



ICFTU international confederation of free trade unions
C I S L confédération internationale des syndicats libres
I B F G internationaler bund freier gewerkschaften
C I O S L confederación internacional de organizaciones sindicales libres

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DONALD MACDONALD
President - Président
Präsident - Presidente

SPO/mm

17 September 1973

OTTO KERSTEN

General Secretary - Secrétaire général
Generalsekretär - Secretario General

In reply please quote:
Circular No. 62(1973)

TO ALL AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS
TO ALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
TO ALL INTERNATIONAL TRADE
SECRETARIATS

Dear Friends,

Coup d'Etat in Chile

On learning of the military coup d'Etat in Chile, I made the following statement to the press:

"OTTO KERSTEN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS, EXPRESSED, ON 12 SEPTEMBER, THE SHOCK FELT BY THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT FOLLOWING THE GRAVE EVENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN CHILE stop THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, WHICH WAS DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED THREE YEARS AGO, AND WHICH MIGHT, BY ITS SOCIAL REFORMS HAVE SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE WHOLE OF LATIN AMERICA HAS BEEN BRUTALLY OVERTHROWN BY A MILITARY COUP D'ETAT stop CONDEMNING THE ARMY'S ILLEGAL ACTION, THE ICFTU ASSURES THE WORKERS OF CHILE, WHO DOUBTLESS WILL BE THE MAIN VICTIMS OF THESE EVENTS, OF ITS SYMPATHY AND ITS SUPPORT."

The ICFTU is deeply concerned about reports of arrests and mass persecutions of workers and trade unionists by the military junta in Chile. No international recognition should be given to the military junta which has established itself with all the characteristics of a right-wing dictatorship.

We appeal to affiliated trade union organisations to request their governments to withhold recognition from the Chilean military junta until democratic life is resumed.

On its side the ICFTU is collecting material with a view to bringing the matter before the forums of the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations.

.../...

In particular the ICFTU will be watching closely the actions of the World Bank in regard to Chile. I shall be attending the annual International Monetary Fund/World Bank meeting in Nairobi later in September and shall emphasize by all possible means that World Bank credits should not be resumed until a democratically-elected government is in place in Chile.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary