

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIALI.C.2/2
November 4, 1974.TRADES UNION CONGRESSICFTU WORKSHOP OF SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE
OSLO, OCTOBER 7-8, 1974.

1. An ICFTU Workshop of Solidarity with Chile was held in Oslo, October 7-8. The meeting was chaired jointly by Mr. Luis Figueroa, President of CUT, Mr. Daniel Pedersen of the ICFTU, and Mr. Tor Aspengren, President of the LO, Norway. Mr. T. Jenkins attended for the TUC. Among the subjects discussed were the trade union situation in Chile, reports of action already taken by the ICFTU and its member organisations, and the most efficient ways of intensifying actions of solidarity. The meeting issued a declaration (copy attached), recommending the establishment of an ICFTU-CUT Co-ordinating Committee consisting of representatives from CUT, from the ICFTU secretariat, and from some ICFTU affiliates which would promote the implementation of proposals which had been submitted by the CUT, partly through the Chilean Solidarity Fund to which affiliated organisations were urged to contribute, and partly by entrusting the interested affiliated organisations with projects. The Committee would seek to co-ordinate with International Trade Secretariats ICFTU work on Chile, to collect and to disseminate information on the situation in that country, and to propose means to undertake trade union action against the regime, paying particular attention to the situation of prisoners in Chile, to the problems of refugees for whom it was proposed that the respective governments of ICFTU affiliates should provide assistance, to the financial aid provided by international institutions, and to military aid provided by national governments. The declaration also asked the ICFTU in consultation with its affiliates to assure the continued publication of a CUT bulletin, and it urged ICFTU affiliates to intensify their efforts in the campaign of solidarity with Chile.
2. In his opening address the Norwegian Co-Chairman recognised the fact that the CUT comprised various political tendencies and that it was independent of all the international trade union confederations, but said that such differing views should not be a hindrance to co-operation. The policies of the Chilean Popular Unity Government had received a wide measure of support from working people of differing political allegiance and it was public knowledge that the downfall of the Allende government was due at least in part to external influences.
3. The Chilean Co-Chairman outlined the achievements of the Popular Unity Government which had put into practice a number of economic, social, and political measures which had benefited the majority of the population, but had seriously hurt the interests of a powerful minority in Chile and of some multinational corporations. Economic and industrial intervention had taken place, leading to the coup and the establishment of a military regime which governed by decree. Its policies had led to cuts in wages and large scale unemployment which, it had been estimated, might reach 45 per cent of the active population by the end of 1974. The regime lacked political, social, and

religious support inside Chile, and concerted opposition was required on the part of the whole international trade union movement, without giving up anything of their principles or their present diversified structure.

4. He introduced proposals from the CUT aimed essentially at giving support to action inside Chile, while keeping the minimum required means for external activities. The proposals sought to raise \$1,077,220 for aid in Chile including \$352,800 for material and equipment, \$60,000 yearly for the production of pamphlets and posters, \$127,800 yearly for officials of the National Executive Council of CUT, of permanent federations, of eight provincial Executive Councils and of local unions, \$67,420 yearly for the maintenance of contacts between organisations at all levels and with the exterior, and \$300,000, comprising the payment of \$50 per month for three months for 2,000 families through an inter-denominational religious organisation, the Committee of Co-operation for Peace. The proposals also sought to raise \$85,060 for external activities, including \$11,760 yearly for members of the External Committee, \$23,400 yearly for missions and regular meetings of the committee, \$14,900 for material and equipment including \$12,000 recurring yearly, \$30,000 for the publication of a worldwide fortnightly information bulletin, and \$5,000 for representation in international organisations.

