

# Chile's Military Imposing Strict Standards on Nation

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SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept. 27—In the 16 days since it overthrew the Marxist coalition Government, the military junta has emerged as a strongly authoritarian anti-Marxist regime bent on remodeling traditional Chilean institutions and remaining in power for a long time.

After carrying out a coup d'état with textbook precision, the armed forces have crushed, imprisoned and hounded leftist adherents of the late President Salvador Allende Gossens.

For now at least, the junta's supporters appear to outnumber its opponents. Its staunchest constituency is the large lower-middle and middle class that virtually demanded military action against the constitutionally elected Government of President Allende.

### Moderates Dismayed

But the junta's clearly dictatorial approach—utterly alien to a country with one of the strongest democratic and libertarian traditions in the world—has dismayed the more moderate opponents of the Allende Government, even those who felt that it could not be allowed to continue in office.

Although the economic and political policies that will guide the country in the next few years have yet to be spelled out, the character of the Chilean armed forces and the men who make up the junta have already cast an unmistakable hue on developments.

"You don't hear people ask us why we acted, but why we waited so long," an air force colonel said.

Almost 11 months passed from the time a group of middle-ranking officers began secretly discussing the overthrow of the Allende Government until the coup. And the revolt—the first break in civilian politics here in 40 years—came in the midst of an economic disaster and a class struggle that divided Chilean society as never before in this century.

### The Values They Honor

But the hermetic nature of the Chilean armed forces that kept them out of politics so long may prove to be their greatest disadvantage in trying to govern a country with Chile's political sophistication.

The values that career officers learned in the barracks—including a virulent anti-Marxism, a strong distrust of partisan politics, a puritanical morality and a craving for unity and order—appear to be standards that they have set for Chilean society at large.

It has not been enough to overthrow an unpopular leftist Government. An anti-Marxist witch-hunt has been unleashed that has sent at least 7,000 suspected leftists to prison, the Marxist parties that gathered 43 per cent of the vote in the most recent national elections have been banned, and the largest labor federation in the country has been dissolved.

the Marxist cancer" has been accompanied by a pronounced xenophobia that has sought to link leftist extremism with "foreign subversives." Although the new authorities have disavowed acts of bookburning, leftist literature remains highly suspect and has been removed from the shelves of most bookstores and libraries.

### Censorship Imposed

"In this country we don't have liberty of the press," President Allende once said: "We have libertinism of the press."

But now the Marxist newspapers and radio stations have been banned. The remaining journals do little more than parrot official statements and attack the deposed regime. Military censors sit in newspaper offices but they are probably unnecessary since editors share their point of view.

In interviews and public statements, the armed forces have made it clear that they place a major share of the blame for the country's state of affairs on political parties as a whole.

Congress has been dissolved since the first day of the coup, and this week the junta imposed "an indefinite recess" on anti-Marxist parties as well.

Even mayors and aldermen are being replaced throughout the country by government appointees.

### Politicians Silent

The major non-Marxist politicians such as former President Eduardo Frei Montalva have chosen to remain silent. Those who do speak out are silenced. A leading moderate politician who severely criticized the coup publicly was warned by military officials that they would not tolerate another such incident.

The only institution that has not been touched by the junta is the court system, although detained leftists are dealt with through military tribunals. But again, the highest courts have openly expressed their support of the armed forces, and stopped just short of applauding the coup.

"This Supreme Court, which I have the honor of presiding over, receives your visit with satisfaction and optimism, and appreciates its historical and juridical value," Judge Enrique Urrutia told the junta president, Gen. Augusto Pinochet Ugaste, earlier this week.

Because he is Commander in Chief of the army, the strongest of the military branches, the 57-year-old General Pinochet was selected to lead the four-man junta. The other members are navy commander in chief, José Toribio Merino, also 51, the air force commander, Gustavo Leigh Guzmán, 53, and the director general of the national police, César Mendoza.

Thirteen of the 15 cabinet members are military men. Active and retired members of the armed forces have been placed



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Aleksandr Basov, Soviet Ambassador to Chile, leaving his embassy Wednesday for trip to Moscow. Soviet Union and Chile severed diplomatic ties after the coup.

throughout the government bureaucracy and in key positions in state industries, such as copper and railroads.

According to General Leigh, the most articulate and colorful of the junta members, the new constitution will be promulgated by decree and will assure that the military has "representation in legislative bodies."

"We want a constitution that will not give Marxism an opportunity to sink its claws again into the country," he said.

In the economic area, the junta has acted quickly to dismantle the socialist apparatus created by the Allende Government. Most private companies that fell under state control have been placed in the hands of their former executives, and worker participation in management has been ended, at least for now.

"We never thought that the military could push things back into place so quickly," said the general manager of a large milk company who returned to his post last week.