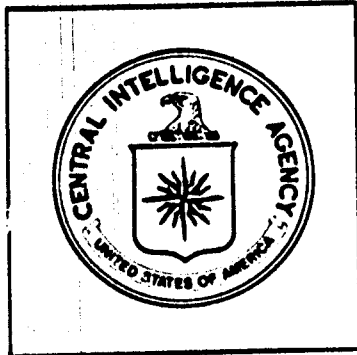


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Chile Loses UN Election--Even When Running
Against Itself

The Soviet campaign to isolate and embarrass Chile in international forums has been raised to new heights of absurdity at the UN. In an election yesterday in one of the Economic and Social Council's subsidiary commissions, Chile lost its bid for a seat--even though it was the only candidate.

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Elective positions in UN organs are usually divided among the five regional groups (Latin America, Asia, Africa, East Europe, West Europe and Others). Only when the regional group concerned cannot agree on a slate of candidates for its allocated positions is the entire UN membership called upon to settle the deadlock by vote. In yesterday's action, Uruguay withdrew its candidacy for the Human Rights Commission, leaving Chile the uncontested--and regionally supported--candidate for the seat.

The Soviets, however, demanded a secret vote and with the help of their East European allies voted Uruguay into the position. The chairman of the meeting subsequently upheld this Soviet procedural finagling and despite objections by a number of delegations, Uruguay will keep the position on the commission.

The Brazilian judgment on yesterday's election--"the rules are an ass"--reflects the frustration of many UN members with the almost constant political manipulations that go on in UN meetings. But when given their own opportunities to manipulate, such criticism of procedural violations is usually muted.

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