

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1975

DRAFT DECLARATION

THIS CONFERENCE OF TRADE UNIONISTS

Declares its full support for the struggle of Chilean trade unionists to free themselves from the brutal oppression of a fascist military dictatorship;

Notes that after two years of military rule, repression is still increasing, directly via arbitrary arrest, detention without trial, and torture, and indirectly via economic policies that have more than halved real wages, allowed prices to rocket and thrown hundreds of thousands out of work; that meanwhile all forms of collective bargaining are outlawed, elections to trade union posts are forbidden, and strikers face the death penalty; that thousands of trade unionists are detained without trial, and many have disappeared without trace since their arrest, while others are forced to flee into exile with their families; that DINA, the Chilean Gestapo, has paid informers in every workplace, and operates with complete immunity, responsible only to General Pinochet;

Recognises that it is the Chilean people itself which will overthrow the military junta, by the efforts and organisation of its political parties, its trade union movement, and with the support of all Chileans who oppose fascism;

But reaffirms that international solidarity is indispensable for the struggle of the Chilean people against fascism; only in this way can the military junta be weakened and isolated from its principal sources of support, which are the US Government and its agencies, the CIA, the international financiers, ITT and the other multinational corporations of the US, Europe and Japan;

In the conviction that in attacking the resort to fascist methods in Chile, the British labour movement is contributing to its own defence against any similar attempt in Britain.

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO WORK:

- * to publicise throughout the British labour movement the truth about events in Chile, through meetings, film shows, pamphlets, articles, leaflets, etc.
- * to secure the freedom of trade union and political prisoners in Chile, through protests, resolutions, delegations and the 'Adopt a Prisoner' campaign.
- * to press the British Government to withdraw all forms of support for the Chilean regime.
- * to assist Chilean refugees arriving in Great Britain, and to help them to explain their case to the labour movement.
- * to bring an end to all British trade with or investment in Chile, while such action is requested by the Chilean trade union movement.
- * to respond to the requests for solidarity made by the Central Unica de Trabajadores, the Chilean TUC, which has been banned by the Junta.

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AT THIS TIME WE MAKE A SPECIAL CALLUPON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

- * to cancel all outstanding arms contracts with the Chilean regime and armed forces, and in particular to refuse to hand over those submarines, destroyers and aero-engines at present in Britain.
- * to take the lead in the General Assembly of the United Nations to move the condemnation of the Chilean Military Regime for its persistent violations of human rights, to establish economic sanctions and an embargo on arms sales to the Junta by member states.
- * to persist in refusing to renegotiate the Chilean debt, and to take the further steps necessary to make this policy effective, by demanding that the Junta make full payments as they fall due, and applying economic sanctions, including the seizure of Chilean assets in Britain, if payment is not forthcoming.
- * to take measures to secure the supply of copper to Britain from countries other than Chile.

AND UPON THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT:

- * to give every possible support to the initiative of the executive council of the National Union of Seamen in calling for a boycott of British ships sailing to or from Chile.
- * to support the stand of the Transport & General Workers Union in refusing to allow Rolls Royce aero engines to be shipped to Chile.
- * to make every effort to halt the supply of goods, especially machinery, vehicles and chemicals to Chile.
- * to bring every pressure to bear to halt British imports from Chile, especially of copper, nitrates, timber products, wine, fruit and vegetables, all of which can be easily substituted from other sources.
- * to give positive support to other trade unionists involved in boycott action.
- * to speed up the adoption of Chilean trade union prisoners, which has already helped to secure several releases.