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Chile's Military Chiefs Abolish Nation's Largest Labor Group

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SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept. 25—The military junta today abolished the largest labor organization in Chile.

A decree removed legal recognition from the Central Workers Confederation, saying that it had "transformed itself into an organ of political character, under the influence of foreign tendencies alien to the national spirit."

The 800,000-member labor confederation was largely controlled by the recently outlawed Communist and Socialist parties. Its Secretary General, Luis Figueroa, who also heads the Communist party, has been in hiding ever since the Marxist coalition was toppled Sept. 11.

Mayors Are Removed

Another decree ordered the removal of all mayors and city councilmen throughout the country, and indicated that these posts would be filled by men appointed by the junta.

It is likely that former military officers will be heavily favored. In the capital, Santiago, the new Mayor is a retired army colonel, Hernan Sepulveda.

"The politicians have already worked a lot in this country," said Gen. Washington Carrasco Fernández, the commander of the Third Army Division. "Now it is only fair that they take a long rest."

During the two weeks they have been in power, the armed forces have expanded their stated objectives from their initial goal of overthrowing the three-year-old regime of President Salvador Allende Gossens to what now appears to be a large-scale attempt to transform Chilean institutions.

A pervasive anti-Marxist campaign has sent 6,000 suspected leftists to detention centers and has removed 500 Marxists from Government posts. Thousands of other leftists are in hiding and an undetermined number have been killed.

Marxists Books Removed

Today, the Government revised the total number of people officially listed as killed during the coup to 284 but the figure was widely believed to be higher.

Following highly publicized incidents of book-burning last weekend, bookstores have removed Marxist literature from their shelves.

"We are keeping those books downstairs until there are some posts. Thousands of other leftists are in one of the better-known downtown stores.

Leftist newspapers have not

been allowed to publish and the anti-Marxist dailies enforce a self-censorship, with not the barest criticism of the new Government. Besides their own news programs, radio stations must broadcast several times a day bulletins prepared by the armed forces.

Even the radio soap operas seem to reflect martial preferences. One popular drama now being broadcast is a play about Diego Portales, a 19th century strongman revered by present-day military leaders.

"Minister Portales rescued the Fatherland from chaos and government immorality," the introduction to each daily episode says.

Pornography magazines have largely disappeared from downtown newsstands after warnings by military leaders.

Despite few signs of any armed resistance, there is a strict night curfew throughout the country. It has made a heavy dent in the restaurant business and has driven some nightclubs — including strip shows — to offer entertainment at 4 P.M.

The strict martial law has also discouraged what was once a rampant black market under the Allende Government. No longer are there long lines for food and other essentials, except for such still-scarce items as bread and cigarettes.

Executions Denied

Rumors that a few black-market operators have been executed by soldiers were denied today by the junta's press spokesman, Federico Willoughby.

"But it doesn't seem like a bad idea to let those rumors run," he added.

The civilian groups that appear to have the strongest influence on the military Government are the middle class association—the truck owners, shopkeepers, businessmen and professional employee — who vehemently opposed President Allende and now meet on a daily basis with military ministers.

In the last two days, for instance, vendors' street stands during President Allende's administration were rapidly being shut down. Military leaders said their removal was part of a campaign to clean up the city and smooth traffic flow. But established store owners—who are members of the powerful National Federation of Retailers — were known to be unhappy over the competition provided by the unlicensed vendors.