

DRAFT PROGRAMME 1984

The Campaign faces in 1984 a very different situation from that of the beginning of 1983. In 1983 the Campaign maintained a very high level of public activity both because of the tenth anniversary and our heavy programme of events aided by the GLC grant, and because of the upsurge in the struggle against the junta in Chile itself.

In 1984 the Campaign must build as much as possible on the successes of 1983, on the increased interest both political and cultural in Chile and Latin America. But it must be recognised that 1984 will be a very different year for CSC. The major features of the changed situation are :-

1. Increased tension in Latin America as a result of escalated US aggression, notably against Grenada and Nicaragua.
2. The intensification of the struggle against the junta on all levels in Chile, with the days of national protest, huge rallies etc; the formation of the National Workers' Command, the Democratic Alliance and the Democratic Popular Movement which brings together left political parties, trade unions and other mass movements; the junta's mixed response of increased repression and concessions, reflecting growing divisions in its ranks; and the continuing intractable economic crisis.
3. An increased realisation of the importance of Britain's role in Chile - a role that is at odds with our EEC partners and now even with the US. This includes the supply of major weapons systems as well as important contacts on diplomatic, military and economic fronts.
4. The new political situation in Britain, with the election of another Tory government with a term of office until 1988; the increased electoral importance of the Liberal Party and SDP. The Campaign needs to adopt a strategy for dealing with this government, and cannot assume the return of a sympathetic Labour Government in the near future.

In addition to the above, CSC's programme must take into account new areas of work, particularly the political and economic aspects of the 'Right of Return' campaign, and work with the new PLP Latin America and Caribbean Group.

AREAS OF CAMPAIGNING

1. Support for the Resistance in Chile

The unity and activity of the organisations of popular resistance, with the trade union movement in the forefront, has greatly increased in the last year. There has been world-wide publicity and recognition for the work of Chilean trade unions.

CSC has been increasingly successful in generating protests from MPs and the trade union movement in Britain about repression in Chile, in addition to our own protest actions, in association with Chile Democratico and the Chile Committee for Human Rights. This work is greatly appreciated in Chile and should continue.

Financial support and messages of solidarity to particular strikes and actions, and support and publicity for the days of national protest, should also go on. If the national strike proposed by CNS for the first quarter of the year takes place, this will require a special campaign of support.

But the 'Right of Return' Campaign will be the major part of CSC's long-term direct support work. Just as in the past CSC has sent material aid to the movement, so now we will be helping to return activists to the struggle for democracy in their homeland. This will involve campaigning for the right of ALL Chileans to live in their country; campaigning for individuals who are specifically refused this right; and, most importantly, raising funds to enable those who are returning with no resources of their own to subsist for an initial period. The sums involved will be beyond the Campaign's pocket, and will be raised in two main ways; a. through the work of the co-ordinating committee of agencies concerned, including WUS, British Refugee Council, CAFOD, Oxfam into which Chile Democratico and CSC are making an input, and b. through direct approaches to the British Labour Movement, co-ordinated by CSC and CUT.

The hoped-for trade union delegation to Chile did not take place in 1983, and high on the CSC agenda for 1984 should be the organisation of a trade union and/or PLP delegation to Chile. This would : express solidarity directly to the trade union and working class movement in Chile; help educate the British labour movement about the current situation; assist in bringing greater pressure to bear on the British government.

2. Campaigning against British and US policy on Chile and Latin America

While the result of the General Election was discouraging, in some ways the prospects for bringing pressure to bear on the Tory Government are improved as a result of the changed situation, particularly :- 1. the clear political isolation of Pinochet at home; 2. the isolation of Britain in its policies to Chile, with apparent strong US disquiet over the scale of British support; 3. the presence of the Tories' 'fraternal parties' in Chile - the Republican Democrats and the Christian Democrats - in the opposition.

CSC should continue to bring pressure to bear through :- letters to the Prime Minister
-and Foreign Secretary;
-pickets and other public protests;
-delegations
-letters to the Press

CSC should also ensure that the broadest political support is won, for cutting aid and support to Pinochet; firstly through the TU and labour movement, including the PLP; secondly by directing more attention at the Liberal Party and SDP; and thirdly through approaches to more progressive elements in the Tory Party and government. Careful co-ordination with CCHR and Chile Democratico will be necessary over how this is done.

Recent arms sales to Chile have been mostly of ex-services items, which leaves little room for trade union action to block them. However the proposed sale of Sea Eagle missiles will come from the BAC factories and there may be possibilities of trade union action.

3. Boycott Campaign

Large scale consumer boycotts are an unrealistic target, but specific boycott actions eg. at wine fairs, trade shows and military equipment shows remain important, and have been an important focus for local committee activity, often in co-ordination with Campaign Against the Arms Trade and other groups. Action at supermarkets and other shops is also a way of publicising the Chilean cause, and local committees should be encouraged to continue this kind of work.

