

Chilean Deadline Is Worrying Political Refugees

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Special to The New York Times

SANTIAGO, Chile, Jan. 11—There is a new feeling of insecurity and urgency among political refugees in United Nations-sponsored safe havens here as the February deadline for leaving the country draws near.

There are known to be more than 3,000 Chileans and foreigners in the four sanctuaries and in foreign embassies or private homes, desperately waiting to get out of reach of the military junta that ousted the Marxist Government of President Salvador Allende Gossens in September.

The junta declared that it had delivered 6,462 safe-conduct passes. A major problem has been to find countries willing to take the refugees, who include not only partisans of the Allende Government but political exiles from neighboring right-wing dictatorships and other Latin-American countries.

Countries that usually cooperate with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, among them the United States and Britain, have shown reluctance, presumably because of the leftist views of many of the refugees. The United States accepted its first refugee family only last week, and has some 60 requests under study. Britain has taken none, but Canada is beginning to relax restrictions and receive families.

Red Bloc Opens Doors

On the other hand Communist countries have shown willingness to cooperate with the United Nations Commission. Cuba, the Soviet Union and several Eastern European countries have given positive answers to an urgent appeal by Prince Sa-

drudin Asa Khan, head of the United Nations commission.

The Chilean Government has set Feb. 3 as the deadline for the departure of foreign refugees. If they do not get out by then, they risk difficulties with the police because most have no identity papers, and there is the danger that they could be returned to their countries of origin. Many have been dismissed from their jobs.

Tension has risen in the sanctuaries and embassies because of several incidents in recent weeks showing that refugees are not safe, not even with United Nations protection.

On Jan. 3 a 27-year-old Chilean, Sergio Leiva Molina, who had a safe-conduct pass from the Chilean authorities, was shot and killed by a policeman at the Argentine Embassy. Argentina has protested vigorously, saying the incident took place on the embassy grounds. The Government says Mr. Leiva Molina was shot outside the embassy while trying to enter.

Argentine sources say another Chilean was shot and killed on Dec. 31 while outside the embassy trying to get in, but they insist that Mr. Leiva Molina was on the grounds and was killed by machine-gun fire from outside.

Ex-Minister Wounded

Rolando Calderon, Minister of Agriculture in the Allende Government and secretary-general of the National Workers Federation, now outlawed, was critically wounded on Dec. 18 in the Cuban Embassy compound, where he had been given asylum. The attack was witnessed by a member of the Swedish Embassy, which has been charged with Cuban affairs since the rupture in diplomatic relations after the coup. The Swedes declare that the shot came from outside the em-

bassy; the Chileans assert that Mr. Calderon was wounded in a fight with a fellow exile.

Armed guards have been set up outside the United Nations havens and most of the Latin-American embassies and other diplomatic missions to discourage people from seeking asylum. Numerous arrests have been reported.

An American couple, David and Darlene Kalke, volunteers from the Lutheran World Federation, were arrested with five refugees from a United Nations sanctuary. The Kalkes were taking the refugees to the National Committee for Help to Refugees to obtain travel documents. All were held at gunpoint.

The Americans were released after several hours' interrogation. When they were warned that they would be picked up again, they left the country. Four of the refugees, all of whom had safe-conduct passes, were released after five but the fifth is still held.

1,480 Non-Chileans Departed

The urgency of the situation was confirmed by a statement in the press calling on all foreigners registered as refugees to present themselves to the refugee-aid committee before Tuesday. It said resettlement in another country would be difficult after that time.

A United Nations tally as of Jan. 3 shows that 1,480 refugees other than Chileans have been sent out of the country since the military take-over. The largest contingent was Brazilian.

There remain 1,800 registered foreign refugees, 455 of whom are in safe havens and 112 in embassies along with about 500 Chilean exiles; 1,210 foreigners are living in private homes and 23 are known to be in prison.

Discussing the resettlement

effort, a spokesman for the High Commission for Refugees said in an interview, "We are very encouraged by the response to our appeal from Cuba and other socialist countries."

The Cuban Foreign Minister, Raul Roa, informed the United Nations mission that his Government would take all Chileans and foreigners who asked to go to Cuba. Yugoslavia has agreed to take 60; East Germany is taking 400; Poland has expressed willingness to take an unspecified number. The Soviet Union has agreed to accept six Russian women and their Chilean husbands and children.

Most to Two Countries

Mexico and Argentina have taken the largest numbers of Chilean exiles, said to be in the thousands. Many are reported to have crossed into Argentina on foot.

Of the non-Communist European countries, Sweden has taken 600 Chileans and others and is showing willingness to accept their close kin. Other countries that have helped include France, which has taken more than 350, Finland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

West Germany recently promised to take more than a thousand refugees and has a special mission interviewing cases. It has received 150 so far, and if it fulfills its pledge the situation will be greatly alleviated, according to United Nations sources.

A United Nations official noted that countries accepting refugees have assumed heavy responsibilities, generally paying for transport and committing themselves to food, clothing, housing and language instruction until employment can be found.