

## CHILE: STATE OF SIEGE (1984-1985)

### DESCRIPTION

This file covers the period from July, 1984 to late spring/early summer, 1985. It is meant to complement the earlier collection, Chile, Protesta Nacional (1983-1984), and should be consulted jointly. The essential purpose in both collections is to document the evolution of the Chilean political situation. Particular emphasis has been given to the nature, organization, and strategy of the dozens of parties, factions, alliances and self-help groups which together compose the "Chilean opposition" to Pinochet.

The most important organizing event in this collection is the State of Siege (Estado de Sitio) imposed by Pinochet on 6 November, 1984. The siege was in part a reaction by Pinochet to the national protests held by the opposition on 29 and 30 October 1984 and was quickly followed by a crackdown on opposition leaders and various political organizations. Government measures included the arrest of hundreds and the detention of thousands. Increased tensions between a traditionally powerful Catholic church and the military government as well as a general state of confusion among the opposition resulted. In turn, this confusion inevitably led to a fizzling of the protests and attempted strikes held in defiance of the siege on 27 and 28 November 1984. This collection gives evidence of the struggle and test of wills which ensues between a renewed state power and a weakened but reticent opposition. It should help the researcher to explore the complicated dynamics which come to characterize an opposition which has to operate now almost strictly underground.

The materials in this collection also document the seemingly gargantuan organizational task which the opposition continued to set for itself - large

monthly protests. Through these pamphlets, serials, fliers and posters one may observe how difficult it became to structure these protestas; the kind of compromises which had to be negotiated between parties and party factions in order to make them possible; and, in general, one will be amazed by the indefatigable efforts of so many grass-roots organizers to coordinate the various sectors of the population (e.g., women, pobladores, workers).

Another event about which these materials give testimony is the way in which the earthquake which struck Santiago on 3 March 1985 (killing 124) was to have an important political meaning in this increasingly polarized country. The opposition was eager to denounce the government's sluggish reaction to cleaning up the devastation caused by the earthquake, thus capitalizing on a situation about which the Chilean government had become very sensitive.

The nature of the materials contained in this collection is diverse. It ranges from sophisticated political analysis to political literature such as pamphlets, daily bulletins, fliers, posters, and newspapers written for mass appeal. Taken as a whole, however, these materials form a clear image of what lies underneath the official veneer of everyday life under censorship and surveillance. The materials sometimes complement each other. What the party leadership and underground network of educated critics tell the researcher about the state of the opposition may in many instances be confirmed and enriched by the literature which pours endlessly from the rudimentary presses established by grass-roots

organizations more closely in touch with the feelings of the people.

The documents are organized according to issuing agency or broad subject group and arranged in chronological order. In addition to this collection, Firestone Library has on microfilm some extraordinary underground serials from this period (1984-85) which can be consulted for sophisticated appraisals of Chilean political life during the State of Siege. The titles are:

- Informe mensual de coyuntura política: taller de analysis político
- Prensa libre: carta informativa privada
- Servicio de información confidencial: documentos semanales
- Boletín CODEPU
- Boletín: extra semanal
- Extra: Boletín CODEPU

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I. POLITICAL PARTIES

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	Bloque Socialista
1	2	Izquierda Cristiana (IC)
1	3	Movimiento de Acción Popular Unitario (MAPU)
1	4	Movimiento Democrático Popular (MDP)
1	5	Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria (MIR)
1	6	Partido Comunista de Chile (PC) (Includes several issues of <u>El Siglo</u> )
1	7	Partido Democrata Cristiano (PDC) (Includes issues of <u>La Libertad</u> )
1	8	Partido Socialista - Juventud Socialista (PS)(JS) (Includes issues of <u>Basta</u> )
1	9	Unión Democrata Independienta (UDI)
1	10	Unión Nacional (UN)

II. GUERRILLA GROUPS

1	11	Frente Patriótico Manuel Rodríguez (FPMR).
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III. ORGANIZATIONS

2	1	Agrupación de Periodistas Jóvenes (A.P.J.)
2	2	Artistic and Cultural Opposition Groups (includes protest songs and two issues of <u>Venceremos</u> )
2	3	Catholic Church Groups
2	4	Comité de Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo (CODEPU)

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III. ORGANIZATIONS (CONT.)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
2	5	Human Rights Groups (includes literature from Vicaria de la Solidaridad, Coordinada de Organizaciones Sociales y Populares (C.C.O.), and Coordinadora Nacional de los Presos Politicos de Chile (C.N.P.P.), and several issues of <u>La Muralla</u> )
2	6	Labor Organizations
2	7	Organización de Saneamiento Moral
2	8	Pobladores - Organization and Literature (includes many issues of <u>Avance popular</u> and an issue of <u>La Pobla</u> )
2	9	Women's Organizations
2	10	Unión Nacional de Estudiantes Democráticos (UNED)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

3	1	Anonymous Organizations and Literature
3	2	Opposition Propaganda (includes various political posters)
3	4	Protesta, March 27, 1984
3	5	Protesta Nacional, April 11, 1984
3	6	Jornada de Movilización Solidaria, May 14, 1984 (?)
3	7	Jornada, May 26, 1984
3	8	Jornada Nacional, August 9, 1984
3	9	Jornada Nacional de Protesta Pacifica, Sept. 4 & 5, 1984
3	10	Gran Jornada Nacional Contra las Alzas, Oct. 10, 1984

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IV. MISCELLANEOUS (CONT.)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
3	11	Paro Nacional, Oct. 30, 1984
3	12	Paro Nacional, Nov. 27 & 28, 1984
3	13	Paro Nacional, April 2, 1985
3	14	Protesta, April 30, 1985
3	15	Protesta, May 1, 1985
3	16	Photographs (From protests and from several poblaciones, including Santa Olga and Santa Clara)