

## Day 6

## “Sexta pata” (sixth leg)

From “The Limits of Tolerance: *Freedom of Expression and the Public Debate in Chile*”, a report published in the US by Human Rights Watch in 1998 we read:

“Seen from an international perspective, it is clear that Chile is governed by democracy under the rule of law, however, some aspects of its laws, institutions and practices fall short of international norms and standards... one of these areas is freedom of information, subjected to restrictions perhaps unparalleled among Western democracies.... The report concludes that an authoritarian tendency has prevailed in Chilean laws, political culture and judicial tradition, affecting the balance between freedom of expression and the restrictions to which it is subject.”

In the year 2006, the press in our country is still was controlled by two right-wing conglomerates: Copesa and El Mercurio. To describe free-market policies as “successful” is, in my view, misleading because they have been applied in a country never completely free and democratic. In June, 1997, the Concertación failed to pass a constitutional reform bill to get rid of the “designated senator” positions rooted in the Pinochet regime's 1980 Constitution. This was the third time in five years that such a reform was blocked by the Senate.

In fact to speak of Chilean “successes” is not totally true. The statement is not valid for the majority of Chileans. It all depends to which Chile you belong to or if we prefer to which social class you belong to. With regret, President Lagos admitted on Chilean television (March, 2005) that his government had failed to resolve the problems of fair distribution of wealth among all the Chilean people. (Economic indicator in the year 2006 shows that it is still the case.) To be fair to Lagos, his predecessors from La Concertacion: former presidents Patricio Aylwin and Eduardo Frei Ruiz Tagle (son of Eduardo Frei Montalva) also failed on this score.

The big winners in an economy which is growing have been the middle and upper classes. *But are they Chile?* Certainly not! The working classes got a bad deal from the Free Market policies. Time proved that David E. Hojman was right to suggest that:

“those policy makers who had bitterly attacked Pinochet's economic strategy became its loyal supporters.”

Former left-wingers, including socialists, mapucists, etc, by definition anti-Pinochet during the dictatorship, and today in Government, (2005) or in a position of influence never dismantled the economic structures built by Pinochet's economists. On the contrary, they along with the Christian Democrat improved the economic system.

I remember to have heard this from David Hojman in Liverpool where I was in 1975 with our Glasgow folk group invited to perform at a mass demonstration to receive Carmen Castillo just released from prison.

From David's book “*Chile*”, *History, Economics and the Policy-Makers, the political Economy of Development and Democracy in the 1990s*” I read:

"Allende was a tragic figure, a contradictory personality of tropical and flamboyant tastes, on the one hand a Marxist and admirer of Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, and on the other hand an old-style politician typical of the post-1930s Chilean democracy, with a healthy respect for the tradition represented by Balmaceda, or at least for the Marxist interpretation of this tradition. He eventually become a victim of the bad politics of his own government coalition, a prisoner of his own revolutionary rhetoric and intransigence, either his own or that of his closest political associates, unable to achieve any compromise with the moderate Christian Democratic opposition, but lacking the power to impose a revolutionary socialist regime."

The use in the above passage of a florid language to refer to President Allende hit me as a bullet. I have a lot of respect for the President, his socialist politics and what he represented for the Chilean working class\*: Was it, Allende's personality, his rhetoric, the bad politics of his government, his friendship with Fidel, which helped to unleash the events of the 11<sup>th</sup> of September of 1973? or was it, Allende's long standing intransigence against the Chilean middle-class-bourgeoisie and the American multinationals which triggered their anger against defenceless people? Why was he so intransigent? There were plenty of evidences to suggest that Allende was right to ask for profound changes in the Chilean economic system.

David knew well that one area of concern for the Popular Unity's government, and indeed for previous right-wing governments, was the countryside where, among other things, by the 1960s peasants still lived like serfs by judging their living and working condition in the countryside.