Due to the economic collapse in Chile, foreign investment there is less attractive in most fields, but the covert privatisation of the copper production and other mineral resources needs study to discover if any British based companies are involved.

4. Work with Chile Democratico and CUT

Chile Democratico is now well established and has been a dynamic stimulus to many of the protests in the last year, and the political activity of the Chilean community has greatly increased with the positive developments in Chile. This has helped the work of the Campaign at a local and national level, with the setting up of new or revived committees in towns and colleges. CSC should continue to improve co-ordination with CD through regular meetings, especially on the 'Right of Return' campaign. The return of some Chileans to Chile will enable better communications to be established between the Campaign and organisations in Chile, and CSC should improve the flow of regular information to British trade unions from their counterparts in Chile on this basis. CUT should be involved in planning the TU delegation to Chile and in organising TU speaker tours.

5. Education work

Many, if not most, of the Campaign's activities have an educational aspect but there are a number of activities which are predominantly educational in nature.

a. Conferences

The womens' conference postponed last year as a result of the General Election will take place in the spring.

The complete failure of monetarist policies in Chile has become more obvious since the last conference on the issue, and the Latin American debt crisis has also come to the fore in the last year. CSC should organise a conference on these twin themes, aimed at labour movement activists as well as students of Latin American affairs and economics. Co-operation with other Latin American groups may be appropriate.

A labour movement conference on the 'Right of Return' campaign should be organised if it is considered useful in the course of this work.

b. Speakers and speaking tours

A new leaflet offering CSC speakers to Labour Party and trade union branches should be produced and circulated. Chileans returning home should be encouraged where appropriate to address TU meetings, especially where TU sponsorship has been given. In addition at least one speaking tour with a visiting trade unionist should be arranged.

If a delegation of trade unionists or MPs to Chile is organised, maximum use must be made of the delegates to speak at meetings on their return.

c. Pamphlets

A pamphlet on womens' struggle in Chile should be produced in conjunction with the conference.

The resurgence of the popular resistance, and in particular the development of new forms of protest, is a very interesting topic with lessons for the left in Britain. A pamphlet on this theme should also be produced.

d. Chile Fights

Chile Fights continues to provide a useful source of information to local groups and is now able to use much more direct information, photographs etc from Chile which will make it more lively and attractive.

Efforts to increase bookshop sales have not met with great success, and problems facing the distributors may hit this further. CSC must therefore ensure that local committees and activists promote CF to bookshops and other outlets as well as increasing direct sales.

6. Fundraising, materials etc.

A new badge and poster are urgently needed. CSC should also look at the possibility of producing T-shirts before the summer.

The greetings cards produced in 1983 have sold well, but there will be some left to sell in the first part of 1984. The next set should be begun earlier in 1984, to give more selling time.

There should be a benefit concert with British artists in the spring, as well as smaller concerts with lesser known Chilean and Latin American artists in the summer. A tour with Inti Illimani should be organised for October.

A raffle, on a smaller scale than in 1982, should be launched in early April, to enable major sales to take place in trade union conferences in May and June.

7. Work with other Campaigns

CSC took part in NICA (No Intervention in Central America), formed in August 1983, and in some of the emergency campaigning on Grenada. This together with the joint participation of groups in the September festival have improved co-ordination. This should continue especially in coverage of trade union conferences, student work etc.

CALENDAR OF EVENTSJanuary

Initiate approach to Trade Unions on 'Right of Return'.
 New badge
 New introductory leaflet

February

New poster
 Pamphlet on 'Chile - How the tide was turned'
 AGM

March

Concert with British artists
 Event to mark March 24th demonstration (1983)
 Chile Fights No.43 - in time to sell at TU conferences

April

Fringe meeting at NUStudents conference
 Womens' Conference + pamphlet
 Launch raffle
 Begin TU speaking tour

May

Continue TU speaking tour
 Produce T-shirts
 Sell raffle at TU conferences
 Events to mark May Day and May 11th (First Day of National Protest)

June

Chile Fights No.44 in time for EEC election campaign
 Contrast UK policy on Chile with other EEC countries in EEC election campaign
 Start work on 1984 patchwork cards
 Concert

July

Conference on Chile, monetarism and debt crisis

August

Start work on October concerts
 Event to mark August 11th 1983 protest and killing
 Preparation for delegation to Chile

September

Trade union/PLP delegation to Chile
 Chile Fights No. 45 in time for September activities
 Fringe meeting at TUC
 Fringe meeting at Liberal Assembly
 Start sale of cards at these events
 Showings of 'Battle of Chile' etc in cinemas
 Protest at Farnborough Air Show (if Chilean Air Force present)

October

Stall and fringe events at Labour Party conference
 Activity at Tory Conference
 Inti Illimani concerts

November

Cards sales
 Draw raffle

December

Chile Fights No. 46
 Cards sales