

This would deflect criticism from the right and solve the issue of the political prisoners. However, the granting of impunity to those who inflicted the abuses would certainly meet with furious protest from the left as well as from the families of the victims. Given the on going Letelier case it is more likely that the President will continue to make judicious use of the power granted him by Congress to pardon, reduce sentences or grant amnesties on a case by case basis as he has done since taking office. In the meantime, he has introduced legislation designating 30 additional judges to examine the cases of the remaining political prisoners.

Reports by independent organisations continue to provide information showing that the overall human rights trend is positive. Incidents do, however, occur. Amnesty International has received more than 30 allegations of torture since March, 1990. The majority of these are accredited to the military-backed police the "Carabineros". Reforms have been made to the penal code but, the 15 day period of "incomunicado" detention remains unchanged. Extremists armed with automatic weapons and sophisticated explosives have carried out a campaign of random violence. This has largely been directed at American interests and at the Carabineros. Summary "justice" has also been enforced. The two most active groups are believed to be the Frente Popular Manuel Rodriguez and the Movimiento Juvenil Lautaro, both leftist groups:

The international community has responded to Chile's return to democracy by restoring diplomatic relations and lifting all trade restrictions. High level visits have recommenced including many heads of state and the SSEA. For the first time since 1974 the UNCHR will not address the human rights situation in Chile. In the 1991 election to the Commission Chile received the most votes among the seven Latin American candidates.

#### CANADIAN POSITION:

Canada warmly welcomed the return of democracy to Chile and has strongly supported the Aylwin Government's efforts to return the country to normal. Canada's Ambassador recently discussed the question of the political prisoners with Chile's Secretary to the Presidency. He assured the Ambassador that the Chilean Government is very aware of the concerns of Canadian NGOs. We believe that the democratically elected government is fully committed to upholding and promoting human rights and that it has taken a number of important initiatives in this respect including the assessment of each political prisoner on a case by case basis. Two specific cases which had been raised by Canada have since been resolved by releasing the individuals concerned. We applaud the Chilean Government's decision to initiate judicial proceedings against the Army Generals implicated in the Letelier case. Should the Chilean Government decide that an amnesty is the best means of reconciling the divisions within Chilean society we would respect its decision.