

U.S. Softens Entry Rules For Leftists Caught in Chile

By Terri Shaw

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The United States has offered to allow foreign refugees stranded in Chile after the September military coup to immigrate to the United States under a special "parole" arrangement allowing them to bypass certain immigration restrictions.

The U.S. offer was made to the U.N. High Commission for Refugees more than a month ago, but so far fewer than 30 persons have applied to come to the United States.

This is a tiny proportion of the estimated 3,000 foreigners, mainly from other Latin American countries, believed to have taken refuge in embassies, private homes and several "safe havens" in Chile set up by the U.N. refugee office.

Most of the refugees are leftists who fled their countries for political reasons and were welcomed to Chile by the socialist-led government of the late President Salvador Allende. The military men who led the Sept. 11 coup in

which Allende died conducted a harsh campaign against foreign "extremists" and arrested hundreds of foreigners in the first weeks after the coup.

Use of the "parole" system to bring in refugees from Chile was suggested last month by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) chairman of the Senate refugee subcommittee.

The system has been used in the past to allow Hungarian and Cuban refugees to enter the United States without going through the usual lengthy bureaucratic processes.

State Department sources suggested that the number of applicants from Chile was low because many of the refugees would not consider the United States a "congenial" place to live and because they were aware of the strict "security and political" restrictions on immigrants to the United States.

Sources who have been following the refugees' situation, however, said that conditions in Chile are so bad and there are so few places for the refu-

gees to go that many are desperate to leave.

A cable sent to the World Council of Churches from refugees living under U.N. protection said: "We consider the security conditions under which we exist to be precarious and full of serious danger."

Some European and Latin American countries have agreed to accept small numbers of refugees, and as of Nov. 13 almost 250 had left, State Department sources said.

School Going Dark For Energy Week

PENDLETON, Ore., Nov. 30 (AP)—The electricity will be turned off next week at John Murray Junior High School in honor of National Energy Crisis Week.

Officials said the only electrical power used will be for the telephone. Students, teachers and school employees are being urged to walk or ride bicycles to work.