

York prof says at Bearpit session

Chileans to overthrow military junta next year

By J.W. BELTRAME

The military junta in Chile will be overthrown within the next year and a half, predicted York professor Claudio Duran, at last Thursday's Bearpit session.

Outlining the events that led up to the September coup, Duran, a Chilean refugee, teaching Fine Arts here, said the Allende government was bringing about significant structural changes in the political, economic, and social life of the country. But, he added, the Popular Unity government (coalition of leftist parties) had "failed to win over important sectors of the populace."

He claimed that repression still existed in Chile, although not as openly as before because police methods are becoming more sophisticated. But Duran expressed optimism about the present situation.

"The counter-revolution began the first day after the coup," he said. "Chile had been a democratic country for 150 years and our laws and traditions are deeply rooted in the people."

"The junta is acting against 150 years of tradition, so they can't possibly have more than 30 per cent backing, meaning the upper class and the professional people." He added that anti-junta movements outside

Chile can be very effective in aiding the overthrow of the present government.

Later, in an interview with Excalibur, Duran recalled what it was like for a leftist professor after the military junta had gained power.

"After two weeks, my situation was very bad," he said. "My house had been searched three times, and they were looking for me saying I was very bad and working in an openly left university. I began to hide, then it began to be impossible to hide any longer, because the media warned everyone that they must denounce to the junta any strange persons they saw in the neighbourhood."

"An American friend of mine told

me he would help me get to the Canadian Embassy," he continued. "A high official there said he would accept me and my family on the grounds that I was in real danger. At that time there were ten Chileans, two Brazilians, five Canadian priests and one Canadian political scientist seeking refuge."

"After that only one more person was accepted," he said. The embassy closed its doors, and although Duran said they were treated well inside the embassy, the feeling outside was that Canada had turned its back on the refugees.

In November, Canada allowed another 55 refugees to enter the country and Duran estimates there are now close to 1,500 in Canada. "I would say

Canada is one of the best places in terms of real opportunities," he said.

Once in Canada, Duran received teaching offers from both York and the U of T. Next year he plans to teach a philosophy course on propaganda at Toronto.

Although Duran and his family are no longer in danger he warned that a real danger still exists for many people inside Chile. He estimates that between 20,000 and 30,000 people are political prisoners in Chilean jails.

He said there was a real possibility that, in event of rebellion, the junta would execute many of these people to remove a source of potential danger.

"The important thing is to get these

people out of there as soon as possible," he said.

Asked on what condition he would return to Chile, Duran said he would accept only a Popular Unity government.

Duran felt that a vast majority of Chilean refugees would return on this condition. He defined a Popular Unity government as anti-imperialist, anti-monopolistic, and anti-private ownership of the land.

The military junta has lost its last reasonable claim to popularity with the withdrawal of support by the Christian Democratic party, said Duran, adding that as many as 80 per cent of the Christian Democrats would now accept a Popular Unity government.

High school study made

Toronto high schools have come under the scrutiny of the York University administration, which is investigating the educational patterns of its "feeder" high schools.

Paul Anisef, a sociology professor at York who is involved in the study, said the survey is "not at all an effort at reform but is rather an attempt to say what is happening in the high schools."

"Before you can formulate policy, you must find out what the present trends are. My bag is not to change the world," Anisef said.

This year Anisef cut his course load and took a decreased salary in order to complete a study of the academic trends of grade 12 students.

The investigation began in September 1973 when York formed a committee to study the academic modes in the schools which were known to send a high percentage of grade 13 students to York. The committee joined a research team from the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the survey was expanded to include high schools across Ontario.

Investigation of 97 Ontario high schools began in the spring of 1973. A total of 2,555 questionnaires (an 87 per cent response rate) were collected.

The preliminary report on the survey states high school students' future plans are influenced by their parents, peers and school agents — in that order. University-bound students generally had a more positive self-image than students with other plans.

