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Mexico Puts Chile Junta 'On Trial'

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Amid shouts of "Viva Chile!" and "Viva Salvador Allende!" Mexican President Luis Echeverria officially opened a "crimes trial" in absentia yesterday of the Chilean military junta which overthrew former President Allende in 1973.

In his address to an estimated 3000 persons, including Allende's widow and scores of Chilean exiles, Echeverria also denounced "foreign meddling" in Chile, an obvious reference to the United States.

The Mexican leader's speech was frequently interrupted by applause from the exiles and delegates from 35 countries.

Hans Goran Franck of Sweden, secretary general of the international commission to investigate the crimes of the Chilean junta, said before the opening that the "trial" will produce evidence showing the junta has "eliminated social, economic and cultural rights" in the country since its takeover.

Allende, a Marxist who had pledged himself to lead Chile into Marxism, died in the military attack which brought down his government.

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