

LEFTISTS MOURN NERUDA AT RITES

Poet's Funeral in Santiago
Turns Into Demonstration

By MARVINE HOWE
Special to The New York Times

SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept. 25—
The funeral service for the poet Pablo Neruda turned into a left-wing demonstration today, the first since the military junta overthrew President Salvador Allende Gossens two weeks ago.

A crowd of about 1,800 workers, writers and other intellectuals, mostly communists and Socialists, sang the "Internationale" and cheered the Chilean Communist party and Communist youth movement in front of the mausoleum, where the coffin of the Communist poet was placed. Mr. Neruda died of cancer on Sunday.

"With Neruda, we bury Salvador Allende," the mourners cried. Mr. Neruda was a close friend of the Socialist President, who died during the military coup d'état and was buried secretly in the presence of only close members of his family and representatives of the military.

Outside the cemetery, heavy contingents of troops and carabineros, or paramilitary police, stood on the alert with machine guns and rifles. But the crowd dispersed rapidly after the service and there was no incident.

The military junta paid homage to Mr. Neruda yesterday, calling him "one of the sources of pride in our national culture." Mr. Neruda won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971, and served as Chilean Ambassador to France under President Allende.

State Funeral Barred

However, the Government barred a state funeral on the ground that the country was still under state of siege and therefore large gatherings could not be permitted.

Nevertheless, the Government-censored press was allowed to print the time and thousand people turned up at place of the funeral, and several the cemetery. But many of them remained outside, apparently afraid to enter the cemetery and be photographed by the many cameramen on hand.

A number of Communist and Socialist militants came out of hiding to attend the service and planned to disappear from view again afterward, according to left-wing sources.

The military junta has arrested 30 of Dr. Allende's closest aides and ministers and is holding them on an island in the Strait of Magellan. Thirty-six other leftist leaders have been declared "wanted" by the military and thousands of left-wing militants and sympathizers, including foreigners, have been arrested and are under interrogation.

Thus the leftist songs and cheers at the funeral today appeared to be a daring act of defiance to the military junta.

The funeral cortege began shortly after 10 A.M. at Mr. Neruda's home in Santiago's artists' quarter at the base of San Cristóbal Hill. The house, which had not been lived in for about a year, had been sacked and badly damaged. Windows were shattered, carpets ripped up, furnishings destroyed, and all the poet's books seized.

Denial by the Junta

Gen. Herman Brady, a spokesman for the Junta, issued a statement last night calling the damage to the Neruda house "regrettable" and denying that the military or the carabineros, had been responsible.

Despite the official denial, public opinion is generally convinced that the poet's home, like many others, was raided by the military in search of arms, leftist leaders and Marxist literature.

The Ambassadors of Sweden, Mexico and Rumania attended the funeral service. Also present was Radomiro Tomic, a former Chilean Ambassador to the United States, who was the Christian Democratic candidate against Dr. Allende in the 1970 presidential election.