

DEBRAY IS FREED BY THE BOLIVIANS

French Marxist Writer Who
Was With Guevara Is
Released in Amnesty

By The Associated Press

IQUIQUE, Chile, Dec. 23—The Bolivian Government released today the French Marxist writer, Regis Debray, who fought beside Ernesto Che Guevara in the abortive attempt to organize a peasants revolt in 1967.

The 30-year-old writer was taken to this northern Chilean port city by Bolivian military plane. He was described as pale but in good health after spending 3 years and 8 months of a 30-year term in a military prison in Camiri, Bolivia, on charges of murder, robbery and treason.

Mr. Debray was accompanied by an Argentine painter, Roberto Bustos, also sentenced to 30 years, after their capture in 1967 by the army force that killed Mr. Guevara, the Argentine-born Cuban leader who sought to export the Castro revolution to South America.

They were freed under an amnesty decree issued by Gen. Juan José Torres, a nationalist who took over the presidency on Oct. 8 after ousting right.

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wing military leaders who had toppled President Alfredo Ovando Cordia.

Four Bolivians who were captured with Mr. Debray and Mr. Bustos also were released.

Mr. Debray was met in Iquique by Ajejandro Soria, governor of Tarapaca Province and a member of the Socialist party.

"I am happy to be in Chile and to have regained my freedom, which I was in despair of ever doing," Mr. Debray said.

The Chilean Government granted Mr. Debray a 15-day visa. He said he would go to Santiago to see President Salvador Allende Grosseas. Officials said Mr. Debray and Mr. Bustos would fly to Santiago tomorrow.

Mr. Debray's release, sought for three years by a number of United States and European intellectuals, was said to have been due in large part to pressure from left-wing groups that supported General Torres in his overthrow of the military junta. Military officers who fought

for Guevara guerrillas opposed the release.

The decree said: "The armed forces, according to Christian tradition, have spontaneously stated their desire to forgive and forget the harm that the guerrilla action did to the country."

The decree banned Mr. Debray and Mr. Bustos from Bolivia.

Mr. Debray, a protégé of Jean-Paul Sartre and avid supporter of Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba, was arrested in April, 1967, near the small Bolivian town of Muyupampa. He denied throughout his trial and in letters and interviews that he had taken part in guerrilla activities, maintaining that he spent a month with the band acting strictly as a journalist.

Mr. Guevara's diary mentions Mr. Debray several times, always referring to the writer as "the Frenchman" or by the code name "Danton."

In an entry for March 21, 1967, the diary says that Mr. Debray "came to stay, but I asked him to go back to organ-

ize a network of aid in France and to stop in Cuba, something which coincides with his wishes to get married. I have to write letters to Satre and B. Russell asking them to organize an international aid collection for the Bolivian liberation movement."

Mr. Debray was captured, apparently on the same day he left the guerrilla camp. Bolivian authorities said Mr. Debray was the first informant to tell them of Mr. Guevara's whereabouts, but the writer denied this.

Was Slain by Troops

"Mr. Guevara was slain in October, 1967, by Bolivian troops at his jungle headquarters."

Informed of the news during his trial in Camiri, Mr. Debray told the military court: "My greatest sorrow is not having died at his side."

Released with Mr. Debray and Mr. Bustos were Antonio Domínguez Flores, Orlando Jimenez Bazan, José Castillo Chavez and Eusebio Tapia Arumio.