How Allende's stubbornness manifested itself against the powerful? Is David suggesting that Allende had to give up his socialist principle in order to please those on the other side of the political divide? What was David's objective to describe Salvador Allende as: 'a personality of tropical and flamboyant tastes', or 'a prisoner of his revolutionary rhetoric and intransigence ...unable to compromise with the 'moderate Christian Democratic opposition'?

Salvador Allende was a middle class Doctor and as such I imagine that he was entitled to have a whisky if he wished to and to dress properly as it was required by any President of Chile. Knowing so well how good a glass of whisky\*\* is, I blame Salvador Allende, Cardinal Silva Henriquez and Patricio Aylwin for having good taste:

"There were whiskies and coffee available after the tense dinner held at the home of Cardinal Silva Henriquez on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 1973 between the Cardinal, Salvador Allende, and the President of the Christian Democratic Party Patricio Aylwin"\*\*\*

When David speaks of Allende's intransigency, I asked myself the questions: was not the other way round? It was or it was not that the Christian Democratic, in opposition to the Allende's government, the intransigent party? Of course, this is a matter of controversy.

\* By circumstances owned to my own exilio in Scotland, in the classic terminology of Chilean politics, I am not anymore a typical working class person as I was in the 1970s when I came to Scotland. I cannot deny, however, the fact that I am now in the year 2006 a powerless middles class person with a proud working class background. I write all these memories about us Chileans in Scotland from this point of view. "Libreta de obrero" is available.

\*\* the water of life

\*\*\* El cardinal Silva Henriquez, Oscar Pinochet de la Barra, August 1987

In all honesty, we must accept by now that there was a degree of intransigence in all side of the political spectrum in the Chile of Salvador Allende. The so called 'moderate Christian Democratic opposition', to which Hojman refers to, was indeed a bunch of sinners before and during the time of the U.P.'s Government. Andrés Zaldívar, "el enano maldito", as the people called him, was not engaged in the terror campaign against Salvador Allende in the 70s?

"On September 23, performing his role in the plot, Frei's Treasury Minister, Andrés Zaldívar, gave a speech over national radio and television citing terrifying statistics about the financial calamity and reporting that "the economic situation of the post-election period stemmed from psychological factors" and that "the more than probable results of this situation would be a complete and generalized economic disaster."\*

The disaster came as a result of many things, CIA interferences, for example, in our affairs not only during the Allende period but before. In 1964 the Christian Democrat "the moderate", received from the C.I.A. \$2.6 million to boot the presidential campaign of its leader Eduardo Frei Montalva against Salvador Allende\*\*.

We know that The Episcopal Commission at the beginning of June of 1973, a very difficult time for Chile, expressed disappointment towards all side of the political divide:

"We all are guilty and we had sins. We are sinners for our actions and much more for omission. There are cowardice, there are silences and culprit...it looks like a country devastated by a war".

The Cardenal Silva Enrique also spoke out his mind at this difficult time in the history of Chile:

"Peace in Chile had a price; this country needs that all of us had to change our attitudes".

In 1983 in conversation with Raquel Correa, El Mercurio's journalist, Cardenal Silva Enrique said:

"President Allende always was available to dialogue and to find a solution. The most critical period was the U.P.'s Educational Reform proposal called: The Escuela Nacional Unificada. (ENU), he accepted the Church's petition and the opposition to the project and he withdrew it. I won the battle-he concluded-because there was understanding on the part of the government"\*\*\*

To be fair to the history of Chile, the intransigents were people found in high position inside the U.P, in the opposition parties, the bourgeoisie, in the United States administration of the time, and in the powerful Catholic Church which in those days was very much against the Educational Reform called "The Escuela Nacional Unificada". (ENU). The 'moderates' were: a bunch of livid reactionaries made up of conservatives elements inside the Christian Democratic Party. These people for years helped to maintain, in our country, a political regime favourable to the middle classes, the upper classes and the interests of U.S. companies operating in Chile.

\* Róbinson Rojas, The Murder of Allende and the end of the Chilean way to Socialism. Harper and Row, New York, 1975, 1976-Fitzhenry&Whiteside Ltd., Toronto, Canada, 1975

\*\* A History of Chile 1808-1994 by Simon Collier, William F. Sater, Cambridge Latin American Studies, Cambridge University Press 1996.

