



This patchwork tapestry portrays present-day Chile: the four octopi represent the military junta — the people unite to face them.

# Canada (Chile) Inc.

Canadian Involvement in Chile



## THE CHILEAN PEOPLE

- have suffered the imposition of the so-called Doctrine of National Security for six years under a cruel dictatorship.
- have seen their community groups, unions, student associations, political parties and democratic institutions broken, suspended and outlawed.
- demand an accounting of the whereabouts of hundreds of disappeared prisoners and an end to the state of emergency which gives military forces arbitrary power over their daily life.
- face high rates of unemployment, restrained real incomes and dismantled social services.
- suffer enforced low wages, repression of trade unions and all political expression as incentives for multinational investors.
- seek liberty, social justice and control over their nation's resources and its future.

*"The economic policy adopted by the Government [of Chile], by its very nature tends to sacrifice the needs and aspirations of the vast majority of the population, in particular of the underprivileged strata, while it favors the interests of a small elite of big landowners, financiers and industrialists as well as the military ruling groups..."*

*Study of the Impact of Foreign Economic Aid and Assistance on Respect for Human Rights in Chile* by A. Cassesse, Commission on Human Rights, United Nations, July-August, 1978.

*"In recent years the so-called Doctrine of National Security has taken hold of our continent; in fact, it is more an ideology than a doctrine. It is connected to a definite economic-political model with elitist and verticalist characteristics, suppressing broad participation of the people in political decisions. It attempts to justify itself in certain countries in Latin America as the defender of western and Christian civilization. It develops a repressive system in accordance with its concept of "permanent war"... The Doctrine of National Security is the opposite of a Christian vision of man..."*

From the Third Conference of Latin American Bishops, (CELAM III), Puebla de los Angeles, Mexico, January 27 - February 13, 1979.



During his trip to Chile for the International Symposium in November, 1979, Bishop Proulx visits a church-sponsored health clinic in a poor area of Santiago.

## PINOCHET'S CHILE: CANADIAN BUSINESS INTERVENES

Since the 1973 *coup* Canadian chartered banks have become major backers of the present military regime; they have signed at least twenty-six agreements with Chile, loaning \$73 million bilaterally and an estimated \$100 million in consortia with other banks.

Canadian-based corporations are planning nearly a billion dollars in new investments for Chile:

- Noranda Mines Ltd. has completed the feasibility study for its planned \$350 million investment in Chilean copper at Andacollo. As copper prices rise, Noranda is likely to move ahead soon.

- Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd., in partnership with Canadian Superior Oil, McIntyre Mines of Nevada and Superior Oil of Houston, has signed an agreement with the Chilean government toward the development at Quebrada Blanca of a mine and smelter costing an estimated \$500 million.

- a number of other manufacturing, pharmaceutical and mining interests have made or are planning new investments.

- following an October, 1978 visit of businessmen to Chile, a Canada-Chile committee was formed uniting business interests in the two countries.

- the Canadian federal government's Export Development Corporation (E.D.C.) has announced five facilities to Chile - export loans, export insurance and foreign investment guarantees- with a known value of about \$15 million and an expected future value of twice that figure.

- since the *coup* Canadian government representatives have supported over \$800 million in loans from multilateral agencies like the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), of which Canada's share is approximately \$40 million. On November 9, 1978, the IADB loaned a further \$34 million to Chile.

- Canada is Chile's second largest partner; the first is the United States; they strengthen the staying power of the regime.

- Canadian business will be the major beneficiary of investment in Chile; the terms of the mining contracts offer few returns and minimal employment to Chile in the first decade of "development". The dictatorship, however, gains respectability in the international business community.

*"... the agreement reached with Noranda Mines, in the present national and international conjuncture, reiterates the confidence that foreign investors are demonstrating towards our country."*

*El Mercurio*, Santiago, December 4-11, 1975.

*Assistance to the Chilean junta — whether from public or private sources — "helps to strengthen and maintain in power a system which pursues a policy of large-scale violations on human rights".*

(Cassesse Report), Commission on Human Rights, United Nations, July-August, 1978.

*"It is a bitter irony that you seem to plead for the alleviation of poverty in Chile under a regime whose economic austerity program cannot help but perpetuate mass poverty and the neglect of social reforms. Indeed, it seems that the very economic model adopted by the junta assists in achieving the credit-worthiness necessary to win financial assistance from private banks."*

From an ecumenical letter, August 1978, to the Chairman of a leading Canadian chartered bank loaning money to Chile.

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## CAN WE DO SOMETHING FOR CHILE'S PEOPLE?

Some Canadians already have:

- Canadian and international support helped the Committee for Peace, the Vicariate of Solidarity and other human rights organizations in Chile to defend the accused, assist the release of political prisoners, help refugees flee oppression, sustain the families of the assassinated and imprisoned, to reveal torture and seek the disappeared. International, including Canada, pressure, forced the military to reduce gross acts of repression, and gave some breathing space to Chile's people.

- Widespread expression of concern by Canadians have led the Canadian government repeatedly to support United Nations condemnation of human rights violations in Chile and in other states. It remains to translate these resolutions into action.

- Public outcry in the United States advanced the investigation into the 1976 assassination in Washington of former Chilean Ambassador, Orlando Letelier. Convictions have been won against Cuban exiles in the employ of the Chilean security police; indictments of murder still stand against three officials of the Chilean intelligence agency (DINA), one, a close associate of General Pinochet himself.

- In response to appeals from Chilean trade unionists, British and American labour leaders inquired into the curtailment of union rights in Chile. As a result, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has declared a boycott of cargo from the Chilean and Nicaraguan dictatorships. The Canadian Labour Congress played a substantial role in this effort. World pressure has forced the military junta to reconsider the prevailing repression of trade unions.

- The strength and integrity of the Church in Chile and of the international support on which it can rely, allowed the Church to host an international solidarity conference in Santiago in November, 1978 focusing on the rights and dignity of man. Representatives of the Canadian churches attended, contributed to the debate, consulted with Chileans and have issued their report, *Pan, Paz y Libertad (Bread, Peace and Liberty) Human Rights and Economic Development in Chile, 1979*.



Bishop Proulx of Hull addresses the Symposium on Human Rights in Santiago. The mural says, "every man has the right to be a person" and the table is lettered with "Chile, human rights year, 1978".

- There still remain unsolved the cases of several thousand "disappeared" persons - 600 of which have been documented in detail by the Vicariate of Solidarity - whose families in Chile suspect they were murdered by the junta. A world-wide support campaign in May 1978 included weeks of hunger strike in many Canadian churches and communities. It brought this issue to public attention, and made visible a global network of concern.

- Church action in Chile, initiated by Bishop Ysern in Chiloe, led to the cancellation of a multinational investment plan in the forest industry. Basic questions about whether the poor benefit from such corporate projects were posed by the Chilean critics.

*"Our action,... must reach out to the international community as a whole. In the name of the principles of freedom and human dignity we, as working Canadians, hold so dear, I say we cannot stand idly by any longer."*

Dennis McDermott, President of the Canadian Labour Congress, February 2, 1979, in reference to the announced ICFTU boycott of Chile and Nicaragua.

*"There are others, and their number is multiplying, who find in the churches' engagement in the struggle for human rights new reasons for their faith, new experiences of the meaning of grace and redemption and a new sense of what the Gospel calls them to do among their fellow human beings."*

*One Body: Human Rights: A Global Struggle. Issue 19-20. United Church of Canada, 1979.*

## DOING THINGS ...

Canadians are active in solidarity with Chileans and other Latin Americans suffering repression.

- From Calgary, Montreal, Toronto and Edmonton, fact-finding missions have been initiated in which Canadians have consulted with Chilean community, church and labour people.

- In communities small and large, local church, union and Amnesty International groups have sponsored educational evenings, written letters and petitions, and sent telegrams.

- In Vancouver, a coalition of organizations challenged a top-level meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank in 1978. It raised basic moral and political questions with bank officials about loans to the junta.

- At Queen's University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Alberta, students and faculty asked their University about its investment policy, forcing Boards of Governors, trustees and administration to face the fundamental ethical questions about the propriety of universities profiting through shareholdings from investments in Chile.

- A number of major Canadian labour and humanitarian groups have protested bank loans to Chile, and like a number of local congregations and associations have moved their accounts when the banks refused to change their policy.

- Representatives of the Taskforce on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility have asked the Commons Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Industry, to change disclosure laws in the new Bank Act, so that banks have to let the public know what foreign governments benefit from their loans.

- In Calgary, an inter-church coalition planned a major conference on "People's Perspectives on Latin America". The action was triggered by the news that 400 Canadian and Latin American corporate executives and government representatives were meeting in their city. The coalition decided that those bearing the impact of major investments in Latin America should be heard.

