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Plea to U.N. On Chile Arrests

A group of distinguished American authors and scholars in a message to the United Nations yesterday said "we hear of mass political arrests, detention under severe conditions and thousands of deaths" in Chile since the military takeover."

The dozen signers, most of them Bay Area figures, were concerned over the fate of those who were outspoken supporters of Marxist Salvador Allende's government.

The Americans said Pablo Neruda, the Chilean poet who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1971, was "reportedly safe."

"But what of the many others — workers and political leaders as well as artists and intellectuals?"

The American group urged the U.N. to pressure the military regime to lift news censorship and allow entry of international observers into the country.

The telegram was addressed to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, as well as to U.S. Secretary of State-designate Henry Kissinger and Senator J. William Fulbright and Edward Kennedy.

The signers included poets Archibald MacLeish, Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Kenneth Rexroth, Robert Bly and Muriel Rukeyser.

They were joined by playwright Arthur Miller, James Laughlin, publisher of New Directions Press; singer Joan Baez; and Stanford University professors John Felstiner and Jean Franco.