

Chile Sentences Ex-Officials to Death

SANTIAGO, Chile, July 30 (AP)—An air force court martial condemned four persons to death by firing squad and sentenced 56 others to prison today after a two-month trial of persons seized after last year's coup against President Salvador Allende.

The prisoners, air force personnel and civilians, were tried on charges ranging from possession of Communist literature to high treason. Three enlisted men were acquitted.

The trial had attracted international attention, because supporters of the Allende government contended that many of the defendants were being tried for things they had done as officials of a freely elected, constitutional government.

The junta contends that the Allende government was illegal.

Legal observers from several nations attended the open sessions of the trial.

The death sentences are subject to review by the military junta that has controlled the country since Allende's overthrow and death last September. No death sentences have been announced here since mid-January. Firing squads executed at least 96 persons in the months immediately following the coup.

The prison terms handed down today ranged from 300 days to life.

Among those condemned to

death was one of the 10 civil-ians on trial, Carlos Lazo, former president of the state bank and a member of Allende's Socialist Party. The military prosecutor had sought only life imprisonment for Lazo on charges of treason and espionage, but the six-officer court overruled him.

Capt. Patricio Carbacho, one of six defendants for whom the prosecutor had sought the death penalty, received life imprisonment.

The others facing execution are former air force men: Ernesto Galaz Guzman, Raul Vergara and Berlimin Constanzo. They were convicted of treason and sedition. Before they were stripped of their rank Galaz was a colonel, Ver-gara a captain and Constanzo a sergeant.

Erich Schnake, who was a senator and a leader of the Socialist Party, was sentenced to 20 years in jail for espionage and inciting a revolt. His lawyer said during the trial that Schnake was forced to sign confessions by being held in-

communicado, "often without food, tied and with a sack over his head."

The court martial, which was open to newsmen and international legal observers, began April 17 at the air force academy on the outskirts of Santiago. Testimony ended during the first week of June and the officers adjourned to consider the verdicts.

The military men wore civilian clothes when they appeared before the blue-uniformed board of officers.

The highest ranking officer tried out.

Another defendant, former Air Force Gen. Alberto Bachelet, died during the trial. Government officials said he suffered a heart attack in the Santiago jail.

The military junta, headed by Army Gen. Augusto Pinochet, will determine if the death sentences will be carried out.