

Red Carpet for Chile



Jack Anderson

CHILE'S controversial military dictatorship appears to have an inside track in Washington.

At least two top-level representatives of the junta have paid recent visits to the nation's capital, where the red carpet was rolled out for them. A third delegate is expected to hit town tomorrow.

The most notorious of the Chilean visitors was Colonel Manuel Contreras-Sepulveda, head of the infamous National Intelligence Directorate, known as DINA. It is this military organization which has been directly responsible for the arrests and torture of hundreds of political prisoners over the past two years.

★ ★ ★

BEFORE coming to Washington Contreras stopped off in New York. He paid a quiet visit to the United Nations, where officials are preparing a report on human rights violations in Chile.

Three months ago, a U.N. working group on human rights attempted to visit Santiago for an on-the-scene investigation, but the junta abruptly canceled their invitation.

Contreras then hopped down to Washington, where his goings-and-comings were considered so secret that even the Chilean embassy was kept in the dark.

We have learned, however, that the colonel stopped off at the CIA where, say our sources, a private chat was arranged with the deputy direc-

tor, Lieutenant General Vernon Walters.

The State Department, meanwhile, was unofficially asked to suggest a few people Contreras might see. The department cooperated but scrupulously recommended the colonel visit some senators and representatives who are critical of the junta. On Capitol Hill, Contreras faced his only unfriendly audience.

Contreras also visited the House International Organization subcommittee, headed by Representative Donald Fraser (Dem-Minn.) There he was sternly interrogated by a subcommittee staff member about human rights violations in Chile. The colonel responded with the familiar claim that reports of the killing and torture of political prisoners were a Marxist plot to embarrass the junta.

★ ★ ★

ANOTHER prominent Chilean who passed through Washington, shortly before Contreras came to town, was the junta's press attache, Federico Willoughby.

During his 10-day stay, Willoughby visited the CIA, the State Department and several congressmen.

Tomorrow, the junta's minister of justice, Miguel Schweitzer, is scheduled to arrive in Washington. His main mission, say our sources, will be to lobby in favor of a resumption of U.S. military aid to Chile, which was cut off by Congress last December.