

# Letters

## [COMMITTEE FOR CHILE]

Editors / The military putsch of September 11th in Chile, and the massive repression of her citizenry, has a special relevance for us. For Chile was one of the few remaining parliamentary democracies in the world, and its destruction reveals, once again, how precarious are the freedoms we take for granted, when their exercise threatens vested interests. Under the military junta, as your readers know, thousands have been incarcerated and countless persons summarily executed; the universities have been put under the control of military officials and faculties purged of "dissidents"; parties have been indefinitely "recessed," parliament has been dissolved; senators, deputies, mayors, aldermen, civil servants, trade unionists, students, teachers, cabinet ministers, and vast numbers of workers have been subjected to interrogation, torture, imprisonment, death, and, if fortunate, forced exile. Hundreds crowd the few embassies which have been willing to grant "shelter" or asylum (ours is not one of them) to individuals requesting it. Few such persons have received the regime's pledge of safe-conduct out of the country, and some who do, are, in fact, arrested or shot, on emerging from their places of refuge.

The U.S. Committee for a Democratic Chile has been established with the following purposes:

1. To provide assistance to individuals whose lives, liberties, incomes, or property

have been endangered by the September 11 putsch and related events. Financial assistance will be provided for legal defense, transportation, relocation, sustenance, rehabilitation, medical care, and aid in obtaining employment.

2. To gather and publicly disseminate reliable and valid information concerning the personal, civil, and political liberties of residents in Chile, and to activate public opinion in order to eliminate any restrictions on such liberties imposed by the military regime.

3. To provide assistance to other organizations and individuals engaged in similar and related humanitarian efforts.

Funds have already been disbursed by the Committee and debts assumed well in excess of the actual resources available, guaranteed from the personal income of Committee officers and associates. The Committee hopes to obtain tax-exempt status, and IRS approval making contributions to it tax-deductible, but such approval is still pending.

Your check, in the largest amount you can afford, should be made out to the U.S. Committee for a Democratic Chile, at P.O. Box 5341, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

Professor Maurice Zeitlin  
Madison, Wisc.

*Editors Note: Maurice Zeitlin, a former editor of Ramparts, is now a professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin. He has written and edited numerous books and articles on Chile and Latin America.*

## [VICTOR JARA, CHILEAN]

Unlike Lorca, he wasn't shot  
By accident.  
He called the roll of massacres  
Too often in his songs.  
(Your voice rustles in the wind  
Through the dry grass.)  
He chose the wrong heroes:  
The warrior priest crucified by bullets,  
Taking up violence against  
Starvation.  
(Your voice whispers in gray dust  
By the new slogans on the walls.)  
So he deserved to die,  
After a beating or two,  
His death unreported,  
Generally.  
"Watch for guerrillas coming . . ."  
New grass rustles in the sun.  
"It was just a lie  
That they could kill everyone."

Mary Schneider  
Hollister, Calif.

## [VIETNAM PRISONERS]

Editors / The Official Saigon "White Paper" on political prisoners, quoted in Mr. Brannan's article (Vietnam: The POWs We Left Behind, Dec. 1973) mirrors the public relations hand-outs prepared by the U.S. Bureau

of Prisons to describe their stateside facilities.

It is not widely known that, shortly after the media exposed the tiger cages at Con Son, the U.S. Government sent a team of five Bureau of Prisons employees to act as "advisors" to the Saigon government. Innovations in the treatment of prisoners after 1970 can probably be attributed to the fine hand of these federal prison hacks (most were middle level supervisory personnel).

My experience within the federal prison system leads me to believe that the team's main advice to Saigon was to slow down the overt mistreatment that left marks and emphasize more subtly destructive means: i.e., it is not necessary to beat a prisoner to cripple him—just immobilize him. The promise of "open-ness to reporters" is a ploy used by Director Carlson today: while his attorneys battle reportorial efforts to secure information and interviews from inside the 30 foot walls.

Trammeling upon the Constitution and bald-faced lying, recently revealed in our Capitol, have been long practiced by those who have styled themselves as "correctors" and "rehabilitators."

A. Robert Freeley  
New York, N.Y.

## [MISSING]

Editors / After learning that two of Mr. Nixon's tapes are missing, we have now been informed that a recording of his recollections about one of them is also missing. How can someone's recollection of events be missing, unless this is a subtle way of leading up to an announcement that Mr. Nixon's memory is missing?

From there it's just one more step to the final escalation of this dilemma: Mr. Nixon will be missing (but not missed) after claiming to suffer from amnesia, which is as good a medical reason as any to step down.

Jonathan Quick  
Berkeley, Calif.

## [SAVE NIXON]

Editors / The American Left of course has many reasons for getting rid of President Nixon but I think we should look before we leap. At this point Nixon may be one of the most valuable allies in the bringing about of revolution in this country.

(1) By keeping Nixon in power, the present political system will be so thoroughly poisoned and corrupted and the people so disgusted, that it will be much more ripe for a complete overhaul than otherwise. One Nixon from within can wreak far more havoc than a whole army of revolutionaries attacking the citadel of capitalism from without. He's our secret weapon, a Trojan horse the conservatives have unwittingly drug into the bowels of the state.

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the system and prolong the Republic's death agony just that much longer. It can only be in the conservatives' best interest to jettison Nixon and thereby preserve the status quo. It's in *our* best interest to keep him alive and sick in Washington.

(2) If Nixon remains, the power center of the American empire will be so crippled, it will be much more difficult to maintain, let alone expand, that empire. The forces of imperialism will at last be slowed down if not stopped altogether. Already conservative columnists like Joseph Alsop are alarmed by the President's inability to get funds to continue the growth of the U.S. military establishment. It should be our aim to keep that inability intact. With Nixon gone, his successor will be able to resume a much more aggressive foreign policy.

So let's join hands with the reactionaries, our secret allies and block impeachment.

L. Ward  
Long Beach, Calif.

#### [INFORMERS DEFENDED]

Editors/I really don't need Paul Jacobs to explain to me that the traditional American mind finds the word "informant" to be somewhat repugnant. ["Informers: The Enemy Within," *Ramparts*, Aug.-Sept. 1973] For what other reason would the newspapers and magazines hide behind a euphemism and refer to its "informants" as "news sources"? Hell—the media wouldn't want its readers to think they get their information from untested "news sources"

such as disgruntled and dishonest employees, jealous neighbors and vindictive former spouses.

Col. Norman L. Dodge  
Deputy Director  
A.S.I. Police  
International, Inc.  
Riverdale, Maryland

#### [THE THIRD SEX]



Editors/I am writing this to dissociate myself and my work from James Nolan's "The Third Sex" in your December issue, at the beginning of which he quotes, without permission, from my poem "The Stranger." Nolan's language and attitudes epitomize the kind of "dead language" and thought which impelled me to write the poem; they are the products of a masculinist, role-obsessed culture and in no way transcend it. A fascination with costume, "life-style" and surface impressions is reflected in the star-struck narcissism of Nolan's anecdotes

("There I was, with my hair almost down to my waist, my arms braceleted, my fingers gleaming with silver rings, my eyes lined with Moroccan kohl dust ... as Valerie, Christina and I lie swaying ... in a huge mothy hammock in my fern-hung and straw-filled bedroom" etc., etc.). Yet Nolan wants his readers to believe that "the new androgyny ... involves coming out of the attic of our fantasies and into the world of real people." Meanwhile, he asserts, we have already passed through the "phase" of Women's Liberation, which he characterizes on the one hand by women smoking cigars and on the other as homosexual panic.

Nolan's references to women betray the real shallowness beneath the glitter-strewn surfaces of his essay. His "pansexual" women are described in almost banally sexist terms: "a svelte, sliding tropical beauty"; "a willowy creature." He refers to "straight" women with condescension and ill-disguised contempt, as I would likewise expect him to refer to non-swinging, monogamous lesbians. Nolan affects to know (and to have transcended) what is "masculine" and what is "feminine" and this licenses him to drop such Playboy/Esquire phrases as "She is a wild beauty ... 'she walks like a woman but talks like a man': she's intelligent, politically aware" and, "Now the two sides of him, the masculine keep-things-together and walk-proud, and the feminine soft, sensitive and flamboyant, flow in a natural balance."


It is becoming clearer every day that the *idea* of "androgyny" whether as a sexual supermarket or as instant "human liberation," is being used as yet another quick solution to the radical and enormously complex human problem of sexual caste and patriarchal power. For those—primarily and overwhelmingly women at present—who are trying to work with those issues at their deepest, most painful, personal and political level, "androgyny" is fast becoming a dead word, an escape-slogan, a new layer exposed in the accretions of sexism underlying all patriarchal "revolutions."

It is inevitable that a culture so obsessed with appearances—from Nixon's image to Andy Warhol's—should present the lure of revolution-through-cosmetics, through hairstyle, through media stars, plastic surgery and sex change. Nolan gives us yet more of a familiar phenomenon. Meanwhile, in his mind, as in his world, patriarchal attitudes prevail, the true issues of sexual caste and misogyny are evaded and caricatured, and thinking, like language, remains superficial and regressive.

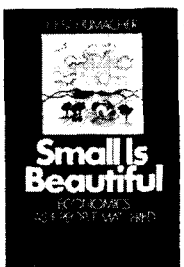
Adrienne Rich  
New York, N.Y.

Editors/It's hard to find the words to express just what we feel about *Ramparts* printing such drivel as the "Third Sex" except to say: why don't you change your name to the *Barb*, *Georgia Straight*, or *L.A. Free Press*.

It's not that we don't think the subject is an important one. On the contrary, it is (Continued on page 56)



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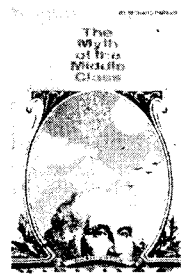
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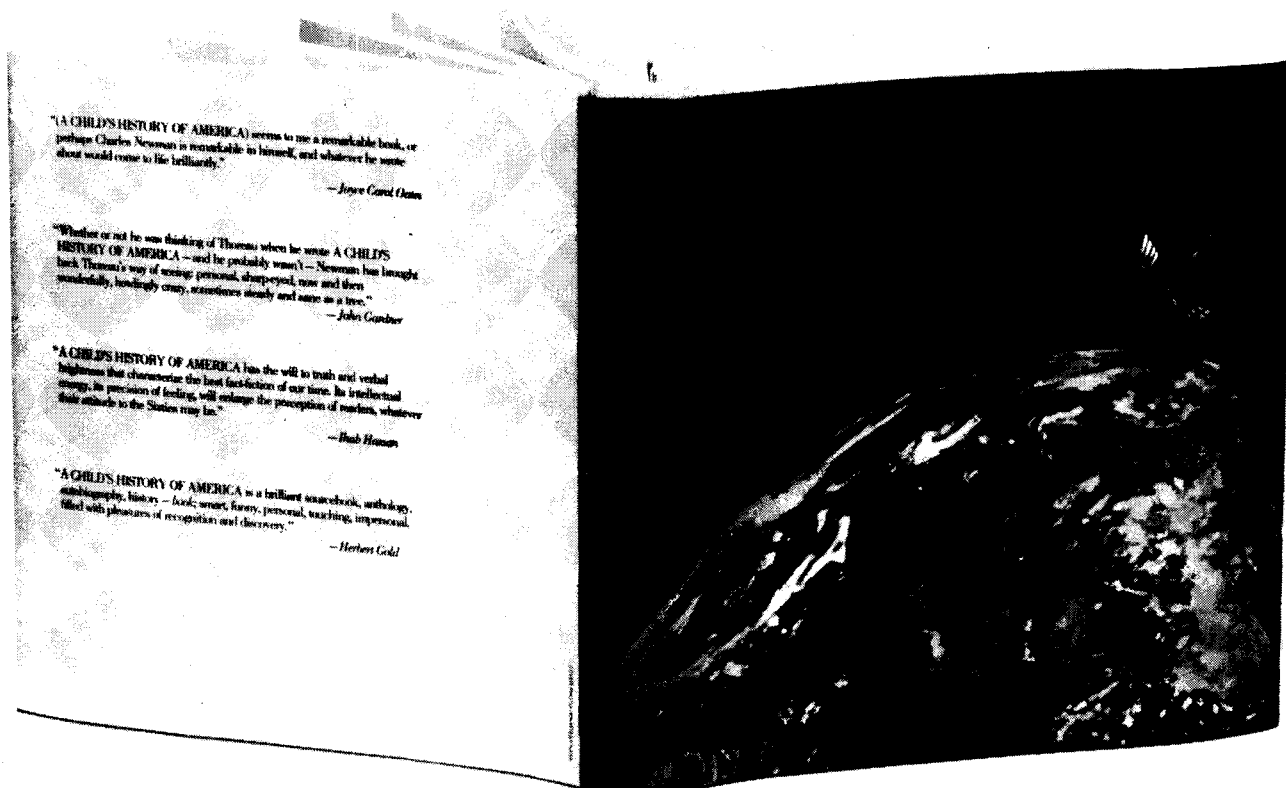
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