

A CRITIC OF JUNTA HONORED IN CHILE

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Thousands Attend Emotional
Mass for Cardinal
NYTimes

By JONATHAN KANDELL
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SANTIAGO, Chile, June 5—
Several thousand Catholics
crowded into the city cathed-
ral last night to attend an
emotional mass honoring Raúl
Cardinal Silva Henriquez, who
has come under increasing at-
tack from right-wing followers
of the military junta.

As the Cardinal strode down
the cathedral's long nave, the
parishioners, many perched on
columns and behind statues to
get a better view, broke into
applause.

Neither priests nor laymen
at the ceremony could recall a
similar ovation in the 19th-cen-
tury church that has been a
focal spot for the faithful in
times of political crisis and
natural disaster.

The Cardinal acknowledged
the attacks against him, but, in
a voice at times filled with emo-
tion, asked his critics to accept
his role as prelate of "the con-
tented" as well as those "who
feel wretched." He called again

for reconciliation within the
country, which remains bitter-
ly torn between the anti-Marx-
ist majority and the Marxist
minority nine months after a
military coup overthrew Presi-
dent Salvador Allende Gossens.

The audience today, mostly
poor and lower-middle-class
people, included relatives of po-
litical prisoners and many sym-
pathizers of the Allende Gov-
ernment who have come to look
on the Cardinal and an impor-
tant segment of the Catholic
Church as their protectors.

Larger Role for Church

When the mass ended and
the crowd poured into the
plaza, policemen who stood
guard with machine guns ar-
rested at least two young wo-
men who shouted, "Long live
the Cardinal!"

With the dissolution of Con-
gress, political parties and la-
bor unions, the church has
gradually become the main ve-
hicle of dissent for critics of
the junta's harsh measures.

The church has played an
ever larger role in human
rights by becoming the most
important spokesman for the
6,000 people still being held as
political prisoners and for peo-
ple who have lost their jobs
since the September coup.

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