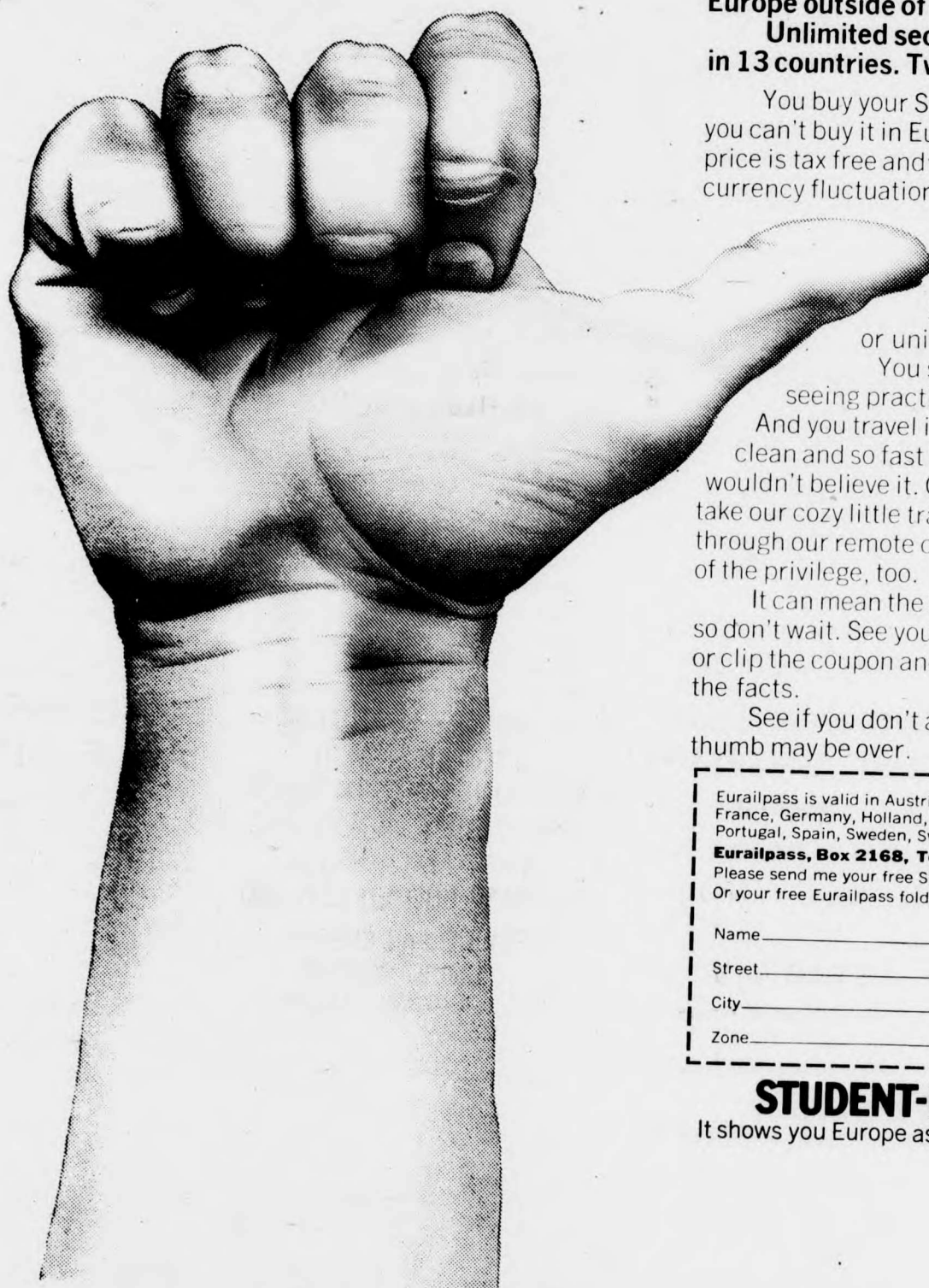
The survey indicates that most university-bound students are job oriented.

"While a majority of students who plan on enrolling in colleges of applied arts and technology (CAAT) will do so because they prefer the kind of programme available, students who intend on going to university primarily do so because they believe a university education is required for the type of job they desire," the survey states.

The report also says students who plan on going to university "tend to be male, rank high in social class background and possess high occupational aspirations."

Students who intend to go to a CAAT "tend to be female, come from less prestigious backgrounds and possess fewer illusions concerning either their ability to graduate from university or to obtain very prestigious jobs."

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