\*\*\* El cardinal Silva Henriquez, Oscar Pinochet de la Barra, August 1987

Salvador Allende, on the other hand, the flamboyant man, the socialist man, for years, years and years struggled to have a regime in our country that could finally take care of the interests of the lower classes: workers and peasants and others. In 1970 I gave my unequivocal support to Salvador Allende and so did millions of working class Chileans! We were not mistaken: Salvador Allende gave his own life in government palace, with a gun on his hands, given to him by Fidel Castro, trying to achieve his goal: socialism by peace means.

### **The moderates in Chile (moderated but in relation to what?)**

The bloody coup was instigated and organised in Chile by: “the moderates”, the right-wingers and by the Chilean Armed Forces on behalf of: their class, their institutions, their ideologies, their God, their Catholicism, and the government of the United States. Chilean history shows that, in general, the ‘moderates’, the ones that David refers to, always were mediocre politicians without a vision for our country and this may explain why I could see in Scotland and England many Chileans middle class refugees. Were they disenchanted with “the moderate”?

I am going to speculate here: Was the socialist government of the Chile of the 1970s a working or a middle class experiment? In my view, Socialism in the 1970s in Chile was, at the bottom line, a middle class experiment with many ‘moderate people’ as the helm of the socialist experiment. Salvador Allende was one of them. For any standard Allende was, in my view, an extraordinary “moderate Socialist”, a creative theorist. In power he wanted socialism with the option of getting communism for Chile, however, never outside the constitution, never outside the laws. He never instigates us, his supporters, to do a revolution in our country by the use of force. In Chile of the 70s, there was no mass distribution of arms to make a socialist revolution in order to kill the people in oppositions. The Communists were also a moderate force in Chilean politics during and before the 1970s and as such, supported Salvador Allende. Pablo Neruda, our major poet, a communist, supported the Allende’s revolution within the frame work of the Chilean constitution and the law.

### **The academic world**

It is noteworthy that one characteristic of some Chileans academics, involved in the British academic world and writing about Chile today, is to try hard to please a British audience by writing about an event from a distance, away from the action in which themselves were part of either for or against Salvador Allende. After all a PhD is a “PhD” and there are academic conventions to respect even if, this means for the Chilean academic, to give up principles and objectively: The idea that these people give me is: *“I was there but, observing what was taken place...”* Working class people like me were stupidly following many middle-class follies inside and outside the U.P. and millions of working class Chileans paid dear for it.

### **Newspaper and magazines**

There were many newspapers and magazines which carried articles about the situation in Chile and we were frustrated at seeing them but being unable to read them. I remember well that about this time there was an article on Chile in the Church of Scotland’s “Life and Work” magazine. It was a report written in the wealthy resort of Viña del Mar and I learned at the time that the article was very much in sympathy with the Pinochet regime. I was deeply disappointed about it and yet there was nothing I could do.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 1974, the Morning Star reported a picket of about 70 people at the Chilean Embassy in London demanding the release of Carmen Castillo and protesting at the murder of Miguel Henríquez, the MIR's leader.

*"The Chile Solidarity Campaign secretary Mike Gatehouse handed in a letter protesting at the cowardly detention of a woman in an advanced state of pregnancy and demanding Carmen Castillo's immediate release".*

Carmen Castillo was eventually released in 1975 and our folk group (Tulio, Hugo and I) was invited to play in a demonstration against the Junta in Liverpool as part of a programme at which Carmen had been invited to speak.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 1974, the Morning Star carried the headline:  
**"GREAT SHOW OF SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE"**

It referred to the commemoration in Britain of the first anniversary of the coup, with thousands of people taking part and the participation of many unions, political parties and the wife of Salvador Allende. Scotland was part of this event:

**"SCOTS MARCH AGAINST FASCISTS"**

"Thousands marched through Glasgow, some silently, some chanting slogans, but all expressing solidarity with the Chilean People in their struggle against the U.S.-backed fascist assassins who have brutally controlled Chile for the past year. Leading the 3,000 strong demonstration on Saturday were general council members of the Scottish TUC, which was one of the co-sponsors of the protest and councillors of the Glasgow Corporation which latter gave Mrs. Hortencia Bussi, wife of murdered Popular Unity President Salvador Allende, a reception in the city Chambers. In her moving speech at an open-air rally after the protest, Mrs Allende on behalf of the Chilean people thanked Scottish workers for their tremendous solidarity.

