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Chile Offers to Reopen Talks on Copper

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SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept. 28 — Chile's new Foreign Minister, Adm. Ismael Huerta, said today that "the door is open" for a resumption of negotiations on compensation for United States copper holdings nationalized by the former Marxist coalition Government.

But Admiral Huerta asserted that the copper mines would remain in government hands and that Chile would "maintain sovereignty over its natural resources" while welcoming foreign investment in other areas.

Meanwhile, the military Government announced the arrest last night of Luis Corvalán Lepe, the secretary general of the recently outlawed Communist party. It gave no further details.

Mr. Corvalán, a 51-year-old former Senator, had eluded a huge military roundup that has sent about 7,000 suspected leftists to makeshift detention centers since the September 11 coup that toppled President Salvador Allende Gossens.

3 Companies Involved

The four-man military junta that now rules the country has declared all Marxist parties illegal and has banned leftist newspapers.

The holdings of three large United States copper companies — Kennecott, Anaconda and the Cerro Corporation — were nationalized under the government of the late President Allende were nationalized with the unanimous approval of the legislature.

The value of these compa-

nies' assets here was variously estimated at \$500-million to \$700-million. But the Allende Government levied \$774-million against what it said were excess profits made by the companies here.

The dispute over compensation was the main factor in the souring of relations between the United States and Chile.

Copper remains Chile's most important resource, with exports providing more than 80 per cent of the country's foreign exchange.

Production in 1972 reached about 600,000 tons. But in the last month of the Allende Government—following a long period of labor strife—daily production dropped to 783 metric tons.

The military Government asserts that it has raised daily production to 1,075 tons since it took over.

The president of the junta, Gen. Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, who is also army Commander in Chief, has indicated that the chief executive's post will be rotated among the members of the junta.

"I was elected president because the army is the oldest institution," General Pinochet said in an interview published today in the Chilean magazine "Que Pasa," "but I will not be the only president of the junta. After a time, it will be Admiral

Merino, and then General Leigh and so on."

Admiral Jose Toribio Merino Castro is the navy chief and Gen. Gustavo Leigh Guzman heads the air force. The fourth member of the junta, Gen. Cesar Mendoza, is director general of the national police.

The Government announced that it was offering \$14,000 for information leading to the arrest of any of the 13 most-wanted Marxists. It also said that informer would be allowed to keep any money found on the fugitives.

The Men on the List

The most-wanted men include Carlos Altamirano, the Socialist party chairman, and Miguel Enriquez, leader of the Revolutionary Left Movement.

The martial law in effect since the coup will apparently be used to enforce a campaign against common criminals as well as leftists.

The new director of the Ministry of the Interior's Investigations Department, Gen. Ernesto Baeza, has announced a "war to the death" against criminals.

"Any delinquent who is caught in a criminal act and dares to resist police action will be dealt with drastically, including if necessary his physical extermination," he declared.