

DECLARATION

-to be put to the National Action Conference on Chile to be held at the Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, on March 23 1974.

THIS ACTION CONFERENCE OF THE BRITISH LABOUR AND STUDENT MOVEMENTS ON SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE DECLARES:

- A. We denounce the violent and repressive nature of the coup d'etat in Chile of September 11 1973, and of the military regime which it installed. Specifically, we denounce:
1. The bloody, violent and indiscriminate slaughter of supporters of a legitimate government, legitimate political parties and legitimate trade unions, which has taken place in Chile since the September 1973 coup d'etat.
 2. The assassination of president Salvador Allende, the democratically elected president of Chile, who died fighting heroically to defend the future and progress of the Chilean people.
 3. The proscription, pursuit, arrest, torture and execution of:
 - a. Political leaders, cabinet ministers and civil servants.
 - b. Trade union leaders
 - c. Doctors, professionals, artists, musicians, professors, teachers and students
 - d. Officers and men of the armed forces and police who were loyal to their constitutional oath
 - e. Thousands of innocent workers, men, women and children
 - f. Foreigners of all nationalities, but especially Cubans, Brazilians, Bolivians and Uruguayans
 4. The illegal detention without trial and under barbarous conditions of political leaders such as Luis Corvalan Lepe, Clodomiro Almeyda, Anselmo Sule and Bautista Van Schouwen, and the denial of safe-conduct passes to those in embassies such as Oscar Garreton.
 5. The execution without trial of David Miranda, General Secretary of the Miners Federation and numerous other trade union leaders, and the attempted assassination of Rolando Calderon, General Secretary of the Chilean TUC while he was in the Cuban Embassy, under the protection of the Swedish government.
 5. The existence of concentration camps such as that temporarily installed in the National Stadium in Santiago, and at the present four principal sites -Dawson Island, Quiriquina Island, Pisagua and Chacabuco. The existence in these and other places of an estimated 10,000 political prisoners.
 7. The use of denunciation and methods of interrogation and torture in violation of every known standard of humanity, and on a scale not known since Nazi Germany.
 8. The outlawing of the Chilean TUC and the systematic violation of all labour rights, including the abolition of the right to strike.

9. The attempt to convert Chile into a fascist state along corporatist lines described in a new 'constitution' at present being elaborated.
10. The declared intention of the military leaders, in contradiction to (9), to stay in power indefinitely, and suppress all political life in Chile

This conference, in deciding on the broad lines of the activity which it is proposed should be undertaken in Britain in support of the Chilean people's anti-fascist struggle, takes note of the declaration issued recently by the parties of the Popular Unity and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR):

"The anti-fascist resistance is headed and shaped by the Chilean people inside the country. They must decide on its character, form, scope and the factors making it up. They will surely set it up as strong as possible, with absolute determination to win, with a spirit of unity that seeks to increase the vast wellspring of anti-fascist feelings that is developing throughout the country."

It is in the spirit of this principle that we shall endeavour to establish the broadest possible movement in Britain in support of the resistance movement of the people of Chile.

C. This conference deplores the actions and attitudes of the Conservative government, which until March 1974 were making the British people a party to violence, torture and incipient fascism. Specifically:

1. The speedy diplomatic recognition of the Chilean military junta by the British government.
2. The decision of the British government to continue arms sales to Chile; the Conference draws attention to the undisputed evidence that British-made Hawker Hunter jets were used to overthrow the Allende government, and to destroy the presidential palace.
3. The refusal of the British Embassy in Santiago to grant asylum or assistance to fugitives from the pogroms who are not British citizens.
4. The refusal of the British government to respond to the appeal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to grant permanent asylum in Britain to refugees from Chile, in circumstances where Britain was almost the only European country to refuse to do so.
5. The decision of the British government not to support the initiative of the Dutch and Scandinavians to refuse to renegotiate Chile's foreign debt at the Club of Paris talks until human rights had been restored in Chile.