

AUGUSTO PINOCHET UGARTE (1915–2006)

PATRIA AND DEMOCRACY (1983)

The Soviet Lie and the Chilean Truth (1974)

Our country is going through difficult and bitter times, something which has not been sufficiently understood abroad, and for which the Armed Forces were forced to intervene in order to halt the moral break down threatening the very foundations of the Nation. This mission, which was supported by the majority of the Chilean people, has been distorted by international communism in order to conceal the major defeat it has suffered, marking the beginning of the end of totalitarian regimes inspired by its doctrine.

And for this reason the communists have placed its enormous and powerful propagandistic machine in the service of a lie to conceal the Chilean truth.

They have achieved relative success since they have confused public opinion around the globe. But we are certain that the truth of what took place will be victorious, and the world will come to recognize the heroic struggle of the Chilean people to save themselves from the totalitarian claws of Soviet imperialism. This fight has not taken place with more weapons than the determination and will of our people to continue being free.

Violation of Human Rights by Omission or Complicity (1977)

The violation of human rights in a country can only be properly evaluated by taking into consideration the reality of that society as a collective body. The society needs to be viewed dynamically throughout time with the goal of comprehending its most profound characteristics, which helps to avoid distortions such as those guiding the static vision of a photograph.

On another level, a large portion of opinions expressed in this respect do not appear to understand that a Government can not only violate human rights through action, if it unjustly tramples over its citizens, but also by omission, if it does not act effectively to confront those groups, people, or realities that are against these same rights.

Human rights are not respected if a people are imprudently left exposed to totalitarian aggression, because its triumph means the end of all liberty for the people.

Human rights are also not respected if the life, security, and property of citizens are left to the mercy of terrorism without any government action to mobilize its forces against it.

Human rights, in sum, are not respected if demagoguery is encouraged or tolerated, which obstructs the economic development and social fabric of a nation so that its inhabitants do not have access to a dignified life, an essential right of every human being.

When a Government, like that of Chile, suspends or restricts certain rights in exceptional cases—whether to neutralize and destroy the ideological or terrorist actions of Marxist Leninism or to raise up a country from its moral and material prostration into which it had been plunged by demagoguery—it is not violating human rights but rather it is protecting and reinforcing them.

The protection of the most essential of human rights emerges in such a case, besides being the only means to re-establish, slowly and conveniently, the full exercise of other rights which transitionally needed to be suspended or restricted in light of an abnormal situation.

Only with these basic criteria is it possible to realize a serious, meaningful, and objective analysis about a theme which obliges all of us who believe in the spiritual dignity of human beings, and especially those of us motivated by a conception of humanism that is both national and Christian.

Translated by Jason Dyck. Taken from Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, *Pinochet. Patria y democracia*, 2nd ed. (Santiago: Editorial Andrés Bello, 1985), 55, 57–58.