

NYTimes

# Letters to the Editor

## Mrs. Allende: In Whose 'Best Interest'?

To the Editor:

I cannot remain silent at the statements by President Ford and Dr. Kissinger regarding the recent disclosures of the involvement of the C.I.A. and the Forty Committee in Chile. Although the facts were not new to us (President Allende denounced them in his speech before the U.N. General Assembly in December of 1972), we are pleased to see that at least they have been acknowledged by official sources.

This is additional evidence of how the people and even the Congress of the United States have been deceived. Covert activities are carried on throughout Latin America and the Third World and are called "national policies." It is clear that they have not been subject to the normal scrutiny of your political system.

President Ford's statements, as well as Dr. Kissinger's, arouse our deepest concern since they reveal an open repudiation of the rule of international law. It is inconceivable to say that policies which led to the tragic death and suffering of untold thousands were in the "best interests of the people of Chile and certainly in the interests of the people of the U.S." Such statements and the arrogant rejection of the responsibility of the U.S. to the international community suggest that your Government feels threatened by the survival of even the smallest country committed to giving an effective voice to the workers in the direction of their society—that is, a society of the people, for the people and by the people. This strengthens our fear that your Government requires the "law and order" guaranteed by military regimes (like those in fourteen of the twenty Latin American republics) for its greatness.

To say that \$8 million (\$40 million at the black market rate of exchange) were spent to guarantee the survival

of the opposition parties and press—which were never threatened—is outrageous. But for the sake of argument following this same logic, we ask ourselves now, why did that concern suddenly disappear when much more serious transgressions actually occurred: the closing down of Congress, the suspension of all political parties (outlawing the opposition parties), the banning of some and the censorship of the remaining papers, the abolition of the National Labor Confederation, the massive dismissal of workers from their jobs in the factories, universities and public offices for ideological reasons, the burning of books, etc.

Further, thousands were killed while others were imprisoned and brutally tortured (and still remain in jails and concentration camps), a violation of all legal procedure, as North American lawyers have testified after witnessing some "trials" in Chile. The present chaotic economic situation, with an inflation that has reached 1,200 per cent in many basic food-stuffs, results in massive hunger and unemployment.

I'd like Mr. Ford to ask the 30,000 orphans, the thousands of widows and the majority of the population if they feel it has been "in their best interests." I'd also like to ask the North American people if they feel that it was "in their best interests."

I strongly recommend to North Americans who are interested in rescuing that which once made your country a symbol of democracy, freedom and justice to seek to prevent a minority in power, which uses covert actions to implement foreign policies, from speaking on behalf of the people of the United States of North America.

HORTENSIA B. DE ALLENDE  
Stockholm, Sept. 22, 1974