Vimet Interview with a refugee **Sind Child**

isanay out tent sut read gimpl and of benegand and that

, semitemos il tuoda seramidgin evad be forced to see while we were there. They to see him, but I never knew what they might cause Jose wanted to see them and they wanted iting him in prison. I took the children betake them and sell them. That was how we kept going, for a time, It was terrible vishe would weave pieces of material, then I'd them in prison. I used to take him wool and had to take him food because they don't feed to go and visit him with the children. ЭW While he was in prison in Valparaiso, I used 'leftist', so they picked him up immediately. coup. He was well-known in the area as a Jose was taken prisoner on the day of the , sailimat radio to chnesuodi of benequad and taiw at au of beneggad asd tadw (IIeW .siteM

they thought people were and in what order sexual abuse. We got to know how important to ask any questions. I was in prison some of the time with the sailors who tried to some of them would amuse themselves by torcause the soldiers were off-duty then and regularly. Sundays were the worst days beau lo emos , berutros erew au to LLA ; esol

be a bit ready for it. new prisoners what to expect and help them to they used different methods, so we could warn ing them down in tubs of shit or water, and them - electric shock, mock execution, holdevery kind of torture they could think of on warn Allende before the coup. They had used turing just for pleasure. They didn't bother

famit slohu sht osipapqipy ni upts woy bid

taught fascist ideas, but else could they do? afford to feed them. They knew they would be tines couldn't help and they just couldn't which the Junts has set up, because their fambrought up in the military boarding schools mothers who had to leave their children to be onomic reasons. Several times I heard of families have been split up, like us for econly two people able to get work. A lot of there were 25 of us in one small house and By the time we left to join Jose in England, stnered ym ditw svil of frew owf redto edd bas I bus viimel a'eaol of netbling and I going up and we couldn't afford it. I took living in our house because the rent kept prison outside Santiago. We couldn't go on February of last year, he was moved to another M. No, after Jose had been sentenced, in

school anyway, because they're hungry. find it very difficult to concentrate in books, or dictate pages of notes. The kids they used to - they just read out of the text teachers can't discuss with the children like 'sevent hour glorious armed forces', The lessons in schools now, where the kids are They have started having 'national security'

Spargaran signad and won

in Chile, but we always had a system of regular J.: Well, we have always had high inflation

it's not a'political'meeting after all, but have to ask permission to have a meeting, but organisations to solve common problems. They whole system , so people still turn to these with army officers, but they can't change a has replaced the mayors who were left wing thing about them. Well, of course the junta al authorities who are supposed to do somerepresentatives present these to the municipand then decides priorities. Then the elected where safe for the kids to play and so on, a medical centre, repair of the roads, somediscusses needs - a better transport service a big assembly once a year in which everyone general situation in the area. Then there is groups get together regularly to discuss the ttution of the country - in which different a whole system , which is part of the constthe neighbourhoods for example, there's still few thousand leftists, and Chile will be back to 'normal'. It isn't like that at all. In that it's just a matter of getting rid of a the junta would like everyone to think has practically stopped in Chile. That's what

to each other You can't talk openly for

they are afraid of is that people will talk

bers of their own families! Of course what

that the soldiers are keeping watch on mem-

tion - they always send soldiers to super-

mittee, but they can't because all the

mittee gave them some money to start.

vise the dining rooms. Sometimes it happens

are very nervous about any kind of organisa-

churches are supporting it. The authorities

The Junta would like to get rid of the Com-

it and what they needed, and then the Com -

are working now in a workshop making ready-

in touch. Where we lived, two of my neighas possible, and keep people organised and

money in ways that will help as many people

defend prisoners, and, they sometimes help

They have lawyers working for them who will

M.: Well, there is the Committee for Peace.

what they could do with their good works

for food for the children, but we told them

people) wanted to make themselves feel good

ty. In our district some momios (right-wing

very resentiul about having to accept chari-

at lower prices, and some even gave stuff for the children's dining rooms. People are

Some of the shop-keepers started selling food

work. If he got it, he would help the others

man's bus fare to go where there might be

People in our area shared what they had.

wasn't any money for shoes or new clothes.

what money they could raise to pay for one

Small groups of unemployed men put together

breakfast, lunch was pasta or beans or just break. We didn't have supper either. There

Jas 1'nbib faut Sw Sagaram sw bib woH .. M

wage adjustments to keep up. But now wages

families with food and medical aid. But, on

parties, and who had both been in prison,

bors, who were both members of left-wing

the whole they are trying to spend their

Idlah basinogro und araht al

. seilims1 riedt bus

are practically frozen.

made meals They planned how they could run

or on the bus, anywhere.

sports activities for the school-children, or

a discussion, for instance, about arranging

give people the impression that everything J'ntaum nov tud , ilusifitb at il , netail :. L

milk, a pint teol tor good. to sharp it suidything it stands for long anywhere - in the street, or at work,

CIGarettes, 20 0.75 sugar, 21bs G/L pasta,2lbs 130 0.25 OLL rent(troom) £4.10 a week (50,000 escudos) 02.43 Juode pnimes Chile-you would be If you were a worker in

and angry, doing whatever they can against

committees are doing, keeping people aware

like, and it's what the secret resistance

machines on. It is passive resistance if you

a growing amont of sabotage, not dramatic acts

to stagil to sqat anivesi steatow faul, jud

vised and there are informers. But there is

ause of course they're very carefully super-

unions you have to be extremely careful bec-

cious, passing information and ideas from

differnt parts, different factories. In trade

tive at a mass level, in keeping people cons-

bus about prices and how little they have to

very specific problems, people talking on the

complaining and criticising - always about

members of parties, they lead and encourage

ever. But wherever there are left wingers, afraid, because the repression is as bad as

shi an nasogetuo arom gnimonad algoag ark

dried milk costs more than a week's wages?

baby risks growing up retarded because they

How do you think people feel knowing their

, nerta is doing to them and their children.

about their shitty situation, and what the

the roads, people get more and more angry

Just voicing complaints, about the lack of

clear what they think about that situation.

reach that conclusion they make it quite

of noiseusetb shi in buA. Srow yns estion to

for a rota for the sewing machines because

you don't have to denounce the regime as

buses and the price of fares or the state of

so few people can afford to buy cloth to make

come to the conclusion that there was no need

thgim nemow sdt od.noitsutis Isutos sdt tuods

murderers or fascists - you just have to talk

ple are not speaking against the junta. But

to keep an eye on things, and make sure peo-

and the military send along a few soldiers

machines. So they have to submit an agenda decide a rota for using the communal sewing

the women from the mothers' centres want to

can't feed it properly, because a tin of

Searow stag noitoutis

M.: Yes, they are. Of course people are still

manage on. That is where the parties are ac-

02.8 Second Point 20

. snsed to based vilausu s'ti nedt not afford to eat more than once a day, and each week of malnutrition. People just can one of the poorest - at least one child died in the area where she lived - by no means A woman working in one of these told me that father is out of work, in prison, or dead. a day to the children of families where the up children's dining rooms, to give one meal The churches have recently started setting the junts, until we're well enough organised

plants, for example, the work force has been factories that are working, textile or car income for several weeks. In most of the workers and their families with little or no the beginning of September, which means 16000 The Lota coal mines, have been closed until 'holidays' for one or two months or longer. A lot of factories have closed down for are 16%, but it is probably closer to 40%. rate of unemployment. The official figures large businesses, as well as a staggering ruptcies in small, medium, and now even in The result is a steadily rising rate of bankcrease in Chile's share of the export market. slump in the internal market, without any in-September 1973. This means there has been a worth about half of what they were belore last year, and the wage freeze. Wages are ready reached 170% by June, on top of 400% The reasons are the inflation, which had al-

under the military regime of present conditions A British visitor's account A recent visit

Stisic sint no gignoris isom upy Mouris ind

s'sinul off toolle sucobid a tadw osilasi of been forced to become prostitutes, you begin or what has happened to those women who have pened to that child, where his parents are, ously. If you start to wonder what has hapon my plate and started eating really ravencame in and snatched the piece of bread left Once I was eating in a restaurant and a child shoelaces, for example, or a reel of cotton. the children 'selling' things - one pair of of beggars and prostitutes everywhere, and I think what hit me most was the huge number

policies are naving.

