

A Wave of Arrests by Chile's Secret Police**Santiago**

On the eve of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's visit here, Chile's secret police launched a new cycle of repression, arresting about 130 people of whom 47 have vanished without a trace.

The two-month wave of arrests peaked even as U.S. Treasury Secretary William Simon was negotiating the release of 300 political prisoners, and Chilean officials were assuring the U.S. government that they were moving to protect civil rights.

The presumption — even among the families of those arrested — is that most, if not all, of the 47 who disappeared are now dead.

Of the hundreds of persons who have vanished for more than two or three months during the past three years, the number who have surfaced alive can be counted on the fingers of both hands, Chilean rights advocate say.

A civil rights lawyer, speaking of Chile's security forces, said, "The system they have chosen obliges them to kill, to eliminate."

The new laws that Chilean officials described to Kissinger and Simon require arrest warrants, medical examinations and notification of next of kin for all prisoners, and that prisons be open to surprise inspections.

So when the government says it has not arrested an individual, the lawyer said, and there is no

arrest warrant, the secret police "can't contradict that afterwards by releasing him. . . . It's a matter of credibility; it presupposed that what the government says is true."

The latest arrests were the fifth identifiable wave since January, 1974, when the National Intelligence Directorate was created as the personal security force of Chile's military president, General Augusto Pinochet. The arrests began early in April and peaked between April 29 and May 12.

Simon spent May 7 in Chile, telling the government that U.S. aid would depend on Chilean observance of human rights and being assured that great improvements were being made.

The roundups stopped just before the June 4 inauguration of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States and Kissinger's arrival in Santiago. By the end of July, none of the 47 missing persons could be located in any of the Junta's known prisons or interrogation centers, relatives and lawyers said.

No bodies are ever found. The government and its courts continue to insist that the arrests never took place, even in the few cases in which there are official documents acknowledging the arrests or newspaper accounts with names of those captured in spectacular arrests.

Church officials, lawyers and relatives say that their efforts to locate the missing persons through

habeas corpus and other legal procedures run into a vicious circle: The courts accept absence of an arrest warrant as proof that the person was not arrested, and therefore must be in hiding or have left the country. Sworn statements of those who say they witnessed an arrest are ignored, the lawyers say.

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