

Statement of former cabinet members and congressmen of CHILE

In the face of recent developments in the United Nations concerning our country, we the undersigned, all former cabinet members or Congressmen belonging to the democratic parties of Chile, feel it is our duty to make the following statement:

1. The Popular Unity government brought Chile to the worst crisis in its history. The economic collapse, with an inflation rate of 800 per cent during the last year, the scarcity of basic foodstuffs, the black market, the endless lines to obtain essential goods, the sharp fall in industrial, agricultural and mining production, which exceeded 20 per cent, placed the country in desperate straits. The systematic violation of the civil rights of all those who did not share the political ideology of the Marxist regime, the persecution—and even killings—carried out in countryside, cities and factories, the paramount importance given to one's political record in finding and keeping employment, were among the major factors causing a deep moral crisis. The deliberate promotion of hatred among Chileans, the establishment of armed groups unanswerable to any established authority, and a

marked ideological bias in dealing with the country's grave problems were other disturbing facets of the chaos toward which Chile was moving.

2. Legality was persistently violated, and normal operation of the country's institutions was constantly impeded. This is clearly demonstrated in the repeated statements by the Office of the Controller General of the Republic, the Supreme Court, the National Congress, all the professional societies, and most of the trade-union organizations, which pointed out the Marxist government's disregard of democratic practices and its violations of the law and political constitution of the land.

3. In this situation the armed forces of Chile intervened, in order to bring to an end a desperate state of affairs, and in so doing responded to the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the population.

4. For these reasons, Chile is in a state of emergency, required to prevent the country from plunging into chaos, anarchy and violence,

which would have been the unavoidable consequences of the national catastrophe into which the Popular Unity regime was leading us.

5. In a state of emergency deriving from a situation of chaos and violence such as the one described above, there is no doubt that certain public liberties are restricted and a few excesses and mistakes are inevitably committed, which the government endeavors to correct and punish. Our duty as Chileans is to urge that such instances be avoided, that the full exercise of civil right be re-established as rapidly as possible, and that any injustice be punished. We bring our efforts to bear for this purpose because we are confident that the armed forces, honoring their historical tradition and their commitment to the country, will establish the conditions required for the accomplishment of their objective, which is the normalization of

Chile's institutional structure. We recognize the efforts which are being made to allow the freeing of prisoners and the exit of those who have sought asylum, in a manner which goes beyond mere compliance with international agreements in the area of the right of asylum.

We conclude by stating:

I. Our rejection of and protest against the recommendations agreed to in the United Nations regarding our country. They offend our feelings as Chileans and show an inexcusable ignorance of past and present conditions in Chile and of the struggles waged by the peo-

ple and democratic organizations in our country.

We furthermore reject those recommendations as being discriminatory and unfair to a small country which has defended its right to determine its destiny in full freedom and sovereignty, repudiating a minority which seeks to lead it to a place of no return. As our country has demonstrated in other circumstances of its history, it is capable of overcoming the desperate situation which was leading us to a fate abhorrent to the overwhelming majority of the Chilean population.

II. Our appeal to all Chileans to unite in order to defend our country and work toward its rapid reconstruction, as the best way to accelerate and achieve normalization of the country's institutional structure and full democracy in Chile.

We urge those former democratic cabinet ministers and members of Congress whom we have not had the opportunity to consult to bring their support to the present declaration.

Juan de Dios Carmona, former Christian Democratic minister and senator; Alberto Baltra, former Radical minister and senator; Raul Juliet, former Radical minister and senator; Humberto Aguirre, former Radical senator; Americo Acuna, former Radical senator; Jose Musalem, former Christian Democratic senator; Alejandro Noemi, former Christian Democratic senator; Alfredo Lorca, former Christian Democratic senator; Raul Morales, former Radical senator; Jose Fonca, former Christian Democratic senator; Luis Papis, former Christian Democratic

senator; Jorge Lavandero, former Christian Democratic senator; Victor Gonzalez, former Christian Democratic minister and congressman; Ramon Valdivieso, former minister; Carlos Figueroa, former Christian Democratic minister; Modesto Collados, former Christian Democratic minister; Eduardo Leon, former Christian Democratic minister; Sergio Ossa, former Christian Democratic minister; Juana Dip, former Christian Democratic congressman; Carlos Garces, former Christian Democratic congressman; Gustavo Ramirez, former Christian Democratic congressman; Enrique Krauss, former Christian Democratic minister and congressman; Javier Lira Merino, former Christian Democratic congressman; Alberto Naudon, former Radical congressman; Eduardo Clável, former Christian Democratic congressman; and Jorge Ibanez, former Christian Democratic congressman.

Santiago, November 14, 1974