

Questions About Simon's Chile Trip

By Mary McGroarty

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TREASURY SECRETARY William E. Simon's much-publicized mission of liberation to Chile has resulted in the release of 49 of Chile's approximately 4000 political prisoners, three of whom are already living in the United States.

The State Department has verified that three of the Chileans whose names appeared on lists published simultaneously in Washington and Santiago on the occasion of Simon's visit, had arrived in the United States last month.

Two, Eduardo Villarroel Donoso and Juan Torres Rojas, are at the Agape Foundation in San Diego. The third, Luis Andrada Sanhueza, is in New York.

Sanhueza, 23, was released on February 16 after serving seven months. Freed of charges under the Weapons Control Act, he was kept in jail for "national security" reasons. He arrived in New York on April 29 and is now looking for work.

"I am very sorry the junta deceived Simon by saying I was released on account of him," Sanhueza said through an interpreter in a telephone interview. "But I am glad it happened because it shows the nature of

the junta."

According to church and peace groups here, which keep in touch with the Vicariate of Solidarity, a human rights organization headed by Santiago's defiant Catholic Cardinal Enriquez Silva, at least six others on Simon's list had been granted "decrees of release" by the junta before Simon arrived.

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EVEN BEFORE the confusion began, Simon's efforts to the further U.S. economic aid to human rights concession was under attack on Capitol Hill, where liberals of both parties have been pressing for what would be in effect a policy of wholesale ransom. Attempts to cut severely financial assistance and cut off all commercial or military arms sales to the generals until they open the prison gates are undercut by Simon's personal diplomacy.

Representative Toby Moffett (Dem-Conn.), a recent visitor to Chile, is calling for an investigation of the trip, the first of a U.S. cabinet officer since the bloody 1973 coup which overthrew the Marxist government of Salvador Allende.

"Why is the secretary of the treasury making foreign policy?" asks Moffett. "The very act

of his going lends legitimacy to that government."

Representative Tom Harkin (Dem-Iowa), who went with Moffett, thinks it is "awfully fishy" that Simon went so soon after the junta finance minister, Jorge Cauas, passed through Washington trying to get loans from U.S. banks.

"Simon is just shoring up those loans," says Harkin. "He's signaling those banks that this is a good investment. Visits like this are no substitute for a national policy."

The U.S. attitude toward the junta, which came into power after the expenditure of \$11 million by the CIA to "destabilize" the Allende regime, is one of indulgence. Two administrations have shown more concern for the way the Chileans treat multinational corporations than for the way they treat their own citizens. The junta's practice of indiscriminate arrests and torture of dissidents has provoked worldwide condemnation, although not from Washington.

The junta's faltering economy is now being guided by University of Chicago economists under the direction of Dr. Milton Friedman. The hope is apparently to create a Latin American model of a capitalist society, and the United States has used its influence in international institutions like the

World Bank, which recently granted a loan of \$33 million, to assist the experiment.

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LAST YEAR, the junta refused to admit a U.N. commission on human rights to investigate conditions. Simon wrested from the junta a concession: the commission will be allowed in.

But no procedures will be discussed until after the Organization of American States convention in Santiago in June.

That, to critics of the regime, means that the junta will make sure the streets are clear of all possible sources of adverse information during the OAS stay. It should be noted that Jose Zalaquett, a lawyer for the peace committee, outlawed forerunner of the Vicariate of Solidarity, who conferred with the visiting congressmen on a promise of immunity, was arrested and subsequently expelled.

And as soon as Simon left town, a conservative lawyer for the Vicariate, Hernan Montalegre, was arrested at 5 o'clock in the morning. He was not charged but taken to the dina (secret police) section of Tres Alamos, the notorious political prison, according to information received by the National Council of Churches.