Chilean revolutionary vows to return to free land

Reporter's Notebook

Daniel J. Glenn G is an architecture student who recently returned from his third trip to Nicaragua where he worked as a volunteer architect for five months. This is the third in a series of articles for The Tech relating his experiences.

By Daniel J. Glenn

"Four-hundred thousand dollars were made available from the CIA director's secret contingency fund and earmarked for the (1970) Chilean election operation. Despite the CIA's covert action program, Salvador Allende received a plurality in the September 1970 popular vote. Attempts were made to undermine Allende through continued propaganda, by encouraging a military coup d'etat, and by trying to enlist the support of private US firms, namely ITT, in a scheme to sabotage Chile's economy. Almost three years to the day after Allende's election, he was overthrown and killed in a bloody coup d'etat. His Marxist government was replaced by a military junta. - The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence"

"The Allende government tried to change the existing imbalance of power so that the majority of the people in the country could share in its wealth."

I was in the mountains for three months after the coup d'etat but it was more running than fighting. We tried to setup a guerrilla war but it was impossible. We thought ideologically that we could fight against the coup but we weren't ready to do it. We knew there was no point in giving in to a fascist military without resistance. The military was looking for me as an internal enemy and as such they would punish me without trial, without conscience. The military was looking for me as an internal enemy and as such they would punish me without trial, without conscience."

Q: Could you please explain your role in the struggle against Pinoche?

A: I suggest you speak to a local parish priest. Since the disastrous failure of Chile's revolutionary country in my point of view. And I will be here until I am allowed to go back to my own country.

Q: What events would have to occur in Chile to allow you to return?

A: The fascist regime of Pinochet would have to undergo a remarkable transformation. Everything Pinochet goes is in trouble with world opinion. He allows a few exits to return to diffuse the pressure against him.

But in 1984, he published a list of five thousand of the original one million or so that were killed in 1973 that could never return. I'm on that list.

Q: Could you explain your role in the struggle against Pinochet that led to your exile?

A: The strength of Pinochet's army was so great that the most we could do was try to save our lives."

Q: Could you describe yourself as a revolutionary?

A: Yes, I have described myself as a revolutionary. To be a revolutionary is to love people... and when you love somebody you wish the best for them. So if they are suffering from exploitation or injustice you have to do something to change that situation. As a revolutionary, my dream is to see my country free, to see the Latin American people working towards freedom, to see the African peoples without starvation, to see the 15 or 15 million unemployed in Europe with work and a future, to see the black and the Indians in the U.S. with equal rights, to see the end of the exploitation of one man to another and so on. Maybe since I'm 48 there is no time to see this but maybe for my son or grandson.

Q: Could you explain in your opinion why the Sandinistas succeeded in getting rid of fascist rule while Chile did not?

A: I can tell you more or less why we were defeated in Chile - temporarily defeated. (laughs)

But to explain why the Nicaraguan Revolution succeed-

ed I will just ask you to come here and see these people and you will know why they succeeded.

We failed because we mistakenly believed that social change through the vote was a reality. In fact, when we used that right they accused us of "being enemies of the country, servants of the International Communist Conspiracy" and all those things Reagan says against the Nicaraguan people now.

The Pinochet dictatorship, with the support of the US government, killed 30 thousand people, exiled one million and suspended human rights.

Q: Could you compare the US role in Chile in 1970 to its role in Nicaragua?

A: Well, the only comparison I can make is that the CIA used more subtle and intelligent means to intervene in our business. In Nicaragua, it's more brutal, stupid and shameless intervention in a tiny poor nation with the same excuse to save the people from communism. It doesn't matter if they are starving and landless and return to the time of Somoza as long as they are not communist... Reagan should explain to the campaigners here in Nicaragua what communism is.

Q: You have described yourself as a revolutionaries. Could you please explain what it means to be a "revolutionary"?

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