

bound to be steps *we* would not (we think from afar) have taken; some are likely to be brazen and full of risk. No matter: loyalty before purity. We will register complaints; we are not a blank cheque; we are friends through the use of intelligence and free discussion. But we will be dependable and loyal.

A great service we can provide to our embattled brothers is the achievement of power and influence in the camp of her enemies. Not merely Israel's survival depends on us. More than that, we can contribute a great deal to the climate within which Israel will survive. The firmness of our directives to Russia and the decency of our dealings with the Arabs determine in large measure the breathing space with-

in which Israel works out its destiny. Great monetary and other efforts on the part of the United States to help the Palestinians might lift from Israel's shoulders the burden of providing virtually alone for Palestinian claims to justice.

Both power politics and an exquisite ear for cultural decencies are required if our inflexible commitment to Israel is to be fruitful.

The survival of Israel's independence is a symbol to Slovakia and other nations that their age-old dream will yet, in history's good time, be realized. If irony may be wrested from tragedy, even the realization of a Palestinian nation is somewhat foreshadowed in the success of Israel.

## Reader's Response

### Cuba, After Chile's Bloody Fall

James F. Conway

Laurence Birns's fine article, "Chile: A Bloody Fall" (*Worldview*, November, 1973), came to my attention after I returned from a few weeks' visit to Cuba, a visit that coincided with the fall of Allende. The overthrow of Allende drew enormous response.

"*Fidel, Allende, el pueblo les defiende*"—Fidel, Allende, the people will defend you—shouted some 500,000 Cubans who jammed the Plaza of the Revolution on the afternoon of September 28 in Havana. A bold-colored outdoor mosaic locates Chile's martyr catty-corner to the Che Guevara monument and just in front of that of Cuba's liberator, José Martí. Allende's finger is pointing skyward in one of his favorite gestures. The inscription below reads: "The forces of fascism will not crush the Chilean people."

The occasion of this rally in Havana was the thirteenth anniversary of the creation of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) in Cuba. The event was dedicated in homage to Salvador Allende and solidarity with the Chilean people. A spirit of mourning prevailed as long lines of Cubans filed past the Allende mosaic and inscribed their names in the book of mourning. Chile was as close to them as a Cuban province.

Cubans in Chile had been hunted and hated just before and after the *golpe*. A black Panamanian was hung from a lamppost by a vigilante squad in the Providencia district of Santiago. They thought he

was a Cuban. The military forces were determined to eradicate Cuban influence in Chile. The Cuban ambassador in Chile, Mario Garcia Inchaustegui, who had arrived in Chile three years earlier accompanied by a triumphant motorcade and wall paintings proclaiming "Cuba, Chile, together the free territories of the Americas," exited hastily after the coup in a Russian Aeroflot jet, together with 165 Cuban diplomatic functionaries. He had been wounded during the shooting on the Cuban Embassy. Other Cubans had been dumped at the Argentine border. Many, not as lucky, are still on the missing persons lists.

Beatriz Allende Bussi, small, eight months pregnant, determined, rose before the crowd to speak: "People of Cuba . . . I have come to tell you what was the real attitude, the action and the thought of President Allende against the attack of the traitorous military and fascists." She described the assault on the Moneda Palace and how her father reacted from within the building. He sent her to the Cuban Embassy where she would, hopefully, be able to leave the country with the Cubans (Beatriz's husband is a Cuban diplomat). He scolded her for being at his side in the Moneda in her pregnant condition. As she left by the side door her father said to her: "Tell Fidel I will do my duty." Beatriz wanted to put an end to the rumors that her father had killed himself with the gun that Fidel had given him. Later testimonies from palace guards and the retraction of the suicide rumor by Allende's wife confirmed a bullet-ridden body of Salvador Allende who had promised Fidel, and the Cuban people on his visit to the island

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the previous December, that "without having the blood of a martyr, I will not take a step backward. Let everyone be aware. I will leave the Moneda only when I accomplish the task the people have given me."

