SFChronicle

Chile Frees 8 America

Santiago

The Chilean military regime yesterday freed eight Americans held along with thousands of other prisoners in the National Soccer Stadium since the overthrow of President Salvador Allende's government two weeks ago.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Frank Tonini identified the Americans released as Francis Flynn of Miami and Joseph Dougherty of Boston, both Roman Catholic missionaries of the Maryknoll Order; Carol Nezzo, Charles Fisk, David Hathaway, James Gordon Ritter, Juan Jose Velasco, a Dominican who is a naturalized A merican citizen, and Charles Welsh, a Roman Catholic missionary of the Holy Cross Order from Massillon, Ohio.

Tonini said they were released into the custody of a U.S. consular officer.

Military authorities last week released two other Americans, Adam and Patricia Schesch, from the stadium, where most of some 5000 prisoners have been kept since the September 11 coup.

The release of the Americans came hours after the military executed three Chilean nationals accused of machine gunning to death a police sergeant on the day of the coup.

A national police communique announced the executions. It said the three were executed in a police barracks area and identified them as Manuel Jesus Arancibia, 29; Oscar Lobos Urbina, 24, and Amador Rios Pradenas, 29.

The statement said the men killed police First Sergeant Jose Humberto Wettin as he was riding in an ambulance taking an injured person out of the La Legua slum, which troops had entered to search for arms. Three other policemen were seriously wounded in the incident, the statement said.

The government has announced officially that six persons have been executed summarily since the coup.

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