

Maturana speaks on Chile

"To break down the wall of silence around the resistance in Chile" is the purpose of a cross-country speaking and fund-raising tour by Camillo Maturana, representative of the People's Front of Chile who will speak this Friday in the MacMechan Library Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Maturana is speaking in over 30 cities from Nanaimo, B.C., to St. John's, Nfld., in a national programme inaugurated in Montreal on October 29. In Toronto, over 350 Canadians and Chilean exiles turned out for the meeting and in Montreal, he spoke to a rally of over 1,000 in support of the Chilean people's struggle.

The People's Front of Chile, formed in April, 1974, is one of the fighting forces of the Resistance in Chile who are struggling to overthrow the Pinochet fascist dictatorship.

It is an organization of peasants, intellectuals, students and workers, who have united to fight fascism. Its principal aim is to unify and organize working people and anti-fascists to seize power and establish

a democratic people's government.

On Sept. 11, 1973, the Pinochet regime came to power through a coup d'etat which was organized with the direct assistance and aid of the United States which still continues to support this regime. The U.S. not only gave financial and technical assistance to the coup, but also had more than 30 U.S. planes poised in Argentina to intervene in Chile in case of difficulty by the fascist generals.

According to the People's Front, this overthrow of the "Popular Unity" regime of Salvador Allende by the U.S.-inspired and organized coup in 1973, exposed as well the misleadership of the "peaceful and parliamentary road to socialism" at the tragic experience of the Chilean people.

"We have seen in Chile," explained Camillo Maturana in a recent interview in Canada, "that during the period of the Popular Unity government, during the tragic period of trying to arrive at socialism through the parliamentary road, fascism came into being not only with the appearance of the

fascist military, backed up by North American imperialism, as well as para-military groups but also it was nurtured, grew and developed across the same state structures that were intact up to that point. We recall for example that the Gun Control Law was passed in parliament, proposed by the Christian Democrats and supported by all the parties, including the Popular Unity."

In the wake of this coup, Chileans have been subjected to the most barbaric suppression by the Pinochet dictatorship. The Junta has not only massacred thousands, but openly admits that there are over 6,000 political prisoners and another 4,000 considered as "missing". While the Junta released 300 prisoners earlier this year and even changed the name of the notorious DINA (secret police which is also operating in the Chilean community in Canada) in a public relations manoeuvre, this Junta is at the same time building new jails and new places for "missing persons" to be held and tortured.

The people are also burdened with the harsh effects of the economic crisis and the results of the intensified U.S. domination and investment. Unemployment affects one-third of the working population. Inflation is staggering and has been running at an average daily rate of one percent since 1973. Thousands of peasants have been brutally expelled from their land, and today there are 600,000 fewer students than in September, 1973, because of cutbacks, arrests, closures of educational institutions and the Junta's policy of "self-financing". Now, according to UNESCO data, Chile has the smallest number of students in Latin America. The four years of the Junta have meant terror and oppression, economic disaster and the impoverishment and ruin of the people.

Recent events, such as the new U.S. government which styles itself as a "defender of human rights" indicate to the People's Front that a section within the United States ruling circles is planning to replace the Pinochet regime with some other agents, specifically the Eduardo Frei wing of Christian Democracy.

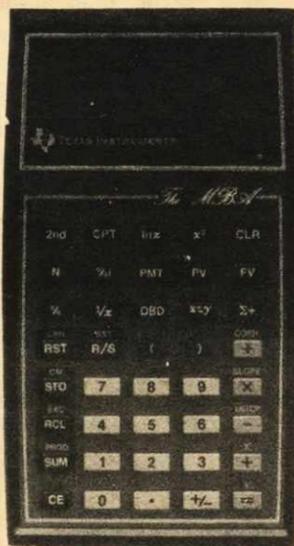
Frei was president before Allende, supported the coup and the massacres, but recently has issued a statement calling openly for the formation of a front against Pinochet. This is occurring at a time when the Junta is completely isolated from the people of Chile and in world public opinion. Regarding this, the People's Front is pointing out to the Canadian people that various opportunists as well are preparing to profit from the current crisis of the Junta's predicament and make "secret deals" with the imperialists to install themselves in armchairs in the parliament, a "gentlemen's agreement" implicit in the interchange made, for example, between Carvalan and Bukovsky of Chile and the Soviet Union.

Camillo Maturana will also be speaking in Theatre B of the Burke Education Building at Saint Mary's on Friday at 12:30 p.m. and at the Vimy Legion Hall on Cogswell Street on Saturday at 8:00 p.m. to a meeting of trade unionists and workers being organized by the Halifax Local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

The People's Front is appealing for funds to assist financing literature and defense of political prisoners. All funds will go directly to Chile. On December 10, the national speaking tour will culminate in Toronto with a meeting to establish a permanent committee of solidarity with the Resistance in Chile.

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a
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7:30 Friday - December 2nd
Dalhousie Law School

Part I. Existing Law: Rights and Responsibilities

- (I) "The Rule of Law: What Does It Mean Today?"
Prof. Douglas Johnston
- (II) "Ministerial Responsibility: Current Status in Canada"
Prof. Leo Barry
- (III) "Police and Security: A Comparative View"
Prof. Bruce Archibald
- (IV) "Use of Confidential Security Information in Canada"
Prof. Hudson Janisch
- (V) "Police Power to Enter and Search"
Prof. Terry Arnold

Part II. Dialogue: Recent Issues in Public Security

- (I) Rod Blaker
Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General
M.P. for Lachine-Lakeshore
- (II) Elmer MacKay
P.C. Member of Parliament for Central Nova
- (III) Stuart Leggatt
N.D.P. Member of Parliament for New Westminster

Part III. Bear-Pit Session

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