

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

From Tom Jenkins Department International
 To Mr. J.A. Hargreaves Date December 10, 1973

SUBJECT

C H I L E

1. Attached is a note covering the decisions reached by the General Council at their meeting in November to seek a meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, to consult the Labour Party in regard to appeals for funds in this country, and to donate £1000 to the ICFTU Chilean relief fund.

2. On the question of asylum the Government view is that while ambassadors do have discretion to give asylum to people who are victims of hot pursuit, embassies should not as a rule be used as sanctuaries. Up to November 20, fourteen direct requests for asylum had been received and ten had been refused. The others had been from UK or Irish citizens who had been given refuge. The embassies of Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, France, West Germany and Austria, amongst others have been giving asylum. *by the embassy in Santiago*

3. The United Nations High Commission for refugees has appealed to member states to help absorb the 2000 or so refugees in camps which it has set up, but which offer no diplomatic immunity and which the Chilean authorities have said must be closed by December 31, and Sweden and Switzerland will take 200 people each, Finland 100, and Belgium 50. The British government will not grant a quota for people from Chile and applications will be processed in the ordinary way, refuge being given to those refugees who gave this country as their first choice and who, because of their knowledge of English or ties with this country, have the greatest claim to come here and can most easily be assimilated.

4. Eleven unions have replied to our circular asking for information on trade contacts with Chile, five of them stating that they have no information, the AUEW (Engineering Section) and the AUEW (T&SS) stating that they are making enquiries, the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association giving some information on two destroyers being refitted in Clydesyde, and other unions giving information on exports and imports. The ICFTU and a number of ITS's have yet to reply.

5. We have some information on arms destined for Chile, the details of Government assistance, and a comprehensive list of British Companies operating in Chile.

I.C.3

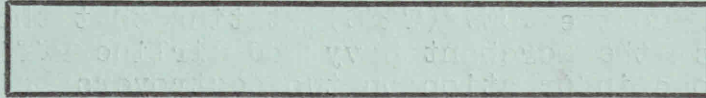
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From T. Jenkins Department International

To Mr. J.A. Hargreaves Date December 10, 1973.

SUBJECT

Chile

1. At their meeting last month the General Council decided that a delegation should seek a meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, and that the Labour Party should be consulted in regard to appeals for funds in this country. We have donated £1,000 to the ICFTU Chilean relief fund.
2. The meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, principally to discuss the refusal of the government to provide asylum in the embassy in Santiago, has been fixed for December 19 at 4.00 p.m. and this time is convenient for Mr. Murray and Mr. Jones. The Committee might decide which other members, if any, will join the delegation.
3. The Labour Party have said that they have not yet set up a fund or issued an appeal to their constituent organisations, but that they might be doing so soon, and they have indicated that they would like the TUC to act jointly with them. When the matter was discussed in the Committee last month, the view was expressed that the fund might be used to meet the needs in individual cases of trade unionists wishing to leave Chile and both the ICFTU and the DGB have said that they would be sending us lists of CUT officials in this position. The Labour Party do not appear to have any definite plans on the use to which a fund would be put but it is probable that their objectives would be wider than those of our project and in view of this a separate appeal might be preferable.

TJ/SA