

March 25, 1975

AUTHOR Paul Sigmund.

Title

Reader: RICARDO LAGOS

1. The book is an important description of Chile's <sup>political life</sup> ~~last~~ 10 years
  - a) It will be useful to those interested in the political system of Chile. - There is no new "interpretations" of what happened. Sources are those that everybody in the field is using.
  - b) I doubt ~~that~~ that may be useful to scholars in other fields since the book is mainly a description, perhaps with the exception of the last chapter. -
2. Yes. - There are some minor errors that I have ~~listed~~ <sup>in</sup> appended. - In many cases quotations are rather one-sided, <sup>that is, sources unsympathetic for Allende</sup>, but I do not think that this is the fault of the author. -
3. Yes. Those 10 years covers <sup>very</sup> an important time in modern Chilean history and the framework used by the author is appropriate to understand what happened.
4. I do not think that I am qualified to comment on the style. Nevertheless, it seems to me very clear. -
5. There is no question that the book will be

an important one. Most of the books ~~are~~ already published are very "emotional". While it is possible to realize where are the sympathies of the author, he ~~tries~~ tries very hard to present an "objective" view of the situation.

6. I do not think that there is any overlap with other books. First, because this is the first attempt - to my knowledge - to present a general description of the Frei, Allende and Military junta regimes with ~~some explanation~~; Second, most of the many books being published on Chile deals with some particular aspect of that society (v. gr. Moran's book on copper in Chile) and third, because many publications are an attempt to present some particular points of view of the author, in ~~this case, the authors try to present~~ or theories on why Frei or Allende failed; here, the authors only in a ~~very~~ implicit way ~~attempts~~ give some interpretation. This is primarily a book on facts; not on why or how those facts took place. -

List of errors, and some comments. -  
on Sigmund's book.

Page 10

Constitution in 1891 was not "amended". It was only reinterpreted

# ~~"Every president benefited of having election";~~

34 Law for the Defense of Democracy was repealed in 1958 (not in 1956)

34 3rd line from the bottom: - The Radical party ruled 14 years; not 16. -

44 Devaluation was in December 1961 and not in October 1962

83.- I am not sure on Frei proposal to recognize CUT. This was made under Allende.

90 The Radical Party had Conventions every two years; not "annually". -

99 "a provision later used by Allende government to postpone all land distribution indefinitely"  
This statement seems to be too strong, because some land was distributed in an individual basis. -

224 In November 1969 ~~Schering~~<sup>Boeminger</sup> was elected rector and had a majority at the Superior Council of the University because of the role played by the "Varguistas." The election that the author is referring took place in June 1971. -

- p. 261 ff. - where is the "proof" of Frei's popularity by 1970?
- 303 Allende was president of the Senate only once; he was vice-president during the early 50's. -
- 373 Allende's assertion that "he was not president of all Chileans" should have at least a footnote since a polemic developed around it. Out of context it had a different meaning. -
- 388 Allende, because of the Constitutional amendment could not postpone his decision on excess profits beyond September 28, 1971. Therefore he did not "prejudge". -
- 419 Tohá's impeachment is very important and mention should be made to his defense. Only the arguments of the opposition are presented. The "envoque" was questioned by the opposition, but the Constitutional Tribunal sentenced that was legal. -
- 436 The Government as such, has nothing to do with the CVT election. Charges by the PDC were made against the UP political parties, which is, to some extent, a different story. -
- 437 To give full credit to the Libro Blanco with regard to the sueltos cubanos seems not fair, since the main actors are dead or in jail. -
- 445 if "blockade" is inaccurate, what is it?
- 476 The first reference to Allende's determination was made in a speech at the National Stadium during Castro's visit in December 1971.

544. "The ~~initial~~ initiation of judicial actions against the Ministers of Interior"... It was against the Minister Secretary General of Government, Amal Palma. -
544. - What answered Allende to the Supreme Court?
584. - The "policy of penetration" in the Armed Forces is presented as a fact. This seems ~~rather~~ ~~not~~ not very clear given the only source quoted (Libro Blanco)
699. - Careful consideration should be given to these denunciations. For instance, almost 10 months later, the wife of the communist manager of Chiquicasta was allowed to print a letter in El Mercurio where ~~to~~ the military chief certified that it was not true the story ~~of~~ that the manager was apprehended with some money. On the contrary, he presented voluntarily to the new authorities. I think that this comments - if are going to be printed - should be balanced with other comments about the "new" morality of the "new regime".
718. - Carlos Lazo was Vice-President of the Banco del Estado, not head of the Central Bank. -