- In many Canadian communities Amnesty International groups are organized to act for individual prisoners of conscience in Chile and elsewhere. Church members answer the appeals of the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America, and the Comité chrétien pour les Droits de l'Homme en Amérique latine, with letters of protest to the Canadian govern-





Holding photos of the missing persons, the relatives of the "disappeared" demonstrate in angry protest.

ment, and letters of support to prisoners and those who are threatened in Chile and in neighbouring countries.

— In Vancouver a group of refugees and Canadian Christians put together a study/action packet for church group use. In Toronto a group of young Christians took a slide show from congregation to congregation raising funds for Chilean soup kitchens and community organizations. In Montreal an ecumenical candle-light service was held to dramatize the situation of Latin American prisoners, the tortured, the disappeared, the threatened and assassinated.

— In Sudbury and other Canadian resource towns, public education has been initiated to question the right of companies to channel capital from Canada into states where workers' rights have been suspended and where citizens are not free.

— In Toronto City Council, the municipality's pension fund investments were debated, and a leading alderman took the council's majority vote of protest to the Noranda Annual General Meeting in 1978. Union representatives, public and Catholic school teacher representatives, women's groups and humanitarian organizations supported the protests.

*"It is too easy for civilized people in Europe and the United States to express horror and incredulity at the barbaric cruelty inflicted by Latin Americans upon their fellow countrymen. Every man and woman living in a democratic state should ask themselves whether the torture techniques used in totalitarian dictatorships are taught in their military academies and whether this expertise is handed on to personnel from other countries."*

Sheila Cassidy, *Audacity to Believe*, Collins, Toronto, 1978.

*"...the Chilean Bishops pointed out that the peasants, the workers, and the poor people were being compelled to 'bear an excessive and disproportionate burden' of the country's current economic reconstruction. Until there are substantial changes, we feel that, in the balance, the major impact of foreign investment by Canadian banks and corporations will serve to support the Junta's oppressive economic policies and legitimize its continued repression of human rights."*

From a public letter of Archbishop Gilles Ouellet, President, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to the Chairman of the Board of a major Canadian bank, May 11, 1978.

## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE NOW ...

1. **Keep up the pressure: publicize.** Read this pamphlet, share it with friends, order copies for the church, community or workplace to which you belong.
2. **Keep up the pressure: on Canadian-based corporations.** Write, phone or petition. Ask that they make the restoration of democratic liberties and human rights a condition for investment.

Take the issue to your group or association and ask them to take a position and write, wire, phone or petition. Join Taskforce presentations at the annual meetings of these companies in person as a shareholder, or get your women's, union, teachers', university or community group to do so.

3. **Keep up the pressure: on Canadian chartered banks.** They are just around the corner. Perhaps you have a cheque book in your pocket or purse. Every cheque and deposit slip deserves a TCCR sticker

**NO LOANS TO CHILE!**

They are available from TCCR at \$5.00 for 500. Order now and stick to the campaign.

4. **Keep up the pressure: on government.** During the year church, labour, Amnesty International and human rights groups have been pushing our government to put its economic policy where its words are, to refuse to vote for national or international credits, loans or insurance to the Chilean junta or companies allied with it. The cards and letters of Canadians have made them listen, but they are slow to act. Keep up the pressure on the Minister of External Affairs, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and the Export Development Corporation. Then take the issue into meetings and conversations with MPs and make them aware of these concerns.
5. **Keep up the pressure:** consider supporting one of the regional boycotts of Chilean produce and exports and/or the boycott undertaken by the Canadian Labour Congress.
6. **Keep up the pressure:** support your church's international development funds in their giving of material aid to human rights, advocacy and community development efforts with the people of Latin America.
7. **Keep up the pressure: educate.** Order and use the report *Bread, Peace and Liberty*. Remember that Chile is one of many examples of the tragedy and cost of military dictatorship in our hemisphere. Films, resource people and materials from local and national religious, human rights and solidarity groups are available on Chile and on Argentina, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Uruguay, Guatemala and other countries. Write ICCHRLA, LAWG, or TCCR for advice and assistance.
8. **Keep up the pressure: initiate.** Solidarity is what you make it. It may be a worship and prayer service, a collective telegram of protest or support, a study meeting, a resolution or a demonstration. Be creative.





**Relatives of the "disappeared". Chained together in protest, they wear pictures of their missing loved ones.**

For further copies of this pamphlet (10 cents per copy) and information on the campaign, contact:

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Contributions to the work of this campaign are gratefully received and should be sent to the Taskforce.