5. A CUT representative outlined the historical development of the Chilean trade union movement which had traditionally taken part in the political, economic, and social life of the country and which had striven to bring together organisations with various ideological tendencies. Since the military coup a number of edicts and decrees had destroyed the constitutional framework of the CUT and had eliminated democratic trade union activity at all levels. Out of the 150 federations and confederations which had existed prior to the coup only about 30 were currently tolerated by the regime for restricted information activities. Under such circumstances the CUT had decided to establish an underground CUT secretariat. A semi-clandestine political trade union committee had been formed between members of the Popular Unity parties and the Christian Democrats, and so had a Trade Union Co-ordinating Board, while an Exterior Committee of CUT had been set up in order to co-ordinate international solidarity.

6. In discussion a CUT delegate stated that it was proposed that funds would be channelled into Chile by the CUT External Committee, giving priority to the most industrialised provinces, of which there were eight, out of the 15 in the country. The CUT had good relations with the Committee of Co-operation for Peace, and money provided by trade union organisations through this channel would go to trade unionists and their families. He also stated that the proposed budget did not include all requirements and that organisations other than the ICFTU might provide additional funds, but that the CUT had not yet arrived at a co-ordinated programme of work, the present seminar being the first at which international bodies had discussed practical aid. The draft budget might be too extensive and a detailed study would be required to establish priorities.

7. A Danish representative suggested that an ICFTU-CUT Co-ordinating Committee might be set up to consider concrete ways of providing assistance and to co-ordinate action on behalf of refugees from Chile, a large number of whom were currently leaving that country, mostly for other Latin American countries, in part due to the policy of the Chilean authorities which were apparently releasing detainees on condition that they went into exile with their families. The Committee should be limited in composition but should be in permanent contact with the International Trade Secretariats, some of which had been particularly active concerning Chile.

8. One of the co-chairmen stated that the CUT proposals and the final declaration of the meeting would be submitted for consideration to the ICFTU governing bodies in November. The ICFTU had official status in the United Nations and representations in regard to refugees had been made there as well as in the ILO. Affiliated organisations might make representations to their respective governments on behalf of refugees as well as on questions of financial and military aid provided to Chile. The Co-ordinating Committee would provide information to affiliated organisations on such matters and a CUT representative was already situated in Brussels and was acting in close liaison with the ICFTU.

9. Another co-chairman stated that priority should be given to the maintenance and heightening of the awareness of public opinion on the Chilean situation. The Nordic Group were financing a bulletin of information on Chile up to the end of 1974, but it might be proposed to the ICFTU that they should subsequently take over that responsibility, finance for which was included in the draft budget.

10. In answer to questions, CUT representatives stated that the External Committee (which were the spokesmen for the internal CUT) were based in Paris and had representatives in a number of European countries, while delegations had visited other countries to discuss collaboration in various fields. Lack of funds had so far prevented any delegation from visiting Great Britain and Italy. The question of refugees from Chile had been made more difficult in the second quarter of 1974 because Latin American embassies had now closed their doors to refugees, and the main work in this area was being conducted by a number of international organisations. Some unions in the United States had expressed their solidarity, but the AFL-CIO had done little more than condemn the actions of the military regime. The AIFLD had apparently been involved in attempts by the regime - so far unsuccessful - to establish an alternative to the CUT, and the CUT had few relations with ORIT, the leadership of which appeared to support the regime, although certain national organisations in ORIT favoured the CUT.

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS
WORKSHOP ON SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHILEAN TRADE UNION
MOVEMENT

Representatives from member organisations of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, The Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, and a delegation from the Central Unica de Trabajadores de Chile (CUT - Comité Exterior) met at the ICFTU Chile Workshop in Oslo on 7 and 8 October 1974. The CUT delegation was led by Luis Figueroa, President of CUT, and the ICFTU was represented by its Assistant General Secretary, J. Vanderveken. The meeting was chaired by Luis Figueroa of CUT, Daniel Pedersen of the ICFTU and the President of the Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions, Tor Aspengren.

The meeting discussed in detail the political and trade union situation in Chile. It was informed of the recent developments by the CUT delegation. The information submitted confirmed the fascist character of the Junta under which democratic and trade union rights have been totally suppressed.

