

SF Examiner SEP 23 1973

Much Gold Braid Little Experience

By William Montalbano
Knight Newspapers

An Examiner Report

SANTIAGO — Chile's new military government is long on gold braid and short on experience. Its leaders are moralistic, headstrong, repressive, and virulently anti-Marxist.

The new government seems, at first blush, as far to the right of the philosophical center as President Salvador Allende was to the left of it.

In the days since the bloody Sept. 11 coup against Allende, the three armed forces and the national police have consolidated power through force. Chile is theirs, theirs.

Shopkeeper Rudecindo Chanape, widely known in the Huamachuco slum near Santiago as an Allende supporter two weeks ago, today can't remember anything good about the Allende government. And everybody here in Huamachuco is as happy as I am that the military have come to restore order, Chanape avers.

That elderly man staring reverently into space where the statue of Che Guevara used to be in the overwhelmingly Marxist San Miguel district isn't on any kind of spiritual pilgrimage. No, sir. He is trying to figure out which was the worst criminal—Guevara or Allende, says he.

The Chilean left, after 34 tempestuous months in power, has submerged in disarray before the military on-

slaught. Its leaders are dead among thousands in jail or are being hunted by a vengeful military whose thoroughness and relentlessness surprised everybody.

Newspapers, magazines and radio stations controlled by parties of Allende's Marxist-dominated coalition are not simply closed. They are, in the words of one member of the military junta, "canceled forever."

The two principal Marxist political parties, Chile's Moscow-line Communist party, and Allende's more radical Socialist party, no longer exist.

Junta president Gen. Augusto Pinochet offhandedly mentioned at a press conference Friday that the parties had been declared "outside the law."

The military is keeping the lid on tightly while it pursues what one junta member has called the "irrevocable eradication of the Marxist cancer in Chile."

In manning a government as well as their battle stations, the generals have spread themselves thin. All but two minor cabinet posts are filled by admirals or generals, and high-ranking officers, active or retired, are administering everything from the Government Development Corp. to the Central Bank to a textile factory once run by the Allende government.