For Cuba, the Chilean coup is the death of a sister republic. The Cubans had sacrificed personally for the Chilean revolution. During Allende's visit they had pledged a half kilo of sugar for the Chileans from their meager sugar ration per month. Chileans had reciprocated with shoes for the Cubans. Fidel had been sending numerous Cuban doctors to work in the Chilean slum clinics in the Northern Atacama desert around Arica and Antofagasta. Cuban church groups, Protestant and Catholic, had developed deep personal friendships with the various groups of "Christians for Socialism" who had visited the island over the past two years. They now issued resounding denunciations of the killings, the denial of human rights and the suppression of freedom in Chile after the coup.

The Cuban people do not feel that they will suddenly be isolated from Latin America again, even though relations are cut off with Chile. Chile was the breakthrough. Peru, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad-Tobago and Argentina have already recognized Cuba. The Peruvian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel de la Valle Flor, spent the last week of October in Cuba. Venezuela is about to recognize Cuba and sell oil to the island. The disappointment is related to the blatant savagery of the ultra-rightist military, and all that they symbolize, and how they were able to overcome the Chilean people by their violence.

The Cubans have been forced to be ready to defend their revolution by violence. Besides the famous Bay of Pigs invasion there have been over 130 mini-invasions in the last few years. Fanatics from Miami come in and shoot up a fishing village and take hostages. State-of-seige mentality and alert have been transformed into the CDR in Cuba. The guns of Guantanamo still glisten over barbed-wire fences. Bernard Barker's Watergate testimony verified that hundreds of "heroic" men, on undercover missions for the CIA, had entered and exited from Cuba over the last few years. Cubans think that the Chilean Left was too naive in not having been better armed and ready to defend their revolution against a violent attack.

The Cubans see that the U.S. has moved to a politics of blockade in Latin America. In the case of Cuba it took only eight days without oil to cripple the island. In the case of Chile it took just over three years of economic blockade to suffocate Allende. No foreign credits, no renegotiation of the foreign debt, no replacement parts, no markets for copper—

all contributed to the internal monetary inflation and economic crisis.

Chileans in Cuba at the time of the *golpe* have formed a "Chilean Committee for Solidarity with the Antifascist Resistance." Louis Badilla, a Chilean youth leader from the Christian Leftist Party, spoke to the group in Havana: "When I finally left the Cerillos Airport on Braniff, I was photoed and registered by an American employee. In the national stadium an American CIA agent, Van Braz, questioned the prisoners."

Badilla recalled that Letelier, the Chilean Ambassador to the United States, who is reported to be in a concentration camp on Darwin Island off the cold southern coast of Chile at the moment, has reported comments made by a U.S. State Department official during a meeting in Washington: "Chile is much more of a threat than Vietnam. Not only is Chile having repercussions in Uruguay, Argentina and other parts of Latin America, but even in French and Italian politics." Badilla urged Americans to demand that financial and military aid be cut from the military junta, as enlightened countries like Sweden and Belgium have done.

Other members of the Chilean Committee in Cuba spoke their thoughts about the U.S. "Tell them about the training of soldiers in Ecuador and Bolivia to effect the coup. Tell them about how the striking truckers were supported by American dollars in their effort to bring down the government. Tell them about ITT, the boycott, the embargo, the cutting of credits and the refusal to renegotiate the foreign debt of Chile." I asked Beatriz Allende if she would consider an invitation to come to the U.S. to speak at a rally on December 11, the anniversary of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights. She smiled and said the U.S. government denied her a visa two years ago and that she doubted they would grant it now. If we could arrange it, she would accept.

The Chilean military shelled the Cuban boat *Playa Larga* in international waters because it would not turn over prepaid sugar to the military regime. The Cuban government does not recognize the military regime and therefore withheld the sugar. Later, U.S. military forces in the Panama Canal detained the Cuban cargo boats. Cuba took this violation of the Canal immediately to the United Nations, and finally the boats were released.

The Cubans have a sense of history and a sense of international solidarity with people rather than with political regimes. This sense of history tells them that the revolution (the breaking of capitalist and imperialist economic domination) will sooner or later triumph. History absolved Fidel's liberation forces. History will absolve the forces in Latin America which struggle for the liberation of their people.