Mr Jimmy Reid, Communist candidate for Central Dunbartonshire, said that anniversaries were usually occasions for celebrating *"but today"* he said *"we are mourning the death of President Allende and of the temporary defeat of democracy in Chile"*. Mr Peter Low, convener of shop stewards at the Rolls-Royce East Kilbride factory, told the meeting that the engineering Union executive has been asked to reverse its instruction that the workers should call off their boycott of aero engines for the Junta...."

By November, 1974, more than 200 people were inside the Italian Embassy in Santiago and it was reported that Air Commander Enrique Montero had said that Oscar Rojas, age 20, had been seriously injured by the police when he tried to get inside the embassy.

About this time the Chilean and Peruvian Armies met on the Chilean-Peruvian frontier for the "Abrazo de la Concordia", as a sign of peace between the two countries. (Please note that, inside Chile, the same army was engaged in a war against its own people).

By December the same year, we have the Transport Union General Secretary Jack Jones calling, at the Labour Party conference attended by more than 1000 delegates, for a worldwide action to re-establish democracy in Chile. *"Stirred by a speech from Mr Jones on his return from Chile, delegates were passionate in their expression of solidarity with the Chilean resistance"*.

We also learned that a joint Senate-House of Representatives Conference Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, 1974, voted to ban all US military aid to Chile and to limit all economic aid to Chile to about \$10 million. The U.S. administration had requested £9 million in military aid to Chile for the financial year ending next June. (The Morning Star)

“Wolverhampton Committee for Democratic Rights has written to Churches, Trade Unions and MPs telling them of a resolution sent to the US Embassy condemning CIA activities in Chile. The resolution described the overthrow of the democratically elected Allende government as an “affront to civilisation” and demanded the withdrawal of all British support from the Junta”. (The Morning Star)

Mr Jacques Chonchol, agricultural minister of Salvador Allende came to Britain in 1974 to seek solidarity with the People of Chile. He asked for three immediate things from the British Government: help the refugees from the fascist Junta, deny it all arms intended for the Junta as those arms are used for killing Chileans and torturing the living, and make every international forum a chance to pillory the Junta before world opinion. (The Morning Star, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Dec, 1974)

However, we learned from the Guardian of the 31<sup>st</sup> of Dec., 1974 that:

“After hesitating for several weeks, British Ministers have given the go-ahead to a debt-repayment agreement with Chile’s military government. Outstanding commercial debts of £25 millions will now be settled by the Chileans over the next nine years. The F.O., which had been referring enquires to the Treasury in the weeks leading to the general election, has been reluctant to make any public pronouncements about the debts, although it was known that a plan had been drawn up. Last night’s announcement was deliberately pitched in a low key, and worded in brief technical terms. Ministers are aware that the Labour Party’s Left-wing has been watching the issue, as in the case of the sale of warships to the Chilean Navy and that some backbench MPs feel the repayment will be “blood money” that Britain ought not to accept from the Junta which came to power in last year’s coup.”

If this was happening at Government level, we know that the Scottish workers from the Roll Royce plant in East Kilbride were doing their best to disrupt work to be done on warplane engines belonging to the Chilean Air Forces.

1975: “The United Nations Youth and Student Association have pledge increased support for the Chile Solidarity Campaign, to which it affiliated”. (The Morning Star)

### **Two items from the Tass\* news, 14<sup>th</sup> of March, 1975)**

1) “The TUC has made a donation of £1,000 to the Chilean trade union centre (CUT) and, on behalf of British trade unionists; members of the TUC General Council have signed a petition supporting a resolution on the protection of human rights in Chile adopted by the UN General Assembly last November. The petition has been sent to the UN Secretary-General, who is to report on the situation to the General Assembly.

