

'Leftist Propaganda' Put On Bonfires in Santiago

By Marlise Simons

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SANTIAGO, Sept. 24 — Chile's new military government is clearly determined to purge "The cancer of Communism," from the nation, and every day brings new signs of its farreaching and efficient campaign.

Bookstores, schools and leftist party headquarters have already been "freed of extremist literature," and now the military is meticulously combing neighborhoods to stamp out subversion in private homes.

This weekend for example it was the turn of the San Borja district of Santiago, a middle-class neighborhood of several square miles near the center of town.

Soldiers in jeeps mounted with American-made anti-tank guns cordoned off Santiago at dawn this morning. Loudspeakers ordered people to stay inside their homes and to offer no resistance.

Shortly thereafter, some 3,000 soldiers moved into homes and apartment buildings. They broke the doors wherever they could not enter.

They searched for hiding "extremists," arms and "subversive" propaganda. Eyewitnesses said that the military arrested several dozen civilians earlier in the morning.

For the rest of the day, inhabitants of the neighborhood watched the spectacle of soldiers throwing books, newspapers and magazines out of the

windows of 20-story buildings. Underneath, other soldiers collected the spoils and turned them into bonfires that lasted for the best part of the day.

A young sergeant heading toward one of the burning piles with an armful of literature explained that Chile's military would "not stop until we've finished with the Marxists and their propaganda. But today we have orders to burn everything that is connected with politics. No matter whether it is right, left or in the middle."

The soldiers in effect seemed to need little or no encouragement and they happily warmed themselves around the fires, tearing up volumes too thick or heavy for the flames. The selected works of Mao Tse-tung lay burning next to old copies of Time magazine. Che Guevara's diary, a John Kenneth Galbraith treatise on the military, Sherlock Holmes and A Socialist Approach to the Economy" all went on the same burning heap.

There was no clemency for the collected works of Pablo Neruda, Chile's Nobel Prize-winning poet who died of cancer in a Santiago hospital late last night.

Neruda, one of the greatest voices of Latin American poetry was a Communist, a known friend and sympathizer of Marxist President Allende, who preceded him in death two weeks ago when a military coup overthrew Allende's government.

A spokesman for the military junta said the deceased poet had been "a great artist" but that no "great funeral" could be held because public gatherings are still forbidden by the military government.

At a briefing for the foreign press, the spokesman also denied that a nationwide witch-hunt against leftist literature had been ordered by the military. But the spokesman added later that some books had to be burnt because they might contain code.

Meanwhile, the campaign continues all over the country, with schools and universities reportedly searched and rid of "leftist texts."

At the San Marti bookshop in downtown Santiago, a truck was seen pulling up outside and loading hundreds of unsold volumes. Asked where he was taking his load, one of the collectors said, "to the incinerator."

At the Book Fair, another usually well-stocked store in the center of the capital, the "political section" has altogether disappeared. A quick survey showed this morning

that only two volumes by Marxist philosopher Herbert Marcuse and a collection of Black Panther essays had escaped the censor.

News agencies filed the following further reports:

Col. Pedro Ewing, secretary-general of government for the military junta that seized power Sept. 11, said in an interview published Monday that book stores "must eliminate Marxist texts if they don't want to be sanctioned."

In some areas, frightened people started their own fires in the street to burn offensive literature before the troops arrived. During the raids, churches were asked to suspend their services so that "extremists" would not be able to take refuge inside them.

In Vina del Mar 100 miles northwest of Santiago, the military authorities fired the municipal library director and ordered the shelves cleared of Marxist titles.

In the southern city of San Antonio, six dissidents were shot dead by troops while being transported from one detention center to another. The city commander, Col. Manuel Contreras, said the six "extremists" were shot when they tried to escape from an army truck which had broken down.

The Swiss government announced in Bern that its embassy in Santiago will be open to grant asylum to anyone seeking refuge from political persecution. The junta has arrested thousands of suspected extremists since the coup.

The two most wanted men are the general secretaries of the Marxist parties, Luis Corvalan of the Communist Party and Carlos Altamirano of Allende's Socialist Party. They disappeared on Sept. 11 when the military deposed Allende. The junta outlawed their parties on Friday.

Commenting on reports of large-scale executions at the international soccer stadium here, a spokesman said the junta would give figures and reasons for any executions.

"If there were executions I will give you the figures and reasons why they were executed," he said. But asked whether he could say there had been no executions at the stadium, the spokesman said, "I cannot say that."

While troops throughout the country continued to locate abandoned guerrilla training camps and weapon arsenals, a spokesman for the junta charged in Santiago that huge quantities of grain at seed selection plants had been sprayed with insecticide.

The spokesman said this de-

liberate sabotage had caused a critical shortage of grain for the current planting season but added that "friendly" nations had promised to send in new seed on emergency flights.

Military sources have said that an upsurge in guerrilla activities was expected now that supporters of Allende have gone underground.

The government said a guerrilla training school was discovered over the weekend in the capital in the Puente Alto suburb.

A large quantity of weapons and leftist propaganda was seized there, the government said. Also found were tools for excavating underground tunnels, authorities said.

More than 100 Soviet diplomats and technicians left Chile last night following the Soviet Union's decision to break diplomatic relations with the military junta.

North Korean diplomats also left Chile yesterday after the junta broke off diplomatic relations with Pyongyang government.