In the trade union field, which is of specific concern, it was confirmed that the resolute attitude of the Chilean workers rejecting and fighting the dictatorship has prevented the Junta from creating an organisation which would collaborate with the fascists and which would replace the legal and genuine trade union organisation of Chile, the CUT. In spite of its being illegally dissolved by the Junta, the CUT is being reorganised and it is already operating underground inside Chile. The CUT leadership inside Chile has appointed the Comité Exterior as CUT's sole representative body abroad.

The situation in Chile does not only concern the working people in that country. The activities of the multinational companies and the open intervention of other foreign interests indicate that the events in Chile should not be regarded as an isolated phenomenon. Similar developments are possible in other countries. This calls for a growing vigilance and solidarity from the international trade union movement and demands joint approach by the labour forces to meet such threats.

The organisations represented once again voiced the world trade union community's condemnation of and resistance to the military regime in Chile.

However, it was shown that after one year of political and trade union pressure, the Junta had not modified its aggressive attitude towards the working people. Against this background, more effective and extensive courses of action were required. The urgency of such action was emphasised.

The meeting further discussed the necessity to co-ordinate the solidarity actions of the member organisations of the ICFTU and of the ICFTU as such, with CUT, aiming to support the Chilean trade union movement in its struggle for the re-establishment of democracy and trade union rights in Chile.

To implement the policy of solidarity with Chile, the Workshop recommended the establishment of an ICFTU-CUT Co-ordinating Committee for aid to the trade union movement of Chile.

The tasks of this Committee shall be of a practical nature. To ensure its effective functioning, the Committee shall be limited in composition and will consist of representatives from CUT, from the ICFTU Secretariat and of representatives from some member organisations. Furthermore, the Workshop proposed that the Co-ordinating Committee be set up as soon as possible to deal with immediate tasks.

The CUT has submitted a practical programme of action, comprising a series of proposals of a concrete nature, including financial estimates. These are meant to secure the reorganisation and functioning of the trade union movement inside Chile, and to provide legal, financial and humanitarian assistance to trade unionists and their families, victims of the regime. All the organisations present at the Workshop favourably considered the proposed programme. It will be for the Committee to promote its implementation partly through the Solidarity Fund set up by the ICFTU, and partly entrusting the interested affiliated organisations with projects; all this to be done in co-operation with the CUT.

In order to assure the greatest possible efficiency, the Committee will obtain information about International Trade Secretariats' actions on Chile and will seek to co-ordinate with them the ICFTU work on this issue.

It will also collect and disseminate information on the situation in Chile and relevant trade union actions. The Workshop asks the ICFTU, in consultation with the member organisations to assure the continued publication of the CUT Bulletin.

The Committee will investigate possible further actions by the trade unions against the Junta and will propose the means to undertake such actions.

The Committee will pay particular attention to the situation of the prisoners in Chile, pressing for their liberation without conditions, and denouncing to public opinion the supposedly liberal attitude of the Junta making the release of some detainees conditional to their departure from Chile.

The represented organisations are aware of the fact that the problem of refugees in Chile continues to be serious. The respective governments of ICFTU affiliates must assist refugees from Chile.

The Workshop believes that co-ordinated action on the part of the trade union movement is required in order to stop loans and credits to the military Junta, i.e. from the World Bank, as well as military aid from national governments.

- 3 -

The delegates to the Workshop expressed their satisfaction at the degree of identity in the attitude reached between the ICFTU and the CUT; they regarded the close co-operation with the CUT as the best guarantee for the success of the Chile solidarity actions of the ICFTU.

In view of the above, the delegates urged all the ICFTU organisations to intensify their efforts in the solidarity campaign with Chile, also contributing to the ICFTU Chile Fund which will permit the implementation of the above-mentioned programmes.

The participants thanked the brothers of the Norwegian LO and the Nordic Council of Trade Unions for their fraternal hospitality. Finally, they requested the members of the Secretariat to urgently forward the conclusions of the Workshop to the relevant bodies of the ICFTU.

CPD.

TJ/SA25.10.74.