These moves followed a report to the TUC naming 205 trade Unionists arrested in Chile. Only 70 had been released (some only provisionally and some had been detained without trial for more than a year).

In its resolution, the UN cites the International Labour Conference resolution of June 24 urging the Chilean authorities to cease violations of Human Rights and trade unions rights, to guarantee the life and freedom of arrested, deported or imprisoned workers, militant workers, trade unions leaders and members of any political party; to put an end to the practice of torture, to close down the concentration camps; and to abolish the special tribunals.

\*TASS, The Technical Administrative and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Worker

The Chilean authorities are urged in the UN resolution to respect fully the principles of the universal declaration of human rights and to take all the necessary steps to restore and safeguard basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly those involving a threat to human life and liberty, to release all persons who have been detained without charge or imprisoned solely for political reasons and to continue to grant safe conduct to those who desire it.

2) In September 1975, TASS published an article from Amnesty International describing what was happening inside Chile. The article said that there are thousands in Chilean's jails as "prisoners of conscience" and one of them is the actress Coca Rudolphi "left deaf in one ear as a result of torture and beating". After her release, Coca visited Glasgow with other actors in exile who had managed to put on a play about the Chilean situation. (February, 2005 - my friend, the journalist/musicologist and broadcaster, Jan Fairley has just been staying at Coca's home in Santiago. They are friends and while Jan was at her home, Coca told her how she had recently had a face to face encounter with her torturer in a supermarket. She exchanged some words with the individual and was able to tell him that he had been her torturer. She was shocked by her experience. Many of these torturers, in today's Chile, live their lives peacefully, while the lives of their victims have been ruined for ever.

There were also many newspaper and magazines in the world which used to recount on a regular basis the situation in Chile.

(Please note: that newspaper's **headlines** will be shown below in bold):

From the Peruvian press (1975) we read the following headlines:

**Comisión de la ONU:**

**Pinochet viola todos los derechos del hombre** (22Julio 1975)

**Revelan que Junta Chilena...**

**Aumenta la represión y torturas contra Opositores** (2 Feb 1975)

**Salida al mar con soberanía propia pidió Bolivia a Chile** (12 Feb 1975)

**Por "Causas económicas" Portugal cerrará local de su embajada en Chile)** (1975)

From the French press we read the following headlines (1975):

**L'isolament du Chili**

**Un rapprochement s'est esquissé**

**Entre tous les adversaires du général Pinochet** (Le monde, 15 septembre 1975)

**La mort de Pablo Neruda** (Le Monde, Septembre 1975)

**Le Chili de Violeta Parra** (Le Monde, Septembre 1975)

**Quarante-quatre personnes arrêtées á l'université de Santiago** (Le Monde, September 1975)

From the English and Scottish press we read the following headlines (1975):

**Chilean take over severs ITT links** (13<sup>th</sup> of December Guardian 1975)

"The ITT which was owns other companies in Chile, was involved in plotting the overthrow of the Government of former President Allende, and the telephone company was' intervened' by Allende in February last year."

**Cardinal in Chile calls for press Freedom** (6<sup>th</sup> of May Guardian 1975)

**Torture claims spoil Chile's attempts to gain respectability** (19<sup>th</sup> of May Guardian 1975)

### ***Who gave the orders to the President's assassins?***

"Schneider, 1970, the constitutionalist commander of the Chilean Army had to be removed if Nixon's order to stop Allende taking power was to be obeyed. He was shot in the course of a kidnapping and the CIA paid up." (The Sunday Times, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1975)

### **The Chilean Nightmare**

"On the second anniversary of the overthrow of Allende, the leaders of the Chilean military junta gather behind President Augusto Pinochet with wives and aides at celebrations in Santiago. The scale of terror has diminished over two years, but repression is now built into the system, administered by a feared and hated secret police. With the economy deep in trouble, the junta is no longer assured of majority support." (The Sunday Times magazine, Nov, 30<sup>th</sup> 1975)

### **Whose hand on the killer?**

"...Dr Kissinger's name cropped up repeatedly in recent revelations about the CIA efforts to undermine the Allende Government in Chile. The Secretary of State is a key member of the so-called Committee of 40 which is supposed to authorise major CIA projects. But he has regularly brushed away suggestions that he was the deciding force behind the anti-Allende policy." (The Guardian, 26 of June 1975)

1975 - was the year in which Dr Sheila Cassidy had been detained and tortured in a torture centre and the following were some of the many front pages and headlines, accompanied by long articles, which appeared in most of the British press when she arrived in Britain to tell her story.

### **TORTURED! "Dr Sheila Cassidy relives the terror of her 59 days in Chile"**

"Foreign secretary James Callaghan hit out at the 'uncivilised, brutal treatment' of Dr Cassidy and said the matter would be submitted to the UN Human Rights Commission". (The Daily Record, Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1975)

### **BRITAIN HAULS AMBASSADOR OUT OF CHILE**

MR Jim Callaghan made it clear, in a letter of protest delivered to the Chilean Foreign Minister, that the British Ambassador, Mr Reginald Seconde would not return to Santiago until the results of such an inquiry were known in London" (The Guardian Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1975)

### **Mr Callaghan recalls Chile ambassador over electric shock torture of Dr. Cassidy.**

" In his message to the Chilean Foreign Minister Mr. Callaghan said that he had been 'distressed and appalled' to receive Dr Cassidy's account of her maltreatment and torture.' Her Majesty's Government condemns terrorism and violence of any kind he said" (The Times, Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1975)

### **CHILE GENERALS TELL DICTATOR TO STEP DOWN**

"The challenge was contained in a letter criticising the regime's failure and setting March as a deadline for reforms. These include the dissolution of Dina, Pinochet's secret police; urgent measures to save the economy from collapse; and an improvement in the Junta's unpleasant image overseas...Church criticism has also contributed to Chile's international isolation. At the United Nations in November, Chilean violation of Human Rights was condemned by a heavy majority." (The Sunday Times, 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 1976)



### **Expel Chile's envoy, say Labour MPS**

"Labour MPs yesterday urged the Government to expel the Chilean ambassador and cancel the training of Chilean servicemen in Britain as retaliation for the torture of Dr Sheila Cassidy." *(The Guardian, 2nd of February, 1976)*

### **Songs for the Freedom of Chile** *(containing a picture of Victor Jara)*

*Isabel Parra and Patricio Castillo talk to Bob Campbell, Morning Star Feature Editor:*

"Allende called the new song movement his "ambassador of culture" How right he was...What are their views about the degree of solidarity being developed here in Britain?' Last year's concert for Chile at the Albert Hall in London showed how solidarity has grown. To get 5,000 people to such an event is very significant." *(Morning Star, 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 1976)*

### **TORTURE: the overwhelming case against Chile**

A Roman Catholic priest, father Michael Woodward, was tortured to death on the prison ship Lebu in Valparaiso Harbour

"... though the Chilean Government continue to deny that it uses torture; the evidence to the contrary is overwhelming. Among those who have concluded that torture is used systematically in Chile are at least four international commissions of inquiry, two Chilean Church bodies, a citizens' group from Chicago, a delegation of American professors of medicine, a judge of the West German Supreme Court, and the Cardinal Archbishop of Santiago, who has denounced the use of "physical and moral pressure" during interrogation". *(The Sunday Times, 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 1976)*

### **CHILEAN TUC ASK: 'HELP HALT JUNTA'**

Pedro Cornejo, a Chilean refugee living in London, has been named official representative in Britain of the Central única de Trabajadores (CUT), the Chilean TUC. *(Morning Star, 9<sup>th</sup> of April, 1976.)*

