

CHILE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN  
129 Seven Sisters Road,  
LONDON N7 7QG.  
Tel: 01-272-4298/9

REPORT ON THE TOUR OF LUIS FIGUEROA AND RAUL CARO OF THE CUT (CHILEAN TUC)

APRIL 15. LONDON

Raul Caro, member of the Consejo Directivo (General Council) of the CUT, arrives. Meets with Ken Gill, General Secretary of AUEW-TASS, Harry Smith, Editor, and other TASS officials at TASS's Richmond office.

APRIL 16. NEWCASTLE (Raul Caro only)

Met by members of the local Chile Solidarity Committee, accompanied by a full-time official of APEX. Interview with local radio station. Visits to AUEW-TASS, AUEW and local Labour Party offices. Reception by APEX District Office, including Horace Green, APEX Executive delegate to the TUC Special Conference on Chile on April 24. Evening public meeting arranged by local CSC, with local trade unionists. Luis Figueroa arrives in London.

APRIL 17-18. ABERDEEN

Scottish Trades Union Congress annual conference. Luis Figueroa and Raul Caro there at the invitation of the STUC General Council as fraternal delegates. Present at the various General Council dinners and receptions. Informal meetings with Scottish trade unionists. STUC passes strong resolution on Chile.

APRIL 18. EDINBURGH

LF and RC invited to dinner in their honour given by NUM Scotland. Mick McGahey, President, and Bill McLean hosts, together with other members of SNUM executive, Alec Kitson (T&GWU Executive Officer, Exec member Labour Party and STUC), and local trade unionists and councillors. Discussion of project to send a delegation of British miners to Chile to investigate conditions of miners in Chile.

APRIL 19. GLASGOW

Evening informal reception by members of local CSC.

APRIL 20. GLASGOW

Meeting with local trade unionists and shop stewards in the Trade Union Centre. Chaired by Alec Ferry, District Secretary, Glasgow AUEW. Shop stewards present from Rolls Royce, East Kilbryde, Yarrow's ship-yard, Anderson Mavor, and T&GWU transport workers, as well as a delegation from local POEU there to meet Raul Caro, who is a telecommunications technician. Discussion on blacking goods for Chile, adopting prisoners, and other means of solidarity. Agreement to press for resolution in the Confed on the submarines at Greenock.

APRIL 21. LIVERPOOL

Meeting hosted by Merseyside Docks Shop Stewards, chaired by Alex Doswell, with delegates from T&GWU Triumph Speke, T&GWU Fords Hailwood, ACTSS Docks, and the Assistant Divisional Organiser of AUEW, Jim Shepard, GEC member T&GWU, and a representative of T&GWU Road Haulage Section. Discussion on blacking, and trade with Chile.



APRIL 21. LIVERPOOL (Continued)

Evening public meeting at AUEW House, with 150 or so persons, including many local trade unionists.

APRIL 22. LEIGH, LANCASHIRE

Morning meeting at the Miners' Institute. Representatives from UCATT, BICC Shop Stewards, NUM Parsonage, David Brown Shop Stewards, AUEW Leigh No 1.

MANCHESTER

Meeting at Transport House, chaired by Doug Farrar, Regional Secretary, T&GWU, and with 14 full-time officials from AUEW, T&GWU, UCATT, etc.

Evening meeting at SOGAT social club with local trade unionists. Chaired by Frances Dean, Secretary Trades Council.

APRIL 23. BIRMINGHAM

Appearance by invitation, to deliver brief message of greetings to National Motor Industry Shop Stewards Conference (Convenors from BLMC Coventry, Fords, Chrysler, Vauxhalls and components industries).

Lunch with Sam Robinson, T&GWU full-time official.

Afternoon meeting with Brian Mathers, Regional Secretary, T&GWU.

Evening meeting at the Morning Star Social Club with local trade unionists.

