer.

Stall selling literature, records etc, were held at many of the outdoor Festivals and major political rallies during the summer, and this raised many hundreds of pounds as well as helping to maintain the high profile of the Campaign. At the GLC Jobs Festival, and again at the CND Glastonbury Festival, food stalls were run. This was very successful at the first occasion, but at the latter, the degree of competition meant that an enormous amount of work produced only a slight profit. Nonetheless it also kept the name of the Campaign before thousands of people.

The year saw the production of a new badge, 'Chile - the people are winning', which has sold more than half the 2,000 produced; a new poster, 'Chile - one more push for freedom', which has been praised for its striking image; and T-shirts, with 'Venceremos' on them. They all sold out within six months, and clearly the idea should be repeated.

Chile Fights

Chile Fights has now become the full responsibility of the Campaign office to produce and write. This has meant that it has been more closely related to the work of the Campaign, and it has also been able to take advantage of the much greater flow of information coming in to Britain to make it more newsy. One result of this is that the Affiliates News-letters have shrunk in size, as much of the news they used to contain is now in the pages of Chile Fights.

The bookshop orders have continued to decline, as a result of the dissolution of the old distribution co-operative, but sales through affiliations and through direct sales at demonstrations have increased, and the circulation of each issue is now over 1,500. There is a great potential to increase this sale, especially through local committees.

CHANGE OF OFFICE

In June, CSC was obliged to move its office, from the old ground-floor front room to an upstairs back room, plus a store room and other accessible space. This was a considerable disruption at a very busy time. However, some advantages should flow from this. Firstly, the move has obliged the re-sorting of the masses of old files, sifting out much of the unnecessary paper, and gradually rearranging the rest into an accessible system that will be of greater use for research and reference. This should also produce a less cluttered office. Secondly, the new building will become a meeting place for many labour movement organisations in north London, and present CSC with the basis for new contacts. Thirdly, the Campaign has been donated a small offset litho machine, by the Miners' International Federation, who have moved from London to Brussels. The new rooms upstairs will provide space to operate this machine, which will enable CSC to produce leaflets and other printed materials more easily and cheaply.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee met eleven times in 1984, with an average attendance of 11. A number of new faces were welcomed onto the Committee, including Bob Hart of SCPS, Rachel Brooks of NUS, Rita Donaghy of NALGO. Chris Proctor disappeared as SCPS representative but re-appeared from the POEU. The Committee said farewell and thank you to Peter Holt of NALGO, who retired; Kate Clark, who was going to work in Moscow; Ann Brown, leaving with the MIF for Brussels; and Jim Murphy, also Brussels-bound, to work with another CSC veteran, Stanley Clinton Davis.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership at the end of 1984 is given below, with the 1983 figures in brackets. The total number of affiliates at the end of 1984 was 670, compared to 659 at the end of 1983.

			New affiliates
Trade Unions (national)	32	(33)	0
Trades Councils	37	(39)	1
Union branches & districts	126	(136)	4
Student Unions	39	(34)	5
Individuals	264	(240)	43
Constituency Labour Pty.	88	(97)	5
Others	51	(48)	3
Abroad	33	(32)	1
Local committee contacts	102	(103)	6

WOMEN

Work in solidarity with women in Chile has been growing and developing at the Campaign throughout the year. The positive starting point for this was the 'Conference on Chilean Women' held on 4th April in London. It was attended by over 100 women from all over the country and from a wide variety of backgrounds. Isabel Letelier attended the conference and spoke about her recent stay in Chile. She then stayed in Britain for another week and followed a gruelling programme of talks and interviews with the press. These included addressing the Amnesty International AGM, and interviews which were broadcast with BBC World Service Latin America Section, Woman's Hour, and Channel Four's Seven Days Programme. She spoke in Leeds, Birmingham and Aberdeen at meetings arranged by the local groups. Her visit was vital and important for the Campaign as a whole but also gave the women in the Campaign a lot of information to initiate new work in solidarity with women in Chile.

Contacts with women's groups have been slowly increasing and a London based Women's Section has developed to progress the work. This has now started meeting regularly and also women are coming to the Campaign on wednesdays to work specifically in this area.

The work this group is currently engaged in includes the seeking of funds for a project run by a midwife in one of the Campamentos around Santiago. Many women's groups in Britain have been contacted for their support and more are being approached.

Work has also started on the raising of funds for the Women's Delegation for Chile. A booklet about women in Chile has also been produced.

Isabel Letelier returned to England in November and a successful social/meeting was held in South London Women's Hospital to which about 50 women came even though the Campaign only had a week to publicise it in. She was also interviewed for Radio 4 and Spare Rib.

CHILE COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The serious deterioration of the human rights situation in Chile over the last year has meant that this has been one of the busiest years at CCHR for a while.

Indeed, the Committee has been faced with so many emergency situations over the last year, that, given our limited resources and time, it has been difficult to respond as effectively as we would have liked to each set of circumstances. Simultaneously, however, we have been unwilling to make uncomfortable decisions as to which situation is a priority, and we have attempted to deal with everything that has arisen in our path, while at the same time developing other crucial areas of work, such as consciousness raising. The ambitious way in which we have responded to the situation in Chile - with a determination not to neglect any area of work - has meant that never, in the past three years, has the CCHR office been under so much pressure.

Nevertheless, the last year has been a productive one for CCHR, with some notable successes and other pleasing developments in our long term objectives.

Over the last year, the CCHR office in London has made a real effort to involve committees outside London as much as possible with the Committee's work with the aim of building up a strong infra-structure on a national level. AS well as regular mailings and urgent actions, CCHR has attempted to find out more about the activities of the local committees, and has publicised their work in our general mailing; such reports have been beneficial in putting people in contact with each other and enabling them to see what everyone else is doing.

As well as a continuing series of visits and addressing of meetings, CCHR has attempted to engage the committees outside London in major campaigns and projects. The successful tour of the film, 'Chile - I do not invoke your name in vain' during May and June last year was a case in point. The film was produced clandestinely in Chile, and covers the period from December 1982 to October 1983, giving a dramatic account of how the popular movement in Chile emerged in such a forceful way. The tour followed the British premiere in London, which was held on the anniversary of the first national protest in Chile. So successful was that particular showing that the event seemed more like a rally than an ordinary film screening. A video of the film has been produced by CCHR and is now available for hire.

CCHR has continued to make improvements in the content, format and presentation of the Chile Newsletter. Such is the increasing interest in Chile, that in the past two years, sales of the Newsletter have practically doubled.

One of our main areas of work this year has been the issue of Britain's relations with the Chilean regime. After 18 months of constant lobbying, we felt a real sense of victory when in the United Nations General Assembly, the British Government voted in favour of a resolution expressing concern at repression in Chile, and calling for the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, who investigates the situation in the country. However, this victory, the result of persistent letters, urgent actions, delegations and lobbying, must be put in perspective. There is still a long way to go, and CCHR must maintain and extend the broadest range of pressure possible, if human rights are to become a major consideration in British Foreign Policy towards Chile. Indeed, arms sales have continued; this was emphasised by the handing over to the Chilean Navy of HMS Antrim, on the very anniversary of the coup. CCHR has tried to highlight such arms sales with the media, whenever possible, and is continuing the campaign with a petition, produced in conjunction with the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, demanding an end to all arms sales to Chile.

In such a brief report as this, it is obviously impossible to cover more than a couple of the many aspects of CCHR's work. We have sent out regular urgent actions to affiliates for action, as the situation had demanded, with particular attention given to the cases of political prisoners facing a possible death sentence. CCHR has also launched a major campaign to gain the release of political prisoner Pedro Fernandez Lembach, the only political prisoner in Chile with a British visa. Such campaigns have developed alongside our regular work with Parliamentary contacts - we have tabled Early Day Motions, and have received support from MPs from all political parties. We have also continued to organise other meetings, pickets etc, to raise public awareness about the situation in Chile, as well as a stream of very necessary fund-raising events.

1985 will be another very crucial year for Chile - and CCHR looks like being in a stronger position to respond to developments than ever before. We are in the process of appointing a second full-time worker to work alongside the Secretary, and thanks to our friends in SOGAT we have moved to larger and more suitable premises. Our new address is:-

Caxton House,
13-16 Borough Road,
London SE1 0AL
Tel. 01-928-5023

CHILE DEMOCRATICO

In 1984 Chile Democratico carried out quite fruitful work. New local committees were constituted in the provinces (Birmingham and Liverpool). Various national conferences were held to discuss diverse topics of solidarity interest (direct links, support for the protests and general strike, right of return etc.). The year just passed was, on the other hand, one of organic consolidation for Chile Democratico, with the holding of the first national congress of the organisation in January 1985.

The activities carried out by the committees locally in support of the national strike of October 1984 were very significant, with over £1,000 of aid being sent, including both central and local contributions.

This aid was sent to the CNT.

Chile Democratico also invested a great deal of energy in the work for the Right of Return. A meeting was held, jointly with the British Refugee Council, to discover in more detail the attitude of the exiles towards a responsible programme of return. A report will soon be published of the results of the survey undertaken.

The co-ordination of work with CSC and CCHR allowed us to respond in a greater and more adequate way to the protests organised by the opposition in Chile, demanding an end to the dictatorship.

Chile Democratico has moved to new offices (95-97 Old Street, EC.1) and believes that the facilities provided by this new premise will allow us to make a greater contribution to the solidarity campaign in Britain in support of the struggles being waged and organised by the Chilean people against the dictatorship.