

Labor protests CIA role in Chile

In an unexpected and unusual expression of solidarity, the International Longshoremen's Association (AFL-CIO) last month sanctioned a 48-hour boycott of all Chilean cargo.

The ILA action was evidence of a widening split in the AFL-CIO around the question of support for the fascist Chilean junta. An increasing number of U.S. trade unions are adding their voices to the chorus of protests against the role played by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the CIA in toppling the democratic government of Salvador Allende in September 1973.

Although only a minority of unions is pointing to the complicity of the AFL-CIO's own American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), a substantial number are nevertheless raising strong criticisms of the U.S. intervention and of the fascist policies of the ruling Chilean junta. This is in contrast to the official stand of AFL-CIO president George Meany who pushed through a resolution at the labor federation's last convention that directed its main fire at the Allende government and lightly tapped the wrists of the junta for "excesses" during the bloody September 1973 coup.

The swelling labor protests followed the disclosures of Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.) that contrary to official disclaimers, the CIA was heavily involved in financing Allende's opposition and in organizing lockouts and boycotts to harass the Allende government.

Other U.S. unions which have voiced opposition to the CIA's sabotage and the junta's repression include the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, American Federation of Teachers (AFT), International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), United Auto Workers (UAW) and United Electrical Workers (UE).

The most dramatic protest to date was the Sept. 18 and 19 dock boycott of Chilean ships and cargo on the East, Gulf and West Coasts. The two-day boycott was the result of a resolution adopted last August at the 31st congress of the International Transport Workers Federation in Stockholm, Sweden. The ILA, which represents East and Gulf Coast longshoremen, is a member of the federation. ILA president Thomas Gleason in telegrams to all ILA locals urged them to boycott Chilean cargo for that two-day period. The Chilean ship, Copiapo, was idled for the two days at a Brooklyn, N.Y., pier when members of ILA Local 1814 refused to unload the ship's cargo.

The independent West Coast longshore union, ILWU, although not a member of the federation, also joined the boycott. When 50 demonstrators, including members of the October League and the New American Movement, picketed a ship carrying Chilean cargo at Long Beach harbor, south of Los Angeles, Calif., a crew of 10 longshoremen,

members of ILWU Local 13, walked off the ship. The longshoremen greeted the demonstrators with clenched fist salutes but returned to work four hours later when an arbitrator ruled the walkout an unauthorized work stoppage.

The ship, Prudential Lines' Santa Maria, was boycotted the next day, Sept. 19, when it docked in San Francisco. Longshoremen worked the ship but refused to touch its two tons of Chilean cargo, consigned to San Francisco, when anti-junta demonstrators set up a picketline at the pier. The Santa Maria sailed from the Bay Area for Vancouver, British Columbia, with its Chilean cargo still aboard.

In his telegram to the dock locals, ILA president Gleason noted that the boycott was meant to call attention to the situation in Chile and was only a warning. He said the boycott could be revived in the future if the warning was not heeded.

FEW ATTACK AIFLD

In other actions, UAW president Leonard Woodcock called for a full-scale, public hearing on the CIA's role in Chile.

President Ford's defense of CIA actions brought further reaction. In response to Ford's Sept. 16 statement that "our government, like other governments, does take certain actions in the intelligence field," IUE president Paul Jennings remarked:

"To justify our actions on the grounds that others do the same thing is to confess that we have no standards of our own. Even if such actions could be justified, why should we meddle in a democratic nation while treating the earth's tyrannies with hands-off respect."

Only a handful of U.S. unions, however, have called for probes of the AIFLD, the CIA front-group set up by the government, several multinational corporations and the AFL-CIO. AIFLD is run by Meany and his international affairs director, formerly Jay Lovestone and now Ernest Lee, Meany's son-in-law. In a Sept. 20 statement, Patrick Gorman, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters union, urged Congress to investigate the functions of the AIFLD in Chile.

At its recent international convention, Sept. 9 to 13, in New York City, the UE also adopted a resolution which scored the role played by the AFL-CIO through the AIFLD in bringing about repressive conditions in Brazil and Chile.

World of Labor

By GEORGE MORRIS

AFL-CIO silence on Chile

The most prominent personalities who were in the Allende government in Chile are reportedly being transferred from Dawson Island to Santiago for trial. Gen. Gustavo Leigh of the junta has said that about 6,000 political prisoners are ultimately to be tried, and he has indicated that the present trial of leaders will set the pattern for the rest.

Among the 29 scheduled for trial is Louis Corlavan, head of the Communist Party of Chile, and other leaders of the Communist and Socialist parties.

The entire labor movement of the world, whether led by Communists, Socialists or others, is actively protesting against the terror of Chile's junta. Many governments have been influenced by this labor pressure to join the protest.

Delegations of Communist and Socialist labor groups have gone to Chile to observe events, and all have come back to tell the same horror stories.

There has also been considerable pressure on the United Nations to intervene for the rights of the victims and for restoration of the suppressed unions.

There is one notable exception, however. I have looked through the AFL-CIO News since the AFL-CIO convention last October, and I haven't found a single reference unfavorable to the events in Chile.

