

NYTimes

SEP 27 1975

# Telling the United States About Chile

By Adolfo Jankelovich

Someone once said that the world has been miniaturized by the incredible progress achieved in communications and transportation. And we must agree that the means of communication have so shrunk our planet that nothing can go unnoticed for more than five minutes. We are, of course, referring to important events and not to the minor happenings in which gossip columnists and rumor-mongers take delight.

Now, Marshall McLuhan and others have stated that the media are giving us a message and not a message. This is particularly true, especially if we focus our attention on the misrepresentations that the reporting and analysis of certain political events take on at times.

Let us cite one example: the events in Chile on Sept. 11, 1973. Never before has there been such a widespread effort to distort the true aspects and consequences of revolution—a political event that has occurred hundreds of times but that in this particular, Chilean instance had one very peculiar variation: a military movement that, in contrast to all such similar events, had not been inspired by a barracks conspiracy or by a group of high officers, but had been sponsored and encouraged by the civilian populace of the country.

This truth, so easy to verify, suffered—and continues to suffer—the most tremendous and even absurd distortions, not unlike proving that two plus two makes five.

We thus find allegations of Central Intelligence Agency participation that have been given the most elaborate interpretation, and "evidence" has been produced that the legitimate protest movements of the unions, and especially of the Chilean women, were due to the prodigious talents of

the Central Intelligence Agency and that, indeed, patriotism and dignity were factors alien to the citizens of Chile.

According to these interested experts and columnists, the Chileans reacted only to the green color of the bills squandered by a foreign agency. But the ridiculous reaches the point of the bizarre on learning the sums handed about as possible lure and prize for those who were in the toils of the C.I.A.—\$8 million, say some, \$11 million, others say conservatively. These dealers in the conscience of a nation do not know that the people—the citizens of a country—are not a handful of mercenaries who sell themselves for any amount to the highest bidder, invoking "the interests of the

tunate puppet, seeks to govern, when it has only 12.5 per cent of the votes of the citizens. Paradoxically, the same power that speaks of the fascist dictatorship in Chile bans free expression of the press in Portugal.

We see distinguished delegates in the United Nations every day dramatically invoking the purest sentiments about human rights, which according to them have been mercilessly trampled in Chile, while in their own countries thousands of prisoners are in jails for having dared to dissent against some powerful prime minister, or for having written in favor of freedom.

They are the same ones who represent countries that have compelled millions of people to abandon their

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people' or to "save the country from the clutches of imperialism or capitalism," and that the people have no price higher than their own lives when it is a question of preventing their country from falling to the falsehood of those who promise the eternal Eden.

They know that what is at stake is the deliverance of their country from the international designs of a great power that squelches every concept of freedom, democracy and conscience with the hypocritical pretense of being the "champion of those who have nothing" or of "preventing serious social and democratic reforms from being destroyed," as, it is asserted, is the case in Portugal.

There is a power in Portugal that lavishes million of dollars monthly to support a party that, as an impor-

only for lack of information but because they hear only certain kinds of news, like national politics, international events in which the United States is a participant and, in particular, economic news. He added that their knowledge of what is going on in the world is very small because of a lack of information that is accurate, easy to assimilate and timely.

Or, as another pointed out, "Our internal problems are so great that we have no time to take an interest in the problems of others." And those who attempt to interpret or present facts as it suits them take advantage of this.

It has always been said that Chile is a country that cannot be categorized in the standard pattern of what is considered "a developing country," as understood in the disparaging sense.

Chile is a nation that has always led the way in defense of the purest human sentiments. A model of democracy for more than a century and a half, it continues to be, even though circumstances have compelled it temporarily to shut off access to those who falsely invoke this same democracy to impose upon nations conformity of thought rather than to encourage freedom.

Chile is not forgiven the pride and the courage that refused to accept the designs of a power that believed that, because it is great, it could, at the cost of the freedom of nations, also trample on the sentiments of a people that have always considered freedom its most precious inheritance and its dignity as the greatest thing bequeathed to it by those who gave it independence.

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