Sacononia simonoss

-Razanoo sut ni noitoutis sat tuodo Baiatyno uavel ac obvisuos episino ob nok pia

about what was happening there from several Yes, I travelled a bit, but I learned more

and to bart uoy bib enoirporbar agato that water and his crop. If he complained, he'd so if they don't like someone he loses his ers usually control the water supply as well, landowner and work it for him. The landowncases they had to sell the land back to the In many there was no system of credits or loans so over legally and worked collectively has been In most cases the land which had been taken peasant trade union leaders I met in Santiago.

.nozirg off awordf to fods 9d people could not buy seed or tools. divided between individual families, but

steadily reduced, and they are working one shift instead of three and usually only a three day week. Fiat are producing 16 cars in stead of 70 a day. No one is buying goods like cars - Renault sold 10 in the whole of June.

Surely the manufacturers can't be very happy about this situation. Are they expressing criticism?

The information I've just given about the state of the economy and much more appeared in a recent issue of Ercilla, which is the weekly magazine run by the Christian Democrats, headed by Eduardo Frei, ex-President of Chile They represent the most modern capitalist sectors and are the closest allies of the United States. Frei, himself, gave an interview to Ercilla in May, in which, for the first time since the coup (which he and his party fully supported), he criticised the policies of the junta. He seemed to be particularly concerned about the steady dismantling of the nationalised industries like steel, electicity, oil and telecommunications. The junta's idea is to hand over practically everything, all state controlled industry and services, like the health service, to private enterprise or else to make them completely self-financing. Its main preoccupation is to cut down the rate of inflation, so that Chile becomes an attractive investment area - with a passive labour force. Some people saw Frei's criticism as an indication that the U.S. were perhaps backing some kind of modification of the regime, with Frei coming back into power in a more moderate military-civilian government, but I think there is really no evidence for that. Certainly some U.S. diplomats were very angry when Pinochet suddenly announced in July that he was not going to allow in the U.N. commission of enquiry into violations of human rights in Chile. But even if they are not happy with the crude way the junta handles things, there is no sign that they think that Frei would offer any better economic guarantees for them or any certainty of controlling the situation politically. They must be fairly clear that the only way of controlling Chile is by massive repression of the kind the junta is imposing. As far as the U.S.

democratic regimes in Chile or in the rest of Latin America.

Has there been any evidence of resistance?

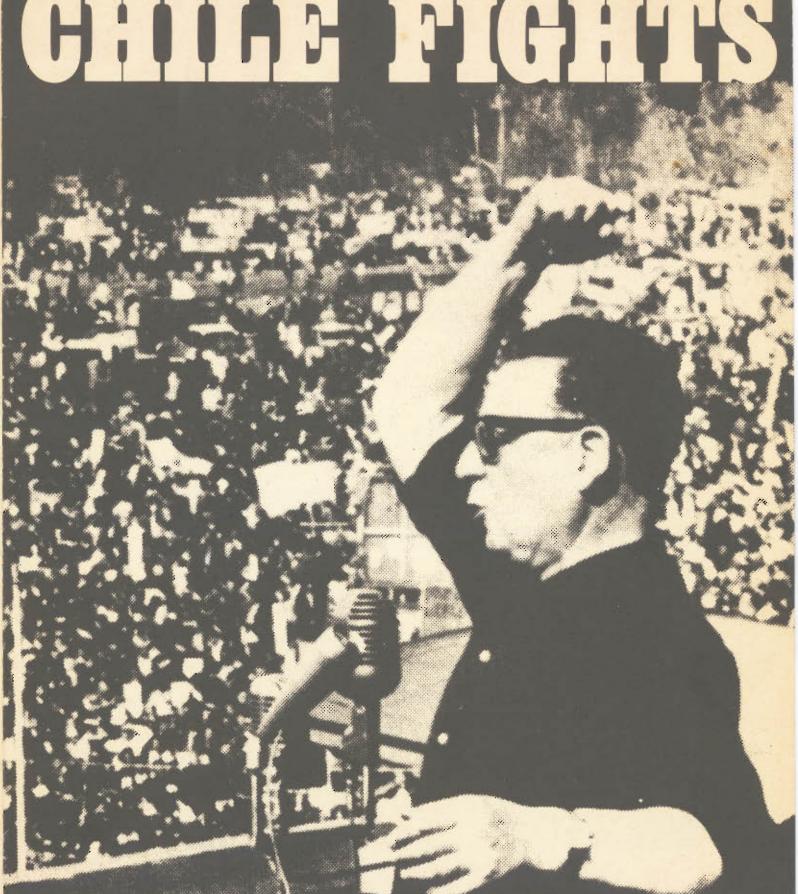
The other area from which there has been a good deal of criticism is from the trade unions which still exist, where the leadership is either approved or appointed by the present regime. In several cases these unions have expressed their discontent, in particular with the new labour laws which the junta is proposing. The unions were unhappy with the laws - they meant the virtual end of any kind of effective unionisation. But, what they were most worried about, though, was that if the junta did not give them some kind of validation, at least appearing to take them seriously, then clandestine union organisations would continue to grow. Effectively, there are secret re-sistance committees in factories and in the working class districts, which have organised the strikes, stoppages, and protests that have taken place and which are the main ways through which the parties can work. All the parties of the Left are still in existence in Chile, although obviously very badly hit. I saw copies of leaflets circulated by several of them.

