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WEEKLY COMMENTARY: BY.ZOLANI ETSHOTSHISA

e EE CHILEAN PEOT LE FIGIIT ON

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'ENOUGH BY NOW OF W uBY MEN IN CHAINS"

Ag reports reach us about the continuing national strike in Chile we cannot help but recall the above words of the poet. The poet incidentally is PABLO NERUDA a son of the Chilean people and one of the greatest poets produced by this century. Neruda's funeral in 1973 was the first public demonstration against the fascist dictatorship. The current strike has been called by opponents of the dictatorship to protest against continued repression.

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CHILE, with 30% of the workforce unemployed, 12 years of the most inhuman repression and a huge unpayable foreign debt is without doubt in the threshold of social changes.

In 1970 the Popular Unity government of Salvador Allende was voted into power. It curtailed the activities of the north American "monopolies, introduced progressive socio-economic changes and exercised a progressive foreign policy. These developments were 'go the distaste of such powerful monopolies as the United Fruit Company of the USA.

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The Military which up to then had played the role of defending the constitution was infiltrated by the CIA and suddenly:

" ... One morning all that was hurting

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One morning bonfires

Leapt out of the earth

Devouring human beings

And from then on' FARE

JWPOLUD ER FRCM Then DN-

And from then on blood

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The constitutionally elected President Salvador Allende was killed in LA MONEDA PALACE defending the Republic with a rifle given to him as a present by FIDEL CASTRO. Shortly before his death he refused the opportunity to flee by aircraft and chose to be with his people during their tragedy.

From 1973 an unprecedented vicious repression in the country's history was unleashed on the people. People disappeared in thousands and the Jails couldn't accommodate all the victims of the dictatorship. The huge stadium in SANTIAGO was used to incarcerate the best sons

V tSQuqcs

and daughters of CEILEC Death Squea, this inevitable product of
Tyranny assassinated opponents of the dictatorship.

Surely we SOUTH AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARIES recognise a parallel in all
UKASUE STADIUM in MDAHTSANE Eastern Cape was
used by the puppet 5233 1983 to incacerate thepeople of that township
C)

this. The huge Sisa

who at that time were in the middle of the longest bus-boycott in
our history. Presently thousands of people have disappearedw The
death squads invoke sad memories about the murder of such redoubtable.
Opponents of apartheid as Griffiths & Victoria Mxenge, Matthew Goniwe
Sparrow Mkhonto and many othersa This is no mere coincidence for the
white minority regime enjoys intimate contacts with the generals in
Chileo

It would however be no unfounded optimism on our side when we
irrevocably state that democracy will return to Chile. In the course
of a short period of time Latin America has witnessed the demise
of bloody military regimes. After twenty years of right wing militarwx
repression Brazillians were able to vote for civilians. This
state of affairs was not brought by any benevolence on thepart of
the military whose P:management of the economy led to Brazil having
the hugest foreign debtb There strike action by workers precipitated
the capitalation of the military. In 1982 Bolivia for whose freednmr
Che Guevara sacrificethis life changed over to the parliamentary
system.

This was the case with other latin american states like Argentina in
1983. The Argentinians went even further by instituting criminal
charges against the former tyrants. As recent as January 1986
Guatemala elected a civilian leader after having its last progressive
government of Arbenz drowned in blood in 1953.

Presently Chile and Paraguay are still under reactionary military
regimes. If the fighting traditions of the LATIN American people
traditions embodied in such personalities as SIMON BOLIVAR, JOSE MARTI
SANDING, CHE Guevara and many others, are anything to go by then we
should be very much justified in saying to these treacherous generals
"...From every crime bullets are born

Which will one day find

The bulls eye of your heart".

VENCEREMOSi

ALL THE POETRY USED HERE IS FROM PABLO NERUDA

SELECTED POELS: A bi-lingual Edition, Edited by NATHANIEL TARE

PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN BOOKS 1975