

UN Visit JUL 6 1975 To Chile Canceled

Gen. Pinochet Reverses Stand On Rights Unit

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Chile has canceled the visit of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, due to begin Thursday, in a break with the military government's prior policy of permitting international investigation of torture charges. 10 Jul

President Augusto Pinochet, announcing the cancellation in a speech Friday night, said: "I know that this is going to attract strong reaction from the Marxist world and that they are going to continue to attack us." 4 Jul

Gen. Pinochet earlier cabled U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim asking that the commission investigate Cuba, the Soviet Union and other Communist countries, in the same manner as it has been studying the charges of human-rights violations in Chile since the overthrow of its Marxist government in 1973.

Chile actually had proposed the commission visit when the U.N. Economic and Social Committee took up the torture charges last year. In March, the Foreign Ministry offered its cooperation as "an example for those countries that brag about their concern for human rights outside their borders but that systematically refuse" investigation of charges at home.

In Geneva, the International Committee of Jurists — which condemned human rights violations in Chile after an on-scene study last year — declared that cancellation of this week's visit "inevitably leads to the conclusion that the Chilean government was not in a position to face an objective investigation."

Chileans expelled by the Pinochet government report that in recent days numerous families in Chile have made frantic calls abroad for help following arrests without charge. Pressures from abroad have been credited with influencing the junta to make some concessions to human rights.

The most detailed investigation to date of conditions in Chile came from the Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States, which spent 12 days on the scene last August.

When that commission's report chronicling cases of arbitrary detention, torture and disappearances was put before the OAS general assembly in May, the Chilean delegation asked that general discussion

Chile Cancels Visit by U.N. Body

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of its content be put off until after the U.N. group's visit.

The six-nation U.N. group was already assembling this weekend in Lima, Peru, for the trip to Santiago on Thursday.

During 10 days ending last week, the Geneva-based U.N. Commission had taken secret testimony in New York.

Among those heard were Laura Allende, sister of the late President Salvador Allende; Ralph Dungan, former U.S. ambassador to Chile; former Attorney General Ramsey Clark; Orlando Letelier, a minister in Allende's Cabinet who was jailed for a year after the coup; and Galo Gomez, a former university vice rector who was jailed for a year and a half.

Dungan and Clark have made investigatory visits to Santiago.

Also testifying were several expelled Catholic priests and students from across Chile's once-broad spectrum of political tendencies. All parties have now been disbanded by the military.

The ruling junta has consistently argued that Marxists are directing a campaign against it.

Pinochet said Friday that "International Marxism, which feels it has lost this battle (for Chile), does not hesitate to lie, to send commissions here to see that human rights are respected... We are David and they are Goliath, but Chile is a free and sovereign nation."

Members of the rejected commission come from Pakistani, Belgium, Austria, Sierra Leone, Romania and Ecuador.

Gen. Pinochet has contended that prisoners in Chile are treated in keeping with international norms. In an interview in May with Joanne Omang of The Washington Post he said that soldiers guilty of mistreating prisoners were themselves in jail.

Omang's followup of the names provided by Pinochet failed to produce evidence of their involvement in torture cases. After her reports of the matter, Omang was declared persons non grata in Chile.