

EMBAJADA DE CHILE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

November 18th, 1975.-

Mr. Jack Anderson  
1401 16th Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Your column, "Purging the Christian Democrats" which appeared in "The Washington Post" November 16th, contains errors in fact and comments on the Chilean Government's purported intentions and alleged scheming that border on calumny and slander.

The publication of unverified accusations is all the more serious because of your recent conversations with the Minister of Justice of Chile, Mr. Miguel Schwertzer, and with me, and later conversations by your Joseph Spear with personnel of this Embassy, in which we sought to clarify inaccurate information which unfortunately you have insisted on publishing.

ITEM: Secret scheme to impose what you refer to as the "Paraguayan Solution."

FACT: Absolutely false. We are completely unaware of any such "Solution" and the Chilean Government is not interested in any political system that differs from that indicated in its "Declaration of Principles." This Declaration is not a secret document. It has been distributed throughout the world in English, French, German and Spanish.

Since you charge that "the Junta is secretly scheming" to introduce the above "Solution", is it to be assumed that your information comes directly from one of the members of this "dictatorial Junta" that you so violently denounce ?

ITEM: "Chilean sources, whose reliability cannot be questioned...."

The fact that these "Chilean sources" obviously have an axe to grind makes any information emanating from them questionable. As you know, there are at this time several

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Catholic priests under arrest in Chile because of complicity with terrorist groups belonging to organizations cited by you in our private conversation as one of your "reliable sources." I believe no comment is necessary.

ITEM: Reference to the dastardly attempt to assassinate Mr. Bernardo Leighton and his wife in Rome, and the allegation that DINA was following a female exile in Paris.

FACT: Running these two items together leaves the impression that the Chilean Government was involved in both.

It is absolutely untrue that the Chilean Government had anything to do with the attempt on the Leighton's life and I most strongly reject this gratuitous imputation.

Furthermore, the tale about the DINA and the female exile is also a lie. Check with the French authorities in Paris or the Chilean Embassy in Paris.

ITEM: "A contingent of Chilean intelligence agents operates out of the Spanish capital, under the direction of Col. Pedro Ewing..."

FACT: Another calumnious affirmation. Col. Pedro Ewing is a distinguished army officer, the Military Attache at the Chilean Embassy in Madrid. His functions are strictly professional. Unfortunately, Chile cannot afford to maintain security services for its embassies. As a result, an attempt was made months ago to assassinate the Chilean Ambassador in Lebanon. His wife was critically wounded and he will be paralyzed for the rest of his life. If we had had proper "security" this crime might have been avoided, as well as other terrorist attacks which our embassies and our diplomats have suffered in several other countries. Until this moment, we have had no information of your preoccupation about this matter, directly connected to international leftist terrorism.

ITEM: "Here in the United States, two prominent Christian Democratic exiles have been marked for murder. Gabriel Valdes, a former foreign minister, and Radomiro Tomic, who ran against Allende for the Presidency in 1970..."

FACT: Neither of these men is in exile.

Mr. Valdes, a rich and prominent aristocrat, left Chile in 1970 after Salvador Allende was elected president, to become Director for Latina America of the United Nations Development

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Program. Up to last year, two of Mr. Valde's sons studied in fine American universities under scholarships granted through the present Chilean Government. On September 11, 1973, television viewers in the United States saw him leave his east side residence in Manhattan, accompanied by "personal guards" on his way to Kennedy Airport. Mr. Valdes made it known that he was on his way to Chile to become President of the Junta, which had overthrown Allende that very day. The inclination to mythomania encouraged by his American supporters, who are coordinating and financing the so-called "resistance" to the Chilean Government, is supporting Mr. Valdes' dreams of threats and bodyguards.

Radomiro Tomic is absent from Chile as he has been frequently during his adult life, but never against his own wishes and free will. After leaving Texas and Washington, he is now in Europe. In the 1970 presidential elections Tomic ran a poor third.

The charge that Messrs. Valdes and Tomic are "marked for murder" is absolutely ridiculous, and would be completely false and slanderous if attributed to the Government of Chile.

ITEM: "DINA conducted a raid on the home of Jaime Castillo Velasco... a former Minister of Justice under Christian Democratic President Eduardo Frei".

FACT: Mr. Castillo Velasco has not filed any protest with any court. As you recall in your article, he is the uncle of Carmen Castillo, a terrorist and intimate friend of the late Miguel Enriquez, a leftist terrorist leader who was killed in a battle with police after he had robbed a Santiago Bank. The Chilean Government gave Carmen Castillo a visa and her official residence today is London. However, she visits the United States, Canada, Mexico and Cuba regularly to collect funds for anti-government activities in Chile. She is one of the "reliable" sources of many journalists who have been attacking Chile on the basis of false information.

ITEM: "A former Christian Democratic Congressman, Pedro Araya Ortiz, was arrested... and tortured... "

FACT: The Minister of Interior has ordered a thorough investigation of these charges and Minister of Justice, Miguel Schweitzer, has offered Mr. Anderson a complete review of such assertion. Until these inquiries are completed, affirmations of any kind would be purely speculative.

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ITEM: "Last August, 50 professors and students were arrested at the eastern branch of the University of Chile in Santiago..."

FACT: Many of the arrested have been released, others have returned to their university functions, and only a few who, ironically, belonged to the "security personnel of the University," (guards and doormen) are under arrest for breaking the law.

ITEM: "Six professors of political science were arbitrarily dismissed at Catholic University of Chile for organizing a seminar on the future of democracy in the world. One of the participants was supposed to be former President Eduardo Frei....He was denied the opportunity to speak at the seminar.

FACT: University authorities, not the Government, asked for the resignation of six professors of the Catholic University, because of their political activities. This measure was taken in compliance with University regulations in effect since 1971.

The seminar was suspended by the University because it had a political, not academic objective.

Thus, not only was former President Frei left unable to appear before that seminar but also the representative of the Government who was scheduled to address the same seminar.

ITEM: "At Northern University in Copiapo, three officials and 17 professors were arrested last March. They were released in July and rearrested as they left the prison. Labor leaders at some of Chile's largest copper mines ... have been arrested."

FACT: The arrest of persons who have violated the law or who are accomplices of terrorists, as has occurred at some mines or Universities in Copiapo, northern Chile, has no connection with their private activities. No one in the U.S. has accused Miss Patricia Hearst of being arrested because she is the heiress of a newspaper chain owner. It was her alleged terrorist activities which brought about her detention.

For your information, only two persons of the University in Copiapo are under arrest at this time, charged with terrorist activities.

ITEM: "Last August 13, over 1900 officials and employees of the Agricultural Services of the Chilean Government were abruptly dismissed... Other mass purges are under way... In

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ENDESA, the national electric company."

FACT: The reduction in the number of employees in all administrative services of the country was announced well in advance by the Government and legalized by Decree N°1025, May 1975, which established the mechanism for cutting the ranks of public employees and providing benefits and compensation to be received as retirement pay. This reduction was necessitated as an indispensable measure for slashing the inflation rate of more than 1.000% per year inherited from the Allende regime.

Only 762 functionaries - not 1900 - were dismissed from the Agricultural Services and they belonged to all the political parties, not just the Christian Democrats. The same procedure was used in the case of ENDESA.

The Government's sound measures of economic policy -as evidenced by the sharp decline in the inflationary rate (only 8.4% in October, compared to 21.3% in March), are offered by you as evidence of political persecution. Are the dismissed employees of the City of New York the victims of political persecution because the city is trying to avoid bankruptcy?

ITEM: "Top Christian Democratic leaders selected our column as the outlet for telling their story to the world".

FACT: Such evidence is questionable. One of these "top" leaders publicly accused the Chilean Government of killing his son when, unfortunately, the boy died on a London street, the victim of an incurable disease which he had suffered since childhood.

For your information, many of the most distinguished and prominent former Christian Democratic Party members, together with men of outstanding reputation from all walks of life and political positions are cooperating in the Chilean national effort of today. Their resolute action is the strongest repudiation to those who, claiming a position of importance and of moral leadership they no longer maintain in Chile, have abandoned their country and proclaim themselves as "exiles" behind the lucrative bureaucratic posts they hold in some international organizations.

I confess I am grateful that you indicated that your information came from "top Christian Democratic leaders." The fact that some U.S. newsmen and politicians show so much interest in the survival of the Christian Democratic Party in Chile, seems to confirm the fact that an American political-religious sector seeks to establish an "American Party" in Chile.

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The noted British essayist and journalist, Robert Moss, in a recent article published in the U.S., referred to the "American Party" attempt, stating that some American groups seem to engineer now the return to power of the Christian Democrats, "the American Party", at the earliest possible opportunity. Many of the blunders committed in Chile - according to Moss - might have been averted if the Americans - and some West Europeans - had made a more sustained attempt to offer practical guidance rather than try to resuscitate a long-lost past.

I trust that you are not of those who wish to impose an "American Party" on Chile, because the people of my country would reject it with the same firmness and decision with which they recently eliminated the "Soviet Party".

Sincerely,



MANUEL TRUCCO \*



cc: Editor, "The Washington Post"  
United Features Syndicate  
Accuracy in Media