

# Purge of Chilean Left Shakes Colleges

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—Two months after the military coup that overthrew President Salvador Allende Gossens, a vast anti-Marxist purge is shaking the Chilean university system to its foundations.

Military rectors have been appointed to head most institutions in the system, which has a total enrollment of 128,000. Leftist professors and students by the thousands have been swept off campuses, and many may face permanent expulsion.

Some universities and graduate departments, particularly in the social sciences, have been closed while the authorities sift out supposed left-wing extremists and Marxist courses.

Even though classes have resumed under a surface calm in most institutions, the pent-up hatred of the last three years of political rivalries has exploded in an ugly campaign of denunciations, mixing personal abuse with ideological discrimination.

In the University of Concepción, the most important academic center south of Santiago, about 6,000 of 16,000 students and hundreds of professors have been suspended.

The eastern campus of the University of Chile in Santiago, the country's largest and most impressive university, has been closed because of reported Marxist penetration of its social science and political science departments. About 8,000 students there — most of them leftists — have had their careers cut short, at least temporarily.

In the prestigious University of Chile Law School, 44 of 360 professors and about 70 students have been suspended.

Some 1,500 students in the university's schools of fine arts, music and architecture have been suspended, as well as about 100 professors.

The university purge is similar to attempts by the military junta to extend its control over key Chilean institutions and remodel them with a strong anti-Marxist slant.

## Military Tells Why

Since the Sept. 11 coup, in which President Allende died, the junta has dissolved the National Congress, banned Marxist parties and declared other political parties in "indefinite recess."

Censorship has been imposed on the press, television and radio, and military men have taken over as governors and mayors throughout the country.

"After an analysis of the grave and conflicting problems of the universities, which have practically impeded the normal development of academic activities, the military junta has decided to decree the reorganization of univer-

sities throughout the country," a recent Government communiqué declared in bringing to an end a long tradition of university autonomy.

The universities have traditionally been springboards to political power. Student leaders often doubled as youth leaders of political parties.

The university of Concepción's social science department, for example, gave birth to the extremist Revolutionary Movement of the Left, which led the illegal seizures of farms and factories in recent years. The University of Chile's law faculty, on the other hand, was a conservative stronghold that produced many of the crusty stalwarts of the court system and the anti-Marxist legislative majority.

## Elections Bitter

Like every other institution during the last year of the Marxist coalition Government, the university system became bitterly polarized between leftists and anti-Marxists.

Although the leftists held a clear edge in political power in many universities when President Allende assumed office in 1970, coalitions of moderate and right-wing students later gained the upper hand.

The election of a rector or student association leader came to be viewed with almost as much interest as a national legislative race, and was bitterly contested.

In the final months of the Marxist Government, pitched battles were fought on several campuses between supporters and opponents of President Allende. Often the rural groups took turns occupying university buildings.

"The student movement was a shambles even before Allende fell," said Carlos Latorre, an engineering student in his final year and national leader of university students affiliated with the Christian Democrats, a center-left party that opposed the Allende Government.

"In the end, there was a permanent struggle for power, with each side trying to control courses, scholarships and the appointments of professors," he added.

"This was an insane asylum," said German Vidal, a conservative and a professor of commercial law at the University of Chile. "I crave for order and discipline and authority. I'm sick of counsels and bureaucracy and confrontations. All I want is to have somebody on top who will make decisions, even if they are bad decisions."

The military officials who are making the decisions on campuses now have been able to tap this widespread law-and-order sentiment among anti-Marxists to carry out their purge with a semblance of popular support.

While military rectors have closed whole departments or universities that were leftist strongholds, they have also encouraged right-wing professors and students to denounce Marxists.

Almost every department in the University of Chile has been assigned a "prosecutor" — in most cases, a law professor — to receive written or oral denunciations of reported extremists. The accused is not allowed to face his accuser.

"If I don't do this, somebody worse will," said a professor of constitutional law, as he lamely explained his decision to act as a prosecutor in a science department. "The way I see it, it is a choice between throwing out some innocent Marxists and throwing them all out."

One denunciation he received accused a married Marxist professor of living with another woman. Another falsely accused a professor of making bombs, and still another charged that a teacher had gained tenure through his political connections with leftists.

"Many of these professors have outstanding academic records," the prosecutor conceded. "They have received degrees abroad and have had works published in the United States and Europe."