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## ELECTION IN CHILE

The recent parliamentary elections in Chile resulted in a new sign of democratic faith by the people. The best expression of this continued trend is to be found in the high majorities received by the ideological groups of the center. And in this triumphant sector the man who appears to symbolize the new spirit animating the South American nation is Senator Eduardo Frei, who polled the largest vote in all of Chile.

### Senator Frei Montalva

Eduardo Frei, Christian Democratic senator and head of this vastly increasing movement, now at the peak of his political career, began his rise in Chilean life as Minister of Public Works, when he was 34, followed by his later senatorial performance through the last 8 years. Now, at only 46, he is entering a decisive phase as representative in the Chilean Senate of the most populated voting districts.

His election culminates a long personal struggle to give resonance to the ideals of Christian Democracy, both in Chile and the South American world. After 20 years of intense political activity, exposing and embodying these principles, the young Chilean leader is beginning to gather the fruits of his endeavors and sacrifices. His strong civic following in Santiago is indicative of the attraction which the Frei program and personality are getting in Chile, and may well serve him as a strong basis for a candidacy at next years' Presidential elections.

During his senatorial period Frei developed a political action program that may turn into collective advancement for the almost 7 million Chileans. He has always approached domestic prob-

lems with a realistic outlook, carefully adjusted to the spiritual and material possibilities of Chile. His activities on the political scene have been underlined by a deep democratic conscience and a strict sense of social justice.



Senator Eduardo Frei (left) with August de Schryver and Alfred Coste Floret (right), respectively president and secretary general of NEI, during the World Conference of Christian Democratic Movements last November in Paris.

Throughout his own Chilean experience and helped by repeated trips in Latin America, his visits to the United States and Europe, and his participation as delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations, Frei has gradually formulated an international design which follows the example set by the European Christian Democratic statesmen. His contributions to Inter-American congresses and to economic hemispheric meetings give evidence of the sincere continental ideals originating them. It can be

said that his rise in the Chilean political horizon will project a progressive path, aiming at the unity of American peoples. His speeches, as well as his books and articles, give special stress to the splendid opportunities that the Latin American future holds if cooperative attitudes are chosen similar to the ones already at work in Europe.

### Triumph of Christian Democracy

Thus, Sunday, March 3, was a historical day for the Chilean Christian Democratic Party, Falange Nacional. Twenty years of effort, of struggle, of calumnies by political enemies, yet at the same time constant faith in Christian Social ideas, were at last crowned with great success. When the results of the elections were announced on Monday, March 4, all of Chile was moved by the impressive triumph of Eduardo Frei in Santiago, Carlos Vial in Talca, and of 15 Deputies of Falange Nacional and two of the Conservative Christian Party which is federated with Falange.

### Christian Democrats Elected

In Santiago, Eduardo Frei obtained an impressive majority of votes — 65,000 against 47,000 for the Radical Faivovich, 41,000 for the Liberal Alessandri and 25,000 for the Conservative Larrain. In the evening several demonstrations were held in the streets of Santiago proclaiming Frei the next president of Chile.

The Deputies of Falange Nacional who were elected to the Chamber were: Pedro Muga of Tarapaca; Juan Carmona of Antofagasta; Renan Fuentealba of Coquimbo; Eugenio Ballesteros of Valparaiso; Rafael A. Gumucio of Santiago (President of Falange Nacional who received the largest vote in Santiago); Jose Mu- salem of Santiago; Jorge Ditt-

born Pinto of Santiago; Alfredo Losca of Santiago; Tomas Reyes Vicuna of Santiago (Secretary General of the Christian Democratic Organization of America who received the largest vote in all of Chile); Pedro Videla of Santiago; Jose Isla of O'Higgins; Eugenio Cruz of Talca; Jaime Concha of Linares; Constantino Suarez of Cautin; Ignacio Palma of Valdivia.

The Social Christian Conservative Deputies elected were Patricio Hurtado of Maule and Tomas Pablo of Concepcion.

### Plans for the Future

Thus Christian Democracy will be one of the strongest forces in the newly elected Chilean Parliament. The governing Ibanists lost all their seats, and the conservative Agrarian Labor Party, which supports the Government, fell from 27 to 10 Deputies. The extreme leftist FRAP, composed of Socialists, Communists and

Democrats, was reduced from 37 to 24 Deputies. The Liberal and Radical Parties both augmented their representation to 35 and 27 seats respectively. The extreme rightist United Conservative Party maintained its parliamentary representation, especially in the rural areas controlled by the big landowners, but it lost heavily in the popular vote and in the number of Deputies in Santiago.

One of the important results of this election will be the formation in the near future of the Christian Democratic Party of Chile which will have over 20 parliamentary representatives in the 147-seat Chamber of Deputies and the 45-member Senate, thus becoming the fourth largest Chilean political party among the 19 represented in Parliament. The Christian Democratic parliamentary group will propose Senator Eduardo Frei Montalva as its presidential candidate in the election of 1958.

**Roberto Marchant**

The growing number of spies makes life unbearable again.

The only political organization in the country is the rearranged Communist Party, the so-called Workers Socialist Party, which includes only 20 to 30 percent of the pre-revolution Communist Party. This "new" party has completely lost its voice, leadership, self-confidence and program. More than ever it is based on naked terror. Other parties active during the revolution have completely disappeared from the political scene. The trade unions, workers councils, student councils, all leading forces in the revolution, have been overthrown again and dissolved.

The economic situation is worse than ever. The productivity of Hungarian concerns continues to be insufficient owing to lack of raw materials, power and the will to work. Half of the agricultural preparation due during the fall season has remained unfinished, while 60 per cent of the kolchozes have been dissolved.

Cultural life is completely silenced. Freedom of the press is once more suppressed. Anything that might harm the government is forbidden. The Church leaders who took over during the revolution cannot function. Cardinal Mindszenty is still in the American Legation where he took refuge, and Protestant Bishop Ravasz had to resign again. Religious instruction in the schools, which was reestablished during the revolution, has been made impossible.

### Passive Resistance

The attitude of the population toward the regime is one of absolute rejection. With the possible exception of some persons wishing to make a career for themselves at any price, the people form one solid block of resistance against the government. They can expect a continuation of the terror and they are frightened, but their fear is different from that existing before the revolution. There is more daring and defiance than ever before and the people are more conscious of their power. Everyone feels that with-

## ALL "QUIET" IN HUNGARY

Four months after the outbreak of the Hungarian revolution there appears to be peace in the country — at least on the surface. There are no loud clashes, no public and mass demonstrations, no general strikes.

### Change of Attitude

Order has been restored and is guarded by the Soviet Army which, while serving as body-guard for a bankrupt political system, is the real master of the country. This assignment is executed through severe and war-like methods. The relationship between the Soviet Army and the Hungarian population has changed since the revolution. After twelve years of occupation and interference, there is now open animosity and hostility against the Russians. During the revolution hundreds of soldiers, even whole Soviet units, joined the Hungarian people in the fight against the hated secret police.

But now these feelings and behavior have completely changed.

### Politics and Economics

In the shadow of the Soviet Army the terror machine has been reestablished. The AVH, the despised secret police, has been reorganized and a new political police consisting of former members of the AVH has been set up. In addition, a so-called workers militia has been organized including the remnants of the officers' corps of the army and party functionaries. Terror is growing and becoming more and more systematized. At first only Freedom Fighters were liquidated, but now everyone who had any connection with the revolution is prosecuted, no matter if he was active on the spiritual or cultural plane. Only a few of the trials have been held in public; most of the victims of this new terror machine disappear without any publicity or formal procedure.