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APRIL 24 LONDON

Luis Figueroa and Raul Caro joined By Humberto Elgueta, also of the CUT. Trades Union Congress Special Conference on Chile. Delegates from: Bakers' Union, National League of the Blind and Disabled, Association of Building Technicians, ACTT, Society of Civil Servants, UCATT, National Union of Domestic Appliance and General Metal Workers, AUEW-ES, AUEW-TASS, Fire Brigades Union, FTAT, G&MWU, SOGAT, COHSE, Inland Revenue Staff Federation, SLADE, ASLEF, NUM, Musicians' Union, NALGO, POEU, Association of Post Office Executives, UPW, APEX, NUPE, NUR, National Union of Scalemakers, ASTMS, NUSeamen, Sheet Metal Workers, USDAW, NUTGW, ATTI, Tobacco Workers' Union, T&GWU. Meeting chaired by Jack Jones. Greetings to the Chilean delegation given by Len Murray. Speakers urged positive action on Chile. Jack Jones mentioned the work of the TUC, and also the various blacking and boycott actions undertaken by British workers. He urged Trades Councils to hold meetings on Chile. For the Seamen, Eddie McCluskie stated that his Executive Committee was prepared to order all NUS members to refuse to work on ships going to or from Chile, and appealed for support to the dockers. The dockers (S.Pemberton, T&GWU) in turn urged the need for support from production workers in Britain, so that goods destined for Chile would be halted before they even reached the docks. Delegates expressed support for the programme to adopt trade union prisoners. £1000 was agreed by TUC International Committee members present to be given to the CUT.

Luis Figueroa departs to Venezuela.

APRIL 26 SWINDON

Raul Caro attends Swindon's May Day march. Hosted by local CSC. Meets President, Trades Council, and David Stoddart, MP.



APRIL 28. BLACKPOOL

Raul Caro invited to the dinner and reception of the AUEW National Committee. Introduced to committee members by Hugh Scanlon, President, and by Les Dixon, EC member responsible for Chile.

APRIL 29. EDINBURGH

Raul Caro invited to AUEW-TASS national conference. Greeted by standing ovation at Conference. Speaks to delegates at social evening, introduced by Ken Gill.

APRIL 30. LONDON

Raul Caro to headquarters of POEU. Meets Derek Bourn, Political Organiser, Bryan Stanley, General Secretary, and other officials. Discusses means of solidarity, support for the CUT, adoption of trade union prisoners, and the publication of an article on Chile in the POEU journal.

Raul Caro departs.

Support & finance for the tour.

The tour was possible because of the support of many different trade union organisations, and because of the work of the Chile Solidarity Campaign both nationally and through its local committees.

Raul Caro was invited as fraternal delegate by AUEW-TASS, who paid his fares.

Caro and Figueroa were invited as fraternal delegates by STUC.

Luis Figueroa was invited by the TUC to attend the Special Conference on Chile.

Many individuals and organisations en route made contributions towards costs, or paid for hotel accommodation or travel.

TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY LUIS FIGUEROA, PRESIDENT OF THE CHILEAN TUC (CUT), TO TRADE UNIONISTS IN GLASGOW, ON APRIL 20 1975.

Dear Comrades and Trade Unionists of Glasgow:

We would like to bring you the greetings of the Chilean workers who are fighting in our country against the fascist dictatorship of General Pinochet, and in their name we would like to thank you for your solidarity.

Ever since the fascist group headed by Pinochet staged the coup d'etat, and murdered President Allende, democratic forces in our country have been fighting against the dictatorship. At the head of these forces is the working class, and the entire Chilean working population. For six days we resisted the coup, from September 11 to September 18 1973, maintaining a general strike, with factories, work-sites and essential services occupied by the workers. But we were driven out by planes, tanks and artillery. From that time until the present day, the struggle has not ceased for a single moment. You already doubtless know about the bloody repression which characterised this coup d'etat. Although Imperialism never formally declared war upon us, 40,000 of our men, women and children have been killed; almost 300,000 have at one time or another been shut up in the jails and prison camps, and today between 500,000 and 600,000 of our workers have been sacked from their jobs.

The military coup in Chile was not the result of a simple uprising by a group of military officers. The military who staged the coup were merely the arm used



by the multi-national corporations to restore their privileges in our country. The coup was organised and financed from abroad. From September 11 onwards, the social and economic policies applied in Chile have been designed to restore the power of Chilean and foreign monopolies. Decrees have removed every restriction on prices, while wages have been frozen. It is not only the factory and white-collar workers and peasants who have felt the effects of this policy: in the last few months 300 small and medium-sized businesses and hundreds of shops have been forced to close down, because of the drop in purchasing power, and the increase in taxation. In 15 months the dictatorship has increased defence expenditure by 300 percent. So that they could carry out their policy of denationalisation of our entire country, they have had to resort to the most savage violence and repression. Today, once more, the basic wealth and resources of our country are back in the hands of foreign companies. To achieve this they had to dissolve the political parties, outlaw our T.U.C., detain thousands of trade union leaders and sack all those workers who had any political or social awareness. But it is very difficult to stifle the desire for freedom of a people, however small it may be, and in particular it is difficult to defeat the determination and the thirst for freedom of the Working Class.