### **STOP THIS CHILE AID" (TUC)**

"The TUC has asked the Government to withhold insurance facilities on exports to Chile, at present provided through the Export Credit Guarantee Department. Following their condemnation of the private visit to this country by the Chilean Finance Minister Mr Sergio de Castro, who was reported to be seeking bank loans for Chile from British banks, the TUC was told by the Foreign Secretary, Rt. Hon. Dr David Owen, that official aid to Chile has been suspended. The only form of official guarantee for credits to Chile was the insurance facility for exporters provided by the ECGD. After hearing this, the TUC International Committee agreed to write to the Foreign Secretary asking that these too be withheld." *(TGWU record, October 1977)*

### **SHEILA'S LESSON OF TWO CHRISTMAS CAKES THAT FED 80 IN A CHILE JAIL**

Sheila Cassidy the young doctor who was imprisoned and tortured in Chile two years ago relates her experiences in an autobiography, "Audacity to Believe" which will be published tomorrow...

"She went to Chile almost on impulse. Fed up with hospital working condition here and prospects in her line (plastic surgery), she simply packed up everything and sailed on a slow boat to Valparaiso to join a Chilean friend from Oxford." *(Glasgow Herald, 28 of September 1977)*

## **Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Chile Solidarity Campaign**

Solidarity with the people of Chile in Scotland was vast and those who were providing this solidarity with Chile were not only very busy organising quality events and finding the right people as participants but also we can see that they faced financial difficulties. The following was the: Autumn Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Chile Solidarity Campaign newsletter for 1976.

Meetings Campaign meetings are to be held in the Sprouse Road Community rooms, Abronhill, 8.00pm on the following dates:

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Organisation of Sept/Oct events
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Annual General Meeting
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	outside speaker
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Legal position on Human Rights

Prisoner Adoptions. A total of thirteen Chilean political prisoners have been adopted in our area. The adopting groups are the Carbrain, Kildrum and Seafar ward Labour parties, The Banton and Queenzieburn branch LP Cumbernauld Concern, The east Dunbartonshire Liberal Association, a local branch of the EIS, and the two Cumbernauld AEU branches. So far five of the prisoners have been released and effective contact has been established with one of the others.

September Events. To mark the third "anniversary" of the fascist Coup the Scottish Chile Defence Committee have organised the following:

DEMONSTRATION Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of September.

Assemble Blythwood Square at  
11am. March to Custom house Quay:  
Madame Allende, Judith Hart MP, Alex Ferry and Chilean Folk  
Group (this group is me, Tulio Bravo, and Hugo Alvarez)

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September

Citizens Theatre, Glasgow 7pm.  
Stalls and circle £1.25, balcony 65p  
The Laggan, 7:84 theatre Group, Phil McColl, Matt McGin and  
The Chilean Folk Group are amongst the performers.  
(The above Chilean group mentioned is me, Tulio Bravo,  
and Hugo Alvarez)

CHILEAN PLAY - called Chile 1973 starring Coca Rudolphy at the Edinburgh  
Festival Fringe, August 30-Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, Crown Theatre, Hill  
Place, Edinburgh, 5pm.  
Please contact me as soon as possible regarding transport.  
Arrangements for any of these events, final arrangements will  
be made at the meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

TOWN CENTRE COLLECTION At our last meeting it was agreed to have a Town Centre Collection in aid of the soup Kitchen run by father Pedro Janinez for the Children of Talcahuano, Chile on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of September. That date has already been booked by another group so, we ere now trying for the beginning of October. We will also distribute propaganda leaflets and our colleagues are arranging for an open exhibition and a Chilean Folk Group. (This was our group)

ORGANISATION. Our last AGM meeting was held in October 1975 so the October meeting is again earmarked for an AGM and discussion of our future work. It is also a year since our last appeal for funds and we are now down to our last pounds so re-affiliations and donations before or at the AGM will be very welcome.

RESOLUTION. The West Stirlingshire CLP recently passed a resolution condemning all Chilean arms sales. The FO replied that "The Government dislike intensely allowing arms sales to Chile" but that existing arms contracts are still binding.

End