

Chile's Somber National Day

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Santiago, Chile

Chile celebrated the 163rd anniversary of its independence yesterday — this time with unfamiliar military figures in power and prominent civilian supporters of its former government either in jail or on the run.

The parades and demonstrations marking Independence Day were abolished, underlining the total change in governmental emphasis in this country, which had not had a military coup since 1932.

Intense political and factional activity, around which Chile had formed its volatile democracy, were firmly dampened by General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, the

head of Chile's new junta which overthrew President Salvador Allende's Marxist coalition a week ago.

Pinochet called for toil and self-sacrifice from his new subjects. Politics are to be laid aside in favor of nationalism and the reconstruction of the country, brought to the edge of ruin by what many charged was financial irresponsibility.

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Pinochet's stern moral tone was echoed in an accompanying public speech of the air force commander, General Gustavo Leigh Guzman, who said that the country had too long been exposed to "public immorality, impudence, insults and calumny."

Navy Chief Admiral Jose Toribio Merino supported the junta's image as a sound financial management team. He forecast that Chile would soon be producing a million tons of copper annually.

The anniversary celebration was somber, in contrast to previous years when open-air fairs would spring up everywhere featuring shooting galleries, bearded ladies and huge consumption of chicha, a fizzy sweet drink made of newly fermented grapes.

As Chileans bade good-by to an era of screaming headlines, demonstrations, counter-demonstrations and lively political action, the new government appealed to citizens to reveal the whereabouts of leading members of the opposition Popular Unity coalition.

When caught, they will join other prominent colleagues in jail, including former Foreign Minister Clodomiro Almeyda, former Defense Minister Orlando Letelier and former Interior Minister Carlos Briones, a junta spokesman said.

The total number of prisoners is reported as about 5000 but official sources indicate that half are expected to be released after questioning about their roles in the defense of Allende's government.

Pinochet claims total control of the country although some scattered resistance has continued and house-to-house searches have led to the arrest of 50 people in the last 24 hours, according to a junta spokesman.

Rifles, automatic weapons and two rocket launchers also were seized in the latest haul of confiscated weapons.