At present in Chile, the right to present wage claims, the right to engage in collective bargaining and the right to strike do not exist. Strikers are subject to the death penalty under the terms of the State of Siege, and several scores of trade union leaders have been shot for this. But in the last six months there have been strikes, stoppages and other actions in the most important industries in Chile, and, what is more important, in 80 to 90 percent of the cases, these actions have been successful. In March and April this year, workers have broadened the scope of their actions to include the fight to get dismissed brothers and sisters reinstated, and those of their comrades at work who are in prison released. It is true that we still have some 12,000 trade union and political prisoners. The dictators have offered the 'alternative' of releasing prisoners on condition that they are immediately expelled from their own country. A few hundred prisoners have had to leave for various reasons: to protect their health, or their families, or for the security of the clandestine struggle, but the majority prefer to remain in prison rather than be expelled from Chile.

In this struggle, the unity of our workers has been broadened and strengthened. Workers of different political opinions and religious beliefs are fighting united behind the banners of the CUT which is working underground against the Junta. Since the CUT is illegal, the movement has been given another name -- Central United Workers' Movement. Declarations and statements are issued, leaflets are distributed, slogans are painted on the walls, and different activities are carried out both in public and underground. In some work-places the workers work to rule; elsewhere they are able to declare a full strike. It all depends upon the relative strength of the workers in each sector. But we do not scorn to carry out any protest action, however small or insignificant it may seem.

In Chile, as in Latin America in general, there are different religious beliefs. Responding to popular pressure, the Churches came together and formed an Ecumenical Council. Under the changed circumstances of fascist dictatorship, they have created a Committee for Cooperation for Peace, which is working actively to get prisoners freed, and to save the lives of those who are undergoing torture, as well as supplying material assistance to the families, the orphans and the widows of the dead and the imprisoned. The trade union movement is working with the Churches, which is possible because even when we workers do not have religious faith, we are tolerant of all ideas. We, who believe absolutely in the democracy of the people, are working with everyone we can.

In the political field, the parties of Popular Unity have reformed clandestinely, and a Political Commission of Popular Unity is working underground, and in co-operation with other political forces which did not form part of Popular Unity.



In the midst of all these problems we were able to commemorate International Womens Day in Chile, and also the 22nd Anniversary of the Founding of the CUT. And we plan to celebrate May Day with a massive sports, cultural and folk-music festival. The Military Junta is day by day more isolated, and has no political base beyond the monopolies and a tiny group of fascist ideologues. Abroad, the Junta has been repudiated by the democratic forces of the entire world. We would like to pay special tribute to the efforts of British workers, and especially Scottish workers, which led to the refusal of the British Government to attend the meeting to renegotiate the Junta's external debts. And to a similar campaign which resulted in the British delegate at the International Monetary Fund attacking a report favourable to the Junta, and so helped to secure the indefinite postponement of the debt negotiations the Junta had asked for.

When we were here at the end of January, and held talks with the International Departments of the TUC and of the Labour Party, both organisations unanimously agreed to oppose British participation in renegotiation of the Chilean debt. We immediately realised the great importance of this stance, and that its effects would be felt all over Europe. In the event this happened: out of 14 countries which are members of the Club of Paris, 6 others adopted the British position, so that half of the membership of the Paris Club were opposed to renegotiation. In Chile, the intensity of the struggle and the strength of the opposition have been increasing; the economic crisis has been growing more serious; but it was above all the refusal of Chile's creditor countries to renegotiate the debt which caused, three weeks ago, the fall of the entire Junta Cabinet. It is true that the new Cabinet consists of ultra-right wingers, but this in itself is proof of the increasing isolation of the Junta from the vast majority of Chilean society.

We want to insist upon two matters of importance. Anti-fascist activity is being developed and spread throughout Chile. Despite the reign of terror, the determination to be free, and the basic democratic instincts of our people are more powerful still. In the coming days and months we will confront important battles. In these circumstances, international solidarity, concrete solidarity, will play a vital role in defining the course of Chilean history.

Our comrades in the resistance in Chile have asked us to bring to Glasgow this message: the struggle to achieve the economic isolation of the Junta will be decisive in the coming period. If we can win this struggle, and especially if we can boycott or cut off supply or movement of certain products, we shall have in our hands a thread, which, if we can break it, will break down the entire repressive system of the military dictatorship. Our comrades in Chile asked us to bring you their thanks for the boycott actions which have been carried out all over Scotland, and they hope that it will be possible in the coming period to revive or repeat these actions, to deliver a definitive blow to the military Junta which is oppressing our people.

Terrible and great though the sacrifice has been, the sacrifice paid by our class and our whole people, there is ~~xxxxxxx~~ nothing which can hold back the working class in its fight to eliminate fascism and to open the way forward to a new democracy.