

DAY OF DECISION IS OCTOBER

Red Dilemma: Chile's

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(Written For the States-Item)

Since the takeover in Cuba in 1959 by Fidel Castro, one of the greatest political controversies to develop in Latin America has revolved around whether the Christian Democratic Party was or was not a "front" for the Communist party.

The issue is of tremendous importance not only throughout Latin America, but to the United States as well because of the tremendous growth the Christian Democrats have experienced in a half dozen countries in Central and South America.

The issue now possibly can be resolved next month when the Congress of Chile meets for the single purpose of naming the next president of that

country. It is within the power of the Christian Democrats to say whether an out-and-out Marxist, a man who openly has expressed approval of the Castro government, the Hanoi government and the Red Chinese, is to be named president or whether a conservative will rule Chile.

OUTWARDLY it seems very simple. However, the decision is fraught with many complications. The Christian Democrats have made progress because they have spite charges they are Communists. A vote now for the Marxist would eliminate all doubts as to the true colors of the "Christian" Democrats. It would put a Communist in power in Chile; but what would it do to the party in

other countries of Latin America?

This situation developed last Saturday when Chilean voters cast 1,075,616 votes for Salvador Allende, the avowed Marxist; 1,036,278 votes for former president Jorge Alessandri, a conservative, and 824,849 votes for Radomiro Tomic, a Christian Democrat.

Allende's Communist followers have 83 members in Congress, the Christian Democrats 74 and the Conservatives 43. Thus the decision is within the hands of the Christian Democrats.

Ever since the Christian Democratic party was founded, many have charged it is an outright front for the Communists. And for this reason many charged that Chile's outgoing President, Eduardo

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'Christian' Democrats

Frei, is a Communist.

FREI vehemently has denied being pro-Communist. Yet, throughout his regime Frei actually followed the Communist pattern and philosophy. He has praised Cuba's Fidel Castro on several occasions, and he was the very first president in Latin America to denounce the United States when military forces were rushed to the Dominican Republic to prevent further bloodshed in that riot torn country. Under the protection of United States military personnel, hundreds of Americans and foreigners from a dozen countries, including Chile, were evacuated. When normalcy was returned, the United States and other countries which sent in military

forces, removed all troops from the Dominican Republic.

Frei also moved closer than any Chilean president to outright nationalization of the huge United States owned copper mines. Using a typical Communist subterfuge, he refused to say it was nationalization. Instead, he called it "Chilization" and in the beginning sought only a small percentage; then he upped this percentage and gradually kept increasing until Chile now controls 51 per cent control of both the Anaconda and Kennecott properties. Since Frei's moves were made over a long period, few persons, other than the copper companies, expressed any alarm over the Chilean take-over.

Nor did it disturb the U.S. Department of State. Merrily,

the state department went along with the idea of substantial grants and loans to Chile — the highest per capita loan and grants in all Latin America. Since World War II the amount approaches the two billion dollar mark.

WORTH NOTHING is that in repudiating Communism, and stressing "Christianity" the party has attracted thousands of religious followers and many Catholic priests who sincerely felt the party did want a resurgence of "Christianity."

This was the pattern Castro followed when he sought and received substantial help from liberals like Romulo Betancourt, former president of Venezuela, and Jose "Pepe" Figueres, president of Costa Rica. Many Americans swallowed the Castro line, as did some U.S. newspapermen and a few extreme liberals in the U.S. State Department.

Despite all of this, efforts

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by moderates and conservatives to place the label Communist on the Christian Democrats have not been successful. But now, the Christian Democrats have the opportunity of earning the label by their own actions.

Unquestionably the dedicated Communist leadership in Latin America is even now debating this dilemma: Will it be control of Chile now; or should the masquerade continue until the time is ripe for a takeover in other Latin American countries?

The day of decision is October 24; and the place is Santiago, Chile.