

Chilean Economist Says Coup Illustrates Fears of Third World

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Sept. 13 — A leading Chilean economist declared here today that the "Chilean drama" demonstrated why poorer countries feared the industrialized powers and their influential corporations.

Prof. Osvaldo Sunkel, an economist, evoked a brief dramatic moment with his remarks about the ousted Government of President Salvador Allende Gossens. He addressed a United Nations panel investigating the impact of multinational corporations.

The panel was created largely because of Chile's charges that the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation had tried to block the election of Dr. Allende in 1970. United Nations officials maintain that there was strong sentiment for such an inquiry apart from the I.T.T. case.

Professor Sunkel, who was invited to testify at the panel's open hearings because of his writings and reputation, was known to some economists as sympathetic to but sometimes critical of Dr. Allende's policies.

In his remarks Professor Sunkel charged that foreign corpo-

rations were bent on siphoning off resources of the developing countries. He heatedly disputed testimony by five corporate officers that their concerns had contributed to the health and welfare of the countries where they operated.

"I get scared, really scared, when I hear such individuals speak of social responsibility," he said, "Who has appointed a small group of individuals to decide the fate of so many?"

Asserting that he wanted to offer a personal and nonpartisan opinion, Professor Sunkel said the economic growth of his own country was based on dependence on foreign investment for a century, first in mining and later in manufactur-

ing, marketing and finance. The resulting structure, he added, has an upper segment, a satisfied but alienated middle class and a vast majority of poor, miserable and deprived urban and rural workers.

"The Government of President Allende made an attempt at changing this structure of underdevelopment and dependence," Professor Sunkel said. "It may have had many failings and committed many errors, but nobody can deny that it attempted to redress this economic and social structure by democratic means."

As with Cuba, Algeria, Egypt and others, he declared, his country was unable to "get the

international help which its extraordinary effort merited." He said that instead it encountered pressure or, at best, the indifference of other countries and international organizations.

"The Chilean experiment has ended with a catastrophic political systems—and the dramatic personal sacrifice of its leader and many of his followers," he said. "The conclusion for us here seems to be that it is not possible to try to restructure relations of dependence between underdeveloped countries and the transnational capitalist systems in a peaceful way.

"May I express a modest wish that you keep the Chilean

drama in mind," he told the committee. "It represents what underdeveloped and dependent countries have in mind and fear when they express concern over the asymmetric relationships between their countries and the international system, so heavily weighted in favor of developed countries and their multinational corporations."

While United Nations officials vacillated over whether to make a public pronouncement on the death of President Allende—as is usually done on the death of a chief of state—the panel on multinational corporations sent a message of condolence to the Chilean member, Juan Somavia,