

Chileans Seize Guerrilla Leader

Santiago

Chilean troops have captured a guerrilla leader and 17 followers in the southern town of Panguipulli, where they have reportedly been operating against the new military government, a spokesman for the military junta announced yesterday.

The guerrilla chief, Jose Gregorio Liendo, known as "Commandante Pepe," has long been the leader of the leftwing revolutionary movement (MIR) in the southern part of the country. MIR, an extremist, part-political and part-guerrilla organization, originally backed the deposed government of President Salvador Allende, but had recently criticized it for not pushing through sufficiently revolutionary reforms.

Meanwhile, authorities reported that three persons being held in custody had been killed in the northern

port of Antofagasta while trying to escape.

A spokesman for the four-man military junta again denied reports that President Allende was murdered last week and had not committed suicide.

Willerby also said that about 1200 detainees held in Santiago's national soccer stadium since the coup have been released since Sunday.

Admitting that "there were many innocent detained," Willerby said that "about 300 daily have been released over the last four days."

Earlier an estimated 4000 people were reported being held at the stadium and 1000 more, in other parts of the country.

Santiago is still under an 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew. But the government said yesterday that international commercial flights, suspended since the day of the coup, will be resumed immediately.

Reuters