

**'Extraordinary' Move****Chile Will Free 303  
Political Prisoners****Santiago**

Chile yesterday announced the release from prison of all persons held here without charge under the government's self-proclaimed state of siege — except for 20 prisoners whose release can be obtained only if certain specified conditions are met.

A total of 323 prisoners are involved.

Of the 20 on the conditional list, two are former top leaders of this country's outlawed Communist party. The government said those two would be freed in exchange for two specific political prisoners now being held by the Soviet Union and Cuba.

The other 18 will be freed "subject to the sole condition that other countries can be found to receive them," said the official announcement made public by General Hernan Bejares, minister-secretary general of government.

Bejares said that "the special danger to state security (of the 18) demands that their freedom be accompanied by their abandoning the national territory."

Release of the 303 prisoners on the unconditional list is expected to begin immediately.

A Latin American diplomat based here called the announcement "an extraordinary measure by the Chilean government," especially with respect to the two top Communist leaders involved.

One of them, Luis Corvalan, 60, for many years held the top party post, secretary general of the rigidly Moscow-line Chilean party. As such, he served as a special adviser to the central committee of the Soviet Union's Communist party.

Next to the late Salvador Allende, Corvalan was considered by those who opposed Allende's Marxist administration to be their No. 1 enemy.

Corvalan was found in hiding and arrested soon after Allende was toppled by the armed forces and police on Sept. 11, 1973, and has been held under the state of siege ever since.

The government said it initiated indirect moves last month to free Corvalan on condition the Soviet Union frees dissident intellectual Vladimir Bukovsky, now

*Back Page Col. 5*

**From Page 1**

held in jail near Moscow.

The second Communist leader is Jorge Montes, 50, identified in yesterday's announcement as a "top leader of clandestine action," purportedly initiated by the outlawed Communists after Allende's overthrow.

Montes is a former congressman and senator and a member of the central committee of the Chilean party since 1958. He was detained under the state of siege in mid-1974.

The government said Montes' release "will be conditioned on the granting of freedom to Cuban leader, Huber Matos, imprisoned by the Castro regime for more than 15 years."

To bring about that exchange, Chile "will initiate the pertinent steps before the proper international organizations," the government said.

Names of the 18 whose freedom depends on another country's

willingness to receive them were not immediately made public.

At that time, Pinochet challenged the Soviet Union and Cuba to join Chile in "freeing detainees under the supervision of the International Red Cross."

The announcement yesterday said "history will judge the silence of those governments in the face of the challenge."

In Chile, persons charged and on trial for security offenses or serving sentences after conviction are not considered to be political prisoners.

The interior ministry had announced last month that, as of September 30, 280 persons were on trial and 608 were serving sentences following conviction. Of the latter, 374 were waiting to be relocated abroad because their sentences had been commuted to expulsion from the country, the announcement said.