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ORG 1 INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATING the Crimes of the Chilean Junta

(orig under Lasky)

Many Americans Lend Support

Will Worldwide Communist Drive Overthrow Chilean Government?

By VICTOR LASKY

ORG 1 Fifth Estate

The worldwide Communist movement, in a propaganda offensive directed from Moscow, has launched a major campaign aimed not only at toppling the military junta currently ruling Chile but seeking to reinstate the same kind of Marxist-Leninist leadership which brought that South American nation to the brink of economic and social chaos.

In this campaign, the Communists' usual allies in so-called "progressive forces" in the Western world ranging from knee-jerk liberals in the media and elsewhere to influential members of both houses of the United States Congress. Nevertheless, it would be wrong to brand all these critics as "enemies of Chile" or Marxists. Many are honestly confused by clever propaganda.

And the counter-Communist message of the Chilean government rarely gets through to the peoples of the world.

The Communist campaign has already scored some phenomenal successes. Top Chilean Communists or their fellow travellers have been cleared for admission to this country as "refugees," despite the fact that federal immigration statutes specifically bar aliens with Communist backgrounds from coming here. After all, as the writers of these statutes had reasoned, we have enough Communists in this country without importing more exotic varieties.

It's not as if these "refugees" have no other place to go. But for some reason they'd rather come to this citadel of fascist imperialism" and enjoy bourgeois delights than settle in what presumably are their spiritual homelands behind the Iron Curtain. After all, it's much easier to mount a propaganda campaign against the Chilean government from New York than it is from Moscow.

But probably the greatest success scored by the anti-Chilean lobby has been the pressuring of the State Department into adopting positions antagonistic to the interests of the counter-Communist leadership of that country.

The feeling among the bureaucrats in Foggy Bottom is that Chile has not gone far enough in restoring full democratic rights to its people. Moreover, Henry Kissinger is constantly being reminded of his role in helping bring down the pro-Soviet regime of Marxist President Salvador Allende Gossens. Exactly how much of a role Kissinger (and, for that matter, the United States) played in the events of September 1973 is still subject to dispute. The secretary was reliably quoted as having said, "I don't see why we need to stand by and watch Chile go Communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people."

Kissinger, who was then national security adviser to President Nixon, made that statement at a White House meeting of the super-secret Forty Committee, an interdepartmental panel re-

activities. The date was June 27, 1970. Kissinger was then riding high.

Less than five years later, there was a sharp turn in public opinion. As a result of the debacle in Vietnam and Watergate, a considerable body of influential liberal opinion, including media elements, turned against the Harvard professor whose meteoric rise to supercelebrity status had astonished even him. Chinks in the Kissinger armor were now constantly being explored. A major issue raised against Kissinger—by now secretary of state—was Chile. The argument was that, because of Kissinger's machinations, authoritarian rule had taken over in Santiago, the capital of Chile.

And this has caused Secretary Kissinger extreme anguish. The secretary just can't abide criticism, particularly from outspoken liberals. Concerned over their reproaches, the guilt-ridden secretary has adopted a stern posture towards Chile's anti-Communist leaders who, he contends, should begin easing their admittedly tough treatment of revolutionaries. Thus, under his direction, the State Department made a unilateral decision to bar Chile from making cash purchases of certain much-needed military items.

Now, there can be no argument about the fact that Chile's ruling junta now headed by Army Gen. Augusto Pinochet Ugarte did suspend much of the nation's civil liberties following the military takeover. And for good reason, according to official spokesmen. The nation was riddled with left-wing guerrillas, many of whom had stashed away vast stores of Soviet-bloc arms smuggled in from Cuba.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that,

Mr. Lasky, author and syndicated columnist, is currently writing a book about Watergate.

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