

Opposition strategy outlined

Military hunts exiles in Chile, prof. says

By PETER MATILAINEN

Citizens and exiles from other repressive Latin American regimes living in Chile, play a desperate game of cat and mouse with the military regime there while they seek to escape

inevitable execution or imprisonment. This is the present situation in Chile according to Claudio Duran, who was recently granted asylum in Canada and is now teaching at York University. Duran, who arrived with his family

in October, is teaching in the Visual Arts department of Fine Arts, as well as being cross-appointed to the Social Sciences Division and Atkinson.

Duran, until the coup, was a vice-dean of the Faculty of Education at the Technical University in Santiago, as well as a professor of philosophy and aesthetics at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Chile. He related some of his experiences surrounding the events of the coup in an interview for Excalibur.

Duran, like most of those who supported the Popular Unity government of Salvador Allende (he himself was a member of the Chilean Communist Party), was caught unprepared by the coup in September.

"Some weapons were available that people had in their homes," he said. But for the large majority of the population there was nothing to do except go to their place of work and remain there, as requested by the final radio broadcast Allende made before his assassination.

On the morning of the coup, Duran

attempted to reach the Technical University but was unable to do so because of roadblocks.

Duran also found out from neighbours that, after he left, his house was searched and was later re-searched three times in attempts to find him. The junta, he said, "described me as a dangerous man."

Duran was more fortunate than some notable intellectuals, who were unable to escape. These include Luis Corvalan, and Luis Vitale. Corvalan is secretary-general of the Communist Party of Chile, while Vitale is a leading member of the Fourth International and one of the founders of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).

Duran voiced his support for a campaign being conducted in Canada and throughout the world to seek their release. He demanded that the government guarantee them teaching posts at a Canadian university to put pressure on the junta.

Duran stated that Corvalan is being held in a concentration camp on Dawson Island off the coast of Chile, while Vitale is in prison in Santiago. Both face execution but worldwide public pressure is preventing the regime from carrying this out, he said.

"The main problem the junta has is international pressure. They have a bad image, even in capitalist countries, especially in Western Europe," Duran said.

The refugees who arrived in Toronto this week, are only a few of over 1,000 applications for asylum, Duran said. He asked that "the government continue to keep the doors open."

These refugees, are "heterogeneous, some are university trained, some white collars and others are workers."

"PREPARED TO FIGHT"

The fact that the large majority of workers supported the Popular Unity government and always represented the strongest force against the junta, meant, for Duran, that the repression would be directed mainly at this class.

However, he said "the working class is prepared to fight."

Outlining the present strategy of the junta opponents, Duran described how the parties of the Popular Unity, the left wing of the Christian Democrats and the MIR have joined together in a United Command.

"They have agreed to a strategical retrenchment, while they organize an underground," he said.

The junta, suffers from inner divisions, which will continue to increase; inflation is at a rate of 1800 per cent at present, tension has not been reduced; and even former supporters of the coup have attempted to criticize its actions.

"The middle class will now get to know what fascism is," he promised.

Duran put the future of Chile in the hands of the resistance. He predicted the continued growth of opposition through general strikes and other actions leading to "armed insurrection by the population." He also saw the consolidation of guerrilla operations, not in isolation, but linked to the mass movement.

Socialism for Chile, Duran stated, was still a possibility and would be different from the model more familiar to the west.

"In Chile, if the left movement succeeds, socialism will be built differently from the Soviet Union. Its a different situation."

Chile demo. old City Hall

Fourteen supporters of the Toronto Chile Solidarity Committee face trial Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Old City Hall, on charges of petty trespassing, after their November occupation of the Immigration Department office on University Ave.

The Solidarity Committee protesters have organized a demonstration outside their courtroom, demanding unconditional asylum for all Chilean refugees and the dropping of the trespassing charges. The demonstration is at 2 pm at old City Hall.

The occupation, part of a nationwide blitz of protests, was aimed at securing asylum for refugees from the Chilean generals' regime.

OSAP now well... OSAP

This is a biggie, folks: The Ontario Student Awards, hitherto known as OSAP, will change its name to OSAP, or Ontario Student Assistance Program. The name change has been effected in order to reflect the programme's aim of giving financial aid to students who lack the resources to meet the full cost of their post-secondary education.

Stong gallery exhibit opens

The York community is invited to the opening of an exhibition of recent paintings by Hanna Sandberg, a tutorial instructor at Stong College.

Born and educated in Israel, Mrs. Sandberg's paintings reflect not only the folklore of her homeland but also her knowledge of the Old Testament, and the life and philosophies of the Near and Far east.

The exhibition opens Tuesday, January 22 from 6 till 10 p.m. at the Samuel J. Zacks Gallery, Stong College. It will continue through till February 3rd, daily from 12 to 6 p.m.

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Room 111,
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