

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WXPost

*U.S. Aid to Chile* DEC 23 1974

The Sunday, December 15, Washington Post carried a report on testimony before a Senate appropriations subcommittee, on U. S. aid to Chile. The article said that "the U. S. government opposed any aid cut in response to reports of torture and other human rights violations in Chile," and went on to cite State Department figures showing that "\$20.2 million in arms and economic aid was supplied in fiscal 1974."

While the figures for fiscal 1974 are essentially accurate, they reflect the level of U. S. funding during Allende's reign in Chile. We should be more concerned with the anticipated aid levels to post-coup Chile — the administration requested \$86 million in military and economic aid for fiscal 1975. Rather than cutting aid, the U. S. responds to the well-documented and deplorable human rights situation in Chile has been to increase financial assistance.

While military aid to Chile has increased by \$5 million since the coup in September 1973, economic aid has soared. In fiscal 1974, economic assistance, including AID grants and loans, Food for Peace, and Peace Corps assistance, together with some miscellaneous expenditures, amounted to

\$4,650,000. In fiscal 1975, the total for these same categories comes to \$64,075,000.

Moreover, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, two multinational organizations largely funded and directed by the United States, gave no assistance to Chile during Allende's reign. Less than one year after Allende's ouster, the two organizations had already contributed \$219,250,000.

Because these multilateral financial institutions do not fall under the aegis of Congress, much of the aid currently going to Chile is not subject to congressional advice and consent. Thus the congressional "opponents to the military ruling junta," cited in The Post article, can only hope to influence a small fraction of the total aid package to Chile.

The junta's countinuing disregard of basic civil liberties makes it paramount for the American public to have a clear understanding of the extent of U. S. government aid to Chile. State Department efforts to cloud the issue with statistics no longer relevant should not be allowed to aid our increasing investment in a dubious ally.

**Michael J. Harrington,**

Member of Congress (D-Mass.);  
House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Washington.