

Allende Aide Disappears After Arrest

By Lewis H. Diuguid

Washington Post Staff Writer

Pedro F. Ramirez, a former Chilean Cabinet minister and a son-in-law of Christian Democratic Party leader Radomiro Tomic, has disappeared after a week's detention by the Chilean military government, according to reliable information reaching Washington.

Ramirez, 32, was minister of mines and then of housing in the last Cabinets of President Salvador Allende, who was overthrown in a coup on Sept. 11.

An engineer, Ramirez is a member of the Christian Left Party, a faction that split off from Tomic's party and joined the coalition that backed Allende, a Marxist.

Tomic was ambassador to the United States for three years until he returned to Chile in 1968 to campaign for the presidency. The military government has taken no action against Tomic. But of his nine children, three have lost their jobs since the junta assumed power.

Now sources in Washington report that Tomic's son-in-law, the husband of his daughter Olaya, is missing. Ramirez had been virtually unique among top officials of the Allende government in that he remained free for the first month following the September coup.

Nearly all other officials who did not take asylum in embassies were immediately jailed on Dawson Island in the Straits of Magellan. Travelers from Chile say Ramirez was not arrested until Oct. 11.

No official statement has appeared, and Santiago's controlled press has not publicized the arrest. Friends and family of Ramirez have learned that he was held first at Santiago's Military School, however.

The following week, sources in Washington report, his family was told that Ramirez had disappeared from the school on Oct. 17. No further information was offered, they say, and his disappearance—like his arrest—is unknown to the Chilean public.

In several cases, including that of an American graduate student, prisoners of the military have been found dead after officials said that the detainees were released or had escaped.

The military has acknowledged executions or killing on the spot in some 140 cases involving persons alleged to have taken up arms against the martial law authorities.

The number of deaths officially acknowledged by the Junta have surpassed 500, and unofficial estimates run two to five times higher.

Allende supporters who have lost their jobs number into the thousands. Measures taken against Esteken Tomic, a son of the Christian Democratic Party leader, indicate that this purge extended beyond the Marxists, who are said to be the official targets of the Junta.

Tomic, a Christian Democrat, was a career diplomat and minister in Chile's embassy in Bonn, but was fired following the coup. He is now living in Rome. Two other sons who held public posts in Chile have lost their jobs since the coup.

The elder Tomic continues to teach at the Catholic University in Santiago and to practice law. He has accepted a teaching post for next year at the University of Texas in Austin, according to sources here.

In Santiago, according to news dispatches, the Swedish ambassador reported that troops have arrested two embassy employees and the wife of a Swedish newsman. Ambassador Hrold Edelstam said he and 15 political refugees were surrounded Tuesday night at the Cuban embassy. Sweden is representing Cuban interests since the junta broke off relations with Cuba.