

# Chile Eases Laws a Bit

## Santiago

President Augusto Pinochet yesterday announced a slight relaxation in the provisions of virtual martial law in force in Chile but said restrictions of individual rights would continue.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the second anniversary of the coup in which the military seized power after toppling the government of President Salvador Allende, Pinochet said the restrictions will be enforced as long as there is "any kind of significant subversion."

But the state of siege clamped on the country after the coup will be downgraded from a state of "internal defense" to a state of "internal security," the president said.

This means that trials by military tribunals of alleged violators of security laws would be conducted under peacetime procedures, rather than those established for war conditions, so that

appeals to higher courts would be possible, he added.

The curfew will also continue. It now runs from 1 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. on weekdays and starts an hour later at weekends.

Pinochet announced that a council of state will be set up as a consultative body to assist the government and would include former presidents and commanders of the armed forces as well as outstanding citizens.

Since the 1973 coup, in which Allende died, Chile has been ruled by a four-man junta, composed of the commanders of the three armed forces and the police. Thousands of Allende supporters have been jailed.

Pinochet, chairman of the junta, last year took the title of head of state and this year was made president.

He ordered low-key celebrations to mark the anniversary because of the country's economic problems and its rising rate of unemployment.

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