What impression did you have of the general spirit?

The most impressive thing was how combative the people were - at least those I met in various shanty-towns, particularly people who had been in prison and terribly tortured. There was a tremendous determination to manage somehow, not to be beaten, and a great confidence that they would win in the end, although they all knew it was going to take a long time. The other thing that moved me when I met people was the enormous warmth towards me just because I was English and represented the solidarity campaign here. People knew, from the junta's own press, among other ways, a great deal about the actions that have taken place here. Everywhere people urged me to tell about what was happening in Chile and to ask the British people to continue helping them in their fight.

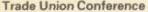


This is one of the jokes people tell about the junta. Leigh, Merino and Pinochet are the heads of the airforce navy, and the army respectively. Mendoza is the head of the police, and the subject of a lot of jokes, because he's thought to be stupidest.



With the overthrow of the Popular Unity government two years ago the resistance began. In factories, in shanty towns and in the countryside the underground movement is organising to defeat the junta and its US allies, to restore freedom and the right of the people to decide their own future.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF CHILE A TRADE UNION CONFERENCE



Saturday 25th October 11.30am - 5.30pm University of London Union, Malet Street, London. Sponsored by: AUEW, AUEW-TASS, ACTT, NALGO, NATSOPA, NUPE, SLADE, SOGAT.

Delegates credentials obtained from Chile Solidarity Campaign (CSC). 129 Seven Sisters Road, N7. Tel: 01-272 4298. Organised by Chile Solidarity Campaign.

TUC—Meeting on Chile. Thursday September 4th 6.00pm. The Windsor Bar in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Chair: Georgey Anthony (AUEW) Speakers: Alec Kitson (T&GWU) John Forrester (AUEW-TASS)

Calendar

Local events September

Birmingham 11th. Lunchtime vigil. City centre.
Edinburgh 11th. 7.30pm. Performance of *The Bite*, play by Chilean refugee. Trades Council, 7.30pm.
Glasgow 11th. 7.30pm. Public meeting. Patrick Burgh Hall.
Humberside 13th. Demonstration with Mme. Allende.
Assemble Kingston Square at 2.00pm
Manchester/Stockport 7 - 11th. 2.30 - 8.30pm. Exhibition of photos and posters. Town Hall Stockport.
14th Public Meeting with Mme. Allende.
Merseyside 11th. Public meeting.
Week of 11th. Factory gate meetings.
Fund-raising drive to raise £1,000.

Mansfield 10th. Meeting with Martin Flannery MP and Chilean speaker

Southampton: 12th. Meeting with folk group and film. York 11th Meeting with film, *Chilean September*, at St John's College

October

Bradford 24th - 30th. Chile Week. Exhibition of posters and photos, Public meeting. Factory gate and branch meetings. London 19th. 7.30pm. Concert with Juan and Mariela. Theatre Royal Stratford East. Tickets from box-office and CSC after mid-September. Concert tour with Juan Mariela 18th - 30th.

National Events

Vigils 8th, 10th, 11th September, 12.15 - 1.45pm. Chilean Embassy 12, Devonshire Street, London W1. The vigil each day will take a different theme: Monday 8th September: Stop repression in culture and education

Wednesday 10th September: Stop repression of women and children

Thursday 11th September: Stop military rule in Chile.

Labour Party Rally 11th September 7.30pm Solidarity with the people of Chile against the military junta. Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Madame Hortensia Allende Ron Hayward (General Secretary, Labour Party) Jack Jones (Gen. Sec. T&TWU), Judith Hart MP, Alex Kitson (T&GWU, NEC, Chile Solidarity Campaign) Tickets 20p available from Transport House, Smith Square, London SW1, and CSC, 129 Seven Sisters Rd, London N7. or at the door. Concert 30th September Royal Albert Hall. Inti Illimani – Isabel Parra – Quilapayun Tickets from Albert Hall (01-589 8212) and usual agents. Prices: 75p, £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00, £3.50. Collection for Chile Committee for Human Rights.

This list was based on information given at the meeting at Sheffield in July, and other information received later. Where it is incomplete, contact local committee (address from CSC, London).

Campaign News

In February this year the protests of thousands of trade unionists and Labour Party members were successful in getting the government to refuse the Chilean junta more time in which to repay its debt this year. Chile owes Britain a total of £125 million, of which £15 million was due to be paid back in 1975. The refusal to reschedule payments meant that the junta should have handed over that sum immediately. However, they and their advisers have openly announced that they have no intention of doing so—in which case they must have the support of the US and the implicit agreement of the Treasury. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, on both of which Britain is represented, have each since granted sizeable loans to this blatantly defaulting debtor.

This makes a mockery of last year's Labour Party Conference which decided to oppose any further renegotiation of the remaining debt until full civil and political rights have been restored to all Chilean citizens.' This year's Conference must demand full and immediate repayment for this year's debt, and the strict enforcement of Party policy when the junta asks for rescheduling next year. Not a penny for the Chilean junta.

Arms sales- the submarines

Two Oberon class submarines, the Hyatt and the O'Brien, are being built for the junta at Scott Lithgow's yards at

Greenock. At present (August) it seems that one will be ready to leave in two-three months' time, and the other later next year. They will cost the junta in the region of £25 million. They have already spent £350 million on arms, while thousands of workers and their families starve. If they are simply handed over, it will be against the spirit of the whole British labour movement's support for the Chilean people's struggle against the fascist regime.

Write now to: James Callaghan (Foreign Office) Denis Healey (Treasury), Peter Shore (Trade), and Frank Judd (Navy). Demand that the submarines are not sent. No Arms for the Fascist Junta.

Not a Penny for the Chilean Junta.

Chile and the United Nations

In July this year General Pinochet refused permission to enter the country to a special UN commission of enquiry. This was appointed as a result of mounting protest, to investigate the violations of human rights in Chile. In recent weeks there has come to light the presumed murder of the 119 leftists whom the junta has got rid of to put an end to enquiries for them, and the hundreds of other prisoners who have disappeared without trace. These two incidents have given added strength to the call to suspend Chile from the UN.

The junta in no way represents the people of Chile—it came to power only by overthrowing the government which the people had elected. It therefore should not be recognised by any international body, or by any government. Cut all Diplomatic Links with the Fascists.

Chile Fights/Chile Monitor (detailed news bulletin) 10 issues: UK £1.50 Europe £2.30 Rest of world: £2.70 Joint subscription: UK £2.80 Europe £4.40 Rest of world £5.20. Also available from CSC, pamphlet, *Chile trade unions and the resistance* 10p. Also posters and badges. Booklet (Chile Committee for Human Rights) also from CSC *Chile under military rule* by Wendy Tyndale (eyewitness account). 30p. Films from The Other Cinema, 12/13 Little Newport St, London WC2, Tel: 01-734 8508. Also *Companero* (film) from ETV, 247a Upper Street, London N1.

Records of Chilean music may be ordered from the CSC office.

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER 11.30AM-5.30PM