

Greater Manchester County Ecumenical Council

County Ecumenical Officer
Rev. John Gunstone

St. Peter's House, The Precinct Centre,
Oxford Road,
Manchester M13 9GH
Phone: 061 - 273 - 5508

June 1977

FOR INFORMATION

The enclosed letter has been sent by the leaders of the Churches in Greater Manchester to General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, President of Chile, supporting the work of Cardinal Monsignor Silva Henriquez for missing prisoners and their families in the Republic.

JOHN GUNSTONE

County Ecumenical Officer

Greater Manchester County Ecumenical Council

County Ecumenical Officer
Rev. John Gunstone

General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte,
President of the Republic,
Edificio Diego Portales,
SANTIAGO, Chile

St. Peter's House, The Precinct Centre,
Oxford Road,
Manchester M13 9GH
Phone: 061 - 273 - 5508

June 1977

Dear Sir,

As leaders of the Christian Churches in Greater Manchester, England, we address the following to you in a spirit of love.

We have heard the appeal to the world issued from Santiago in June 1975 by the relatives of the missing prisoners of Chile in which "mothers, wives, children, brothers and sisters call on world public opinion...on all who are capable of thought and feeling to join our cry and take whatever measures are possible so that the Military Junta returns our relatives to us."

We know of the interrogation and detention centres, and of the ultimate violence being perpetrated upon the dignity of the human person therein.

We express our fullest support for Cardinal Monsignor Silva Henriquez and the humanitarian work of the Catholic Vicariate of Solidarity for prisoners and their families.

We urge you to spare no effort to end the anguish of the relatives of all prisoners whose detention remains unacknowledged, including the **six** people with British parents or grand-parents.

In the name of oppressed and tortured human beings - children, women and men - in whichever part of the world they may be, we urge you to end the suffering and despair in your beautiful country - for us, "a far strip of country, narrow but endlessly deep". (Victor Jara)

As you state that your aim is to defend Christian civilisation, we permit ourselves to remind you of the words of the Founder of Christianity:

"How blest are you who are in need; the Kingdom of God is yours.

"How blest are you who now go hungry; your hunger shall be satisfied.

"How blest are you who weep now; you shall laugh,

"How blest are you when men hate you, when they outlaw and insult you, and ban your very name as infamous because of the Son of Man...

"But alas for you who are rich; you have had your time of happiness (Luke 6:20-24)

This is our understanding of Christianity, and so we urge you to heed our appeal for mercy in this year which has been dedicated by the Roman Catholic Church to Human Rights.

Yours,

Patrick Manchester

Rt. Rev. P. C. Rodger, Bishop of Manchester

Thomas Holland

Rt. Rev. T. Holland, Bishop of Salford

Ronald Jobling

Rev. R. Jobling, Chairman, Bolton & Rochdale District of the Methodist Church

Gordon S. Wakefield

Rev. G. S. Wakefield, Chairman, Manchester & Stockport District of the Methodist Church

Douglas G. Stewart

Rev. D. G. Stewart, Moderator of the North-Western Province of the United Reformed Church

A. T. Hubbard

Rev. A. T. Hubbard, Superintendent of the North-Western Area of the Baptist Union

John A. Gunstone

Rev. J. T. A. Gunstone, County Ecumenical Officer

COPIES TO:

His Holiness Pope Paul VI; Secretary-General of the UN, New York; President Carter, Washington D C; Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS, Washington D C; Chairman of the UN Working Group on Human Rights in Chile, Geneva; Permanent Representative of Chile at the UN Office at Geneva.

Cardinal Monsignor Silva Henriquez, Archbishop of Santiago; Bishop Bernardino Piñera, Secretary-General of the Chilean Episcopal Conference, Temuco, Chile; Cristian Precht, Vicaría de la Solidaridad, Santiago; Bishop Helmut Frenz (former permanent WCC representative in Santiago & former Lutheran representative on the Comité de Cooperación para la Paz), Hamburg; Archbishop Helder Camara, Recife, Brazil; World Council of Churches, Geneva.

LONDON: H E The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster; His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury; Lord Ramsay of Canterbury; the British Council of Churches; Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs; Lord Avebury, Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group; President of the Chile Committee for Human Rights; Secretary-General of Amnesty International; Commission for International Peace and Justice of the Episcopal Conference of England & Wales; Catholic Institute for International Relations; Pax Christi Centre; Friends' Peace and International Relations Committee; United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

MEMBERS OF THE RULING CHILEAN JUNTA: General Gustavo Leigh Guzman; Admiral José Merino; General César Mendoza Durán. MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: General César Benavides. MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Sra Mónica Madariaga Gutierrez. MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Vicealmirante Patricio Carvajal Prado. PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT: Sr José M Eyzaguirre Echeverría.

CHILEAN NEWSPAPERS: SANTIAGO: El Cronista; El Mercurio; La Tercera de la Hora. VALPARAISO: La Estrella. ANTOFAGASTA: La Estrella del Norte. CONCEPCIÓN: La Crónica; Diario Color; El Sur. IQUIQUE: La Estrella de Iquique; El Tarapacá. RANCAGUA: El Rancaguino. TALCA: La Mañana. TEMUCO: El Diario Austral. TOCOPILLA: La Prensa. VALDIVIA: El Correo de Valdivia.

CHILEAN MAGAZINES: Mensaje (Jesuit Magazine); Hoy (Weekly General Interest Magazine); El Teniente (Magazine of the Society of El Teniente Miners).

RADIO: Asociación de Radiodifusoras de Chile. TELEVISION: Televisión Nacional de Chile.

PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS: Colegio de Abogados (Bar Association); Colegio de Administradores Públicos (Association of Civil Servants); Colegio de Periodistas (Association of Journalists); Colegio Medical de Chile (Chilean Medical Association); Sociedad de Fomento Fabril (Employers' Association); Colegio de Técnicos Agrícolas y Prácticos Agrícolas (Association of Agricultural Technicians and Farmers).

CHILEAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN LONDON: Minister (Chargé d'Affaires); Minister Counsellor; 1st Secretary; Cultural and Press Attaché; Civil Attaché; Agent for the Purposes of Arbitration between Chile and the Argentine Republic: H E Sr José Miguel Barros.