

Embassies, U.N. Provide Help

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SANTIAGO, Oct. 1—The Chilean coup has made the old Latin custom of political asylum obsolete," said A. U.N. official, throwing up his hands after almost three weeks of fielding urgent pleas from Chileans and foreign exiles for safe passage out of Chile.

The Chileans for the most part were major figures in the government of the late President Salvador Allende or in the Marxist parties that formed his coalition. By now, most of them are under arrest or have taken asylum in Latin embassies from which they will be flown abroad.

But for thousands of other Latin Americans here, the situation is far more complicated, and often equally grim. To handle them, the U.N. High Commission for Refugees has sought and received the cooperation of the military junta in setting up havens for for-

eigners cast adrift by the coup.

Chile, historically hospitable to exiles, is showing its enophobic side as a result of charges by the junta that foreigners who entered the country illegally took an active part in the Allende government.

to Refugees From Chile Coup

The fact that Chile was such a free and easy place contributes to the confusion. By the junta's count there are 13,000 foreigners—"for the most part extremists"—in the country without proper documentation.

Another 4,000 employees of various international organiza-

tions and their families, are quite secure legally, but suspect in the eyes of many Chileans who have been urged to denounce any suspicious acts by foreigners.

Enrique Iglesias, secretary general of the main U.S. organization based here, the Economic Commission for Latin America, spent the first week after the coup establishing the inviolability of U.N. offices.

The military generally accepted the immunity of the diplomatic corps with the exception of the Cuban mission, which was accused of intervention in Chilean politics. U.N. people, including a couple of Cuban doctors, went through some harrowing experiences before their status was sorted out.

Most non-Latin foreigners' situations are now close to normal. About two dozen Americans who were detained after the coup have been released through the efforts of the U.S. consulate, and have left the country.

Some 2,500 Americans are registered with the embassy, and most of their relatives at home sent cables asking about their whereabouts. As of now, the embassy lists no Americans dead, and two missing.

The United States and European nations did not sign the Treaty of Caracas that establishes the principle of asylum and safe passage abroad for victims of political upheaval.

Nevertheless, several European embassies opened their doors to Chilean Marxists and other refugees fearing reprisals from the military. The

Swedish ambassador has taken up this role quite openly and has accused the United Nations of doing too little to help the refugees.

Another European embassy is more discreet. After the Chilean staff has left for the day, the wife of the ambassador starts cooking curried chicken for half a dozen Chileans who are called to dinner from the closets where they pass the daylight hours.

The junta appears to be relenting to diplomatic requests for safe passage for refugees in these few cases even though no treaty obligation exists.

At the Latin embassies, where the right of asylum is well established, thousands have sought refuge. The Panamanian embassy, which is about the size of a large dining room, took in 600 people.

Down the street at the Venezuelan embassy, Ambassador Orlando Tobar estimates that 2,000 have passed through the gates. A Hercules transport from Caracas has flown out more than 300, and at least that many Chileans and foreigners are camping on the grounds, sleeping on the floors, and lurching on the food that the transport plane brought from Caracas.

Some of the cases remaining are very ticklish. Seven Venezuelans here with out-of-date or inadequate documents took refuge in their embassy even though they are on the wanted list at home for involvement with that country's violent left.

Many in embassies are leftist intellectuals who moved to

Chile to take part in its experiment in democratic socialism. With the recent military takeover in Uruguay, and Argentina's new President Juan Peron offering no hospitality to Marxists, their problem now is where to go.

One of the first leftist intellectuals to leave after the coup was Spaniard Joan Garces, who was a close adviser to Allende. His departure proved difficult and embarrassing because it turned out that he was here under UNESCO sponsorship.

In general though, the bigger names have fewer troubles getting permission to leave the country. A lot of penniless Chileans and foreigners may have more difficulty. Hence the feverish establishment of the U.N. refugee program to help the non-Chileans.

Working in conjunction with the churches, U.N. representative Oldrich Haselman supervised the establishment of 26 processing centers and two havens—where refugees may live safely until they leave the country.

Ads are running in the newspapers offering help in obtaining documents or renewing expired ones, and in leaving the country if necessary. On the first day, some 600 people responded to the ads.

The U.N. officials emphasize that the junta has been most cooperative with their efforts and they show optimism that the problem of the refugees will soon be solved.