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## U.S. to Admit Hundreds of Chilean Exiles

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WASHINGTON, June 13 —

The United States is preparing to admit a sizable number of political refugees from Chile, the State Department announced today.

A high-ranking United States official said that the number could reach 1,000, or even more, and would include Chileans now held in prison or detention camps by the Military Government in Santiago as well as some Chileans who are in exile in neighboring Peru.

The United States Government has discussed giving Chileans political asylum ever since a junta overthrew the elected Government of President Salvador Allende Gossens, a Marxist, in September, 1973.

But only 19 Chileans have been admitted to this country as refugees, while more than 1,500 Chileans have been resettled in 15 other countries. Some 1,200 Chileans are in Peru.

United States estimates are that there are between 4,000 and 5,000 Chileans still held in jails or prison camps in Chile.

Last September the Chilean military leadership offered to release and deport prisoners who could be resettled in other countries, and this year the category was broadened to include Chileans convicted of "internal security" crimes.

The United States did not move earlier to receive large numbers of Chilean refugees because it did not wish to encumber its relations with the Santiago Government, an Administration official said. The new resettlement program is to be run through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, he added.

According to William D. Rogers, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, the State Department took a "strong initiative" in March\* to respond to the Chilean Government's offer by arranging to resettle a sizable number of detainees and exiles.

In testimony yesterday before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Rogers said that the United States was offering asylum in response to an appeal by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr. Rogers said of the United Nations al:

"It is inconsistent to seek cooperation from international organizations and other countries on the Vietnamese refugee problem if we refuse to lift a finger to help the Chileans."\*

He acknowledged that there had been pressure from a number of American church groups and other organizations to provide relief for Chilean political prisoners.

Mr. Rogers testified in a closed session of the Senate committee at the request of its Chairman, James O. Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi. The text of his remarks was given to reporters by aides of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, who attended the hearing.

Replying to previous queries by Senator Eastland, Mr. Rogers said that the Chilean prisoners would be screened to assure that no Communists were admitted.

Mr. Rogers said that procedures had been worked out with the Immigration and Naturalization Service to admit Chileans "on a case-by-case basis."

\* Saigon falls 30 Apr 75.