

The Labour Party

Transport House Smith Square London SW1P 3JA
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from R. G. HAYWARD, CBE
General Secretary

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19 September, 1973.

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Mr. L. Murray, O.B.E.,
General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street,
London, WC1B 3LS.

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Jewell

Thank you very much indeed for letting me have a copy of your Congress resolution on Chile and a copy of the letter which you have sent to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

I enclose a copy of a statement which I issued and you will no doubt be interested to know that James Callaghan, M. P., Ian Mikardo, M. P., (the Chairman of our International Committee) and I will be meeting Sir Alec Douglas-Home this evening to urge that the British Government should not recognise the military junta and that Government aid to Chile should be suspended.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely
R. G. Hayward

NEWS RELEASE

PS.162/73

**ISSUED BY THE LABOUR PARTY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
TRANSPORT HOUSE - LONDON SW1P 3JA 01-834 9434**

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION: PERCY CLARK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mr. R. G. Hayward, C.B.E., General Secretary of the Labour Party, today sent the following letter to Senator Anselmo Sule, President of the Radical Party of Chile. The Radical Party is the fraternal Party of the Labour Party inside the Socialist International and one of the Parties which made up the Popular Unity Government of the late President Salvador Allende. Mr. Hayward is also requesting the Parliamentary Labour Party to press the British Government to suspend all British aid to Chile and to desist from granting recognition to the military regime.

12 September, 1973.

Senator Anselmo Sule,
President,
Partido Radical,
Santiago,
Chile.

Dear Anselmo,

The news from Chile indicates that we have to accept that the illegal and unconstitutional action of the armed forces has succeeded and that the democratically-elected government of Chile has been overthrown and that President Allende is dead. It is difficult to express the sense of horror and anger which the British Labour Movement feels as the aspirations of the working people of Chile - shared by so many others around the world - are destroyed at the hands of a few arrogant and ignorant officers acting at the behest of those who believe that their right to rule is unchallengeable.

I visited Chile earlier this year when the Bureau of the Socialist International met in Santiago, and I had the privilege of meeting and talking to President Allende, and it is with a sense of deep personal grief at the death of the President that I, on behalf of the Labour Party in Britain, offer my sympathy to you, your Party, and to all those who support the ideals of the Popular Unity Government.

The death of Salvador Allende, however, is more than a personal tragedy. It symbolises the crushing of the hopes of millions of people, inside and outside your country, who were participating in or watching sympathetically this valiant attempt to fundamentally redistribute power in society through democratic means. The

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violent smashing down of those efforts by the armed forces, on behalf of those who had traditionally arrogated to themselves a dominant share of political and economic power in Chile, illustrates the total failure of those interests to prove their case by democratic means. Their failure is now blazoned to the world.

The tragedy of Chile has implications for all of us who are intent on restructuring society - whether in Latin America or in Europe. It brings home to us the community of interest which Socialists throughout the world have in overcoming the sometimes subtle, sometimes brutal, efforts of the political and economic elite to maintain the present structure of society which is so favourable to them and so unfavourable to the mass of the people.

I hope that you will take some comfort from the knowledge that, although the battle for human progress has suffered a grave defeat in Chile, the world-wide struggle for democratic socialism against those who seek to deny the people their political and economic rights will continue, and we remain confident of our ultimate success.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) RON HAYWARD

General Secretary