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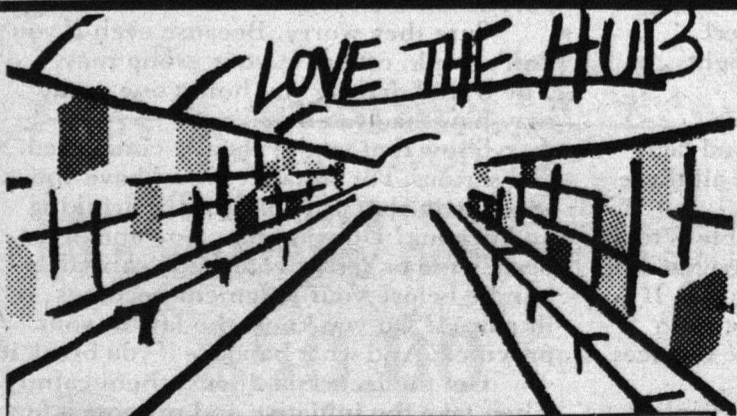
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Less repression in Chile

by Ken Lenz

The Pinochet dictatorship in Chile has responded to public discontent by becoming less repressive, according to Chilean expatriot and University of Mexico Professor Alejandro Witker.

Witker recently spoke at a Political Science Undergraduate Association sponsored forum about "the political situation in Chile today."

Witker began by outlining the history of Chile since 1070.

"On September 4, 1970, Salvador Allende was elected, as the result of a long struggle of movements, particularly the labour movement. The Allende government wanted to promote state-run industry and agrarian reform, as well as develop the living conditions and social programs of the country."

"In the international sphere, the Allende government proposed a policy of non-alignment and tried to promote Latin American relations."

"There were many difficulties with these goals... especially from those who would lose."

"Within these interests we find the international bourgeoisie, foreign capital aligned with the politics of the US."

"In 1973 the Allende government was brought down by a CIA backed coup d'etat, replaced with Pinochet."

"The Pinochet government is characterized by violence. They outlawed political parties, suspended labour laws, controlled the press, intervened militarily on campuses and carried out violent action against students, intellectuals, and artists," said Witker.

"Nearly 40,000 people died and 250,000 were taken as political prisoners. A million left the country through embassies or expulsions."

Many of the people who left were syndical leaders, reformists, and potential popular leaders.

Says Witker, "this was an extreme setback for the country and a great hindrance to the subsequent popular movement."

The military junta, led by Pinochet, de-nationalized all the companies, giving special privileges to private industry including tax breaks, and favourable labour and export laws. The national industry was destroyed in favour of the multinationals.

The junta increased the country's debt to 20 billion, and "ruined" the Chilean universities," continued Witker.

"In the last 10 years the military has not resolved any problems - only made them worse," he said.

Witker said Chile's pressure groups have finally created a "psychological atmosphere" which is conducive to change.

"Many social sectors are now beginning to demonstrate," said Witker.

"Now the bourgeoisie sectors fear the popular movement more than they fear the government."

"The popular masses can now demonstrate against the state - this would have been impossible only a few years ago. The people are now publicly opposing the regime, which can't stop them any longer."

Last August, the Democratic Alliance was formed, consisting of all the major formerly-illegal political parties, except the communists. The Democratic Alliance however has the same goals as the Communist Party which include:

- *the removal of Pinochet
- *the establishment of an interim government for a period of not more than 18 months.
- *the establishment of a National Assembly
- *the final establishment of Democratic Government

- *the legalization of political parties
- *freedom of the press
- *full human rights
- *the dissolution of the mechanics of the dictatorship

"Now the government has a reasonably well organized opposition," said Witker.

He says the repression in Chile has now softened.

"In the last 6 demonstrations, only 90 people have died, which is high if you consider these are human beings. But this figure is

low considering the past actions of the government."

The Chilean government is now publicizing lists of people who can return to their country. Witker says this is also misleading as "the number of those who are allowed to return is minimal compared to those expelled."

He added, "the people who are allowed to go back home have very little significance politically."

Despite the optimistic nature of his talk, Witker doesn't expect drastic change in Chile in the near future.



Witker at forum: "Bourgeoisie foreign capital aligned with US."

Housing policy dead

On the morning of Friday, November 4th, the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta responded to requests by the Windsor Park Community League and University Staff to Save Windsor Park (USSWP) by voting to suspend its October 1, 1982 land acquisition policy.

In a Friday, October 28th meeting with USSWP representatives, President Horowitz explained his understanding of the wording of the suspension motion which was later passed as being:

(i) a complete cessation of purchases of homes in Windsor Park, and

(ii) that during his administration, any further residential purchases will involve prior consultation with the affected communities.

protecting the residential character of Windsor Park has been secured.

Further, John L. Schlosser, Chairman of the Board of Govern-

nors, has stated in an October 21st letter to the Honourable Julian Koziak, MLA for Windsor Park: "We have assured the residents that the University has neither the inclination nor the resources to undertake massive acquisitions with surrounding communities."

Windsor Park residents should be reassured by the foregoing statements and actions.

It should also be noted that plans for the proposed engineering complex facing 116 Street were forwarded by the University to the Windsor Park community last spring, and the community raised no objections to those plans. It appears that the Windsor Park residents are sensitive to the University's need to develop within its boundaries according to its academic requirements.

USSWP and the Windsor Park Community League will continue to monitor the situation carefully.

**Poll reveals support
Grenada Invasion**

by Neal Watson

According to a survey taken by the Edmonton Caribbean Cultural Association (ECCA), a decisive majority of Caribbean people living in Edmonton support the US invasion of Grenada.

The survey polled 243 people and asked the question: "Do you agree with the invasion-liberation of Grenada?" 86 per cent of the respondents were in agreement, 8.2 per cent disagreed, and 5.8 per cent had no comment.

Joseph Robinson, VP of the ECCA, said that the US action was a "response to people who needed help."

The people of Grenada, Robinsons said, (pointing to CBS news poll) overwhelmingly support the intervention by US troops and the multi-national force of the OECS.

The CBS poll showed that 91 per cent of the people polled in Grenada supported the invasion.

Robinson said the real tragedy was the fact that "human lives had to be lost."

This Saturday a memorial service will be held at City Hall to pay tribute to the people killed in the invasion.