The paper published in its Nov. 3 issue the resolution of the convention titled, "Restore Democracy in Chile," in the same way as the other resolutions of the convention were published. But the very content of that resolution is contrary to its title. Its main target is not the junta gangsters but the Allende regime.

As our readers know, the World of Labor column in the Daily World frequently observed, before the AFL-CIO convention that began on Oct. 18, that through the weeks since the Sept. 11 coup in Chile, as the terror and killing mounted and every people's organization, including the entire union movement, was suppressed, that there wasn't a peep out of George Meany or the AFL-CIO.

The plan of the AFL-CIO's International Affairs Department headed by Jay Lovestone was to have the convention ignore the Chile situation. The AFL-CIO leaders did not foresee, however, a petition by members of the Labor Press Association, consisting of editors of AFL-CIO union publications, that was holding its convention on the eve of the AFL-CIO parley. The petition, condemning the junta and calling on all unions to protest actively, was signed by most of the delegates to the convention of labor editors.

This put Meany and Lovestone on the spot. They solved the problem with a resolution that had all the earmarks of a resolution they may have planned to condemn the Allende regime in line with their support of efforts through the three years of its existence to overthrow it. But they topped this condemnation with a couple of paragraphs deploring "excessive violence."

Anyone reading the resolution would be expected to conclude that it was a good thing the Allende regime was overthrown.

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In light of this swindle by the AFL-CIO leaders, the conclusion is obvious: they were happy over the events in Chile. They simply couldn't display their happiness too openly because some of the major unions in the AFL-CIO did protest, quite a number in an active way. Among them was the largest affiliate, the United Steel Workers of America.

In looking through the AFL-CIO News since last September, I did find major space given to diatribes in support of Alexander Solzhenitsyn and other so-called "dissidents" in the Soviet Union, to diatribes against the detente treaties and to screaming editorials against economic relations and trade with the Soviet Union.

On the record of their policy in Latin America in many years and their activity through the CIA cover, the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), with Meany its chairman and Lovestone the real operator, the AFL-CIO's leaders really support the four-power fascist axis—Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia and Chile. Their agents worked to put dictatorship in power in these countries and even boasted publicly of their part in putting military juntas in power in Guatemala and Brazil.

The brazen pro-fascist position of Meany, Lovestone & Co. on Chile shows to what extent they isolated U.S. labor from the world's labor movement. And the same goes for their lapdogs, the Social Democrats-USA, who are just as isolated from the reform socialist movement of the world.

Chile is an important test for the AFL-CIO. And every union should give serious thought to what it means for every labor organization if its parent body gives silent support to galloping fascism on the Western continent.

Every union worthy of the name should speak up against the terror in Chile!

Conference map on aid to Chile

By RICHARD ASHBY and AMADEO RICHARDSON

CHICAGO, April 1—A wide campaign to compel Congress to cut off all aid to the Chile fascist junta was mapped here over the weekend at a national meeting.

The meeting was held at the Loop YWCA here to coordinate activities in solidarity with the Chilean people's resistance to the fascist junta.

It was planned to call a national legislative conference by the end of May, which will seek Congress action also to open U.S. borders to political refugees from Chile.

The legislative action is one of four major areas of concentration decided on by the meeting here, which was attended by representatives of labor, peace church and community organization, and by Chile Solidarity groups from 20 states.

To expose CIA labor front

Other main Chile solidarity activities planned include working to expose the AFL-CIO's American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), a CIA front engaged in subverting Latin American trade union movements; holding local and national demonstrations in solidarity with the people of Chile, and initiating a national campaign to free

political prisoners held by the junta.

The 115 delegates and 54 observers at the meeting here applauded a call to campaign within the labor movement against AIFLD, made by Fred Hirsch, chairman pro tem of the Emergency Committee to Defend Democracy in Chile, who is a member of Plumbers and Steamfitters local in San Jose, Calif.

Hirsch, who has done extensive research on AIFLD activities, urged that trade unionists present to their locals resolutions condemning AIFLD activities in Latin America.

Ernest DeMaio, general vice-president of the United Electrical Workers, emphasized that bringing up such resolutions for debate in union meetings would put pressure on AFL-CIO President George Meany to curtail AIFLD activities.

Set days for mass rallies

The meeting chose May 11 and Sept. 11 for national demonstrations against the junta and in support of Chilean political prisoners. The delegates decided to conform to the lead of the united Chilean Left in choosing which individual political prisoners should be emphasized in the demonstrations, as

symbols of all political prisoners held by the junta.

The campaign to free the Chilean political prisoners will include the writing of letters to the prisoners to show that they are not forgotten. Letters will also be sent to the Chilean Embassy and United Nations mission, and to military officers in Chile, demanding an end to the tortures and executions, and the closing of the Dawson Island prison camp.

The meeting received a telegram of solidarity from the Cuban Chile Committee and from the daughter of martyred President Salvador Allende.

Greetings were also received from the Canadian Chile Solidarity Committee.

Individuals and groups named to serve on a national continuations committee include Abe Feinglass, international vice-president of the Amalgamated Meatcutters; Humberto Camacho of the Trade Union Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Chile; (NICH) (Non-Intervention in Chile); the Emergency Committee to Defend Democracy in Chile, and Chile Solidarity Committees in New York, Philadelphia, Michigan, Los Angeles and Chicago.