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6 September 1966

LA STAFF NOTE

SUBJECT: Chilean Christian Democrats Urge UN Membership for
Red China

SUMMARY

During their recent National Congress the Chilean Christian Democrats approved a general policy statement urging Red China's entry into the UN. Since the statement was proposed by the "Official" faction directly supported by President Frei, the statement probably had his support. As a result we can expect Chile at least to abstain and perhaps to vote for admission of Red China the next time the issue is raised in the UN.

1. On 28 August the National Congress of President Frei's Christian Democratic Party (PDC) approved a general policy statement declaring that the entry of Communist China in the UN was "fundamental to ensure the principle of universality." The statement also condemned the "confrontation of the great Powers" in Vietnam and proclaimed "negotiations with the participation of all groups in conflict" as the only means of ending the war.

2. Since the PDC policy statement was sponsored by the "official" group headed by PDC President and Senator Patricio Alwyn,

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it probably was approved by President Frei. Frei had intervened decisively in the Congress in support of Alwyn's moderate faction against both the extreme left wing Gumucio-Pérez "rebel" faction and the "Third Position" Bosco-Parra group. The "official" groups proposals were approved by 330 votes to 276 for the presumably even more "neutralist" proposals of the Bosco-Parra faction.

3. These foreign policy statements probably were the mildest that could have been approved by the PDC National Congress. The Gumucio-Pérez group has strong pro-Castro leanings and has shown a willingness to cooperate with the Chilean Communists on both domestic and foreign policies. The Frei leadership faced a real challenge from younger PDC members dissatisfied with the slow pace of enactment of the party's reform program. Apparently he gave them a few bones in the foreign policy statements in the interests of party harmony. We seriously doubt, however, that these scraps will long suffice.

4. When the Chilean UN Representative abstained last year in the UN vote on membership for Red China, Frei assured Embassy Santiago that the action had been in defiance of instructions to vote with the US. In view of the PDC statement we can expect the Chilean representative at least to abstain again and perhaps to vote for Red China's entry.


LA Staff

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