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ICFTU international confederation of free trade unions
C I S L confédération internationale des syndicats libres
I B F G internationaler bund freier gewerkschaften
CIOSL confederación internacional de organizaciones sindicales libres

RUE MONTAGNE AUX HERBES POTAGÈRES 37-41, 1000 BRUXELLES, BELGIQUE

☎ 02 17 80 85/TELEGR.: INTERCONFED BRUXELLES - TELEX: 26785 ICFTU BRU

DONALD MACDONALD
President - Président
Präsident - Presidente

SPO/ecrc

11 October 1973

OTTO KERSTEN
General Secretary - Secrétaire général
Generalsekretär - Secretario General

In reply please quote:
Circular No. 70(1973)

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TO ALL AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS
TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE
BOARD (for information)
TO ALL INTERNATIONAL TRADE
SECRETARIATS (for information)

Dear Friends,

Repression in Chile

Ever since the moment when the military violently seized power in Chile we have repeatedly made statements condemning this act of sedition, denouncing its authors to the international organisations, giving assurances of our solidarity to the trade unionists and workers who are victims of the repression, and calling upon our affiliates to urge their governments to sever all relations with the Junta, until such time as constitutional guarantees are restored.

As the military powers seem determined to intensify the repression, we urgently request our affiliated organisations to bring pressure to bear on their respective governments to instruct their Embassies to provide asylum, as those of the Scandinavian countries have done, for trade unionists and workers seeking to escape the repression, and to obtain for those who take refuge in the Embassies the necessary safe conduct to leave the country, without any discrimination whatever.

I availed myself of my interview recently with the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, to apprise him of our deep concern over the repression in Chile. I informed him of the intention of the world free trade union movement to persuade the democratic countries to facilitate the giving of asylum in their Embassies to persecuted trade unionists and workers, and I requested that the United Nations second our efforts to this end.

We draw your attention to the important mission to Chile accomplished by the Socialist International. One of the members of this mission also represented the ICFTU. The mission reported that there never was any plot by the constitutional government of the late President Allende against the Chilean armed forces and that the serious economic crisis which Chile faces was deliberately brought on and intensified by those very forces

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who form or sustain the new regime; to the thousands killed in the first few days must be added the numbers undoubtedly higher than the regime will admit of those being summarily shot all over the country. The Socialist International has communicated the report to the UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

We should greatly appreciate it if you would let us know of relevant steps taken, and we for our part shall inform you of any further steps we consider appropriate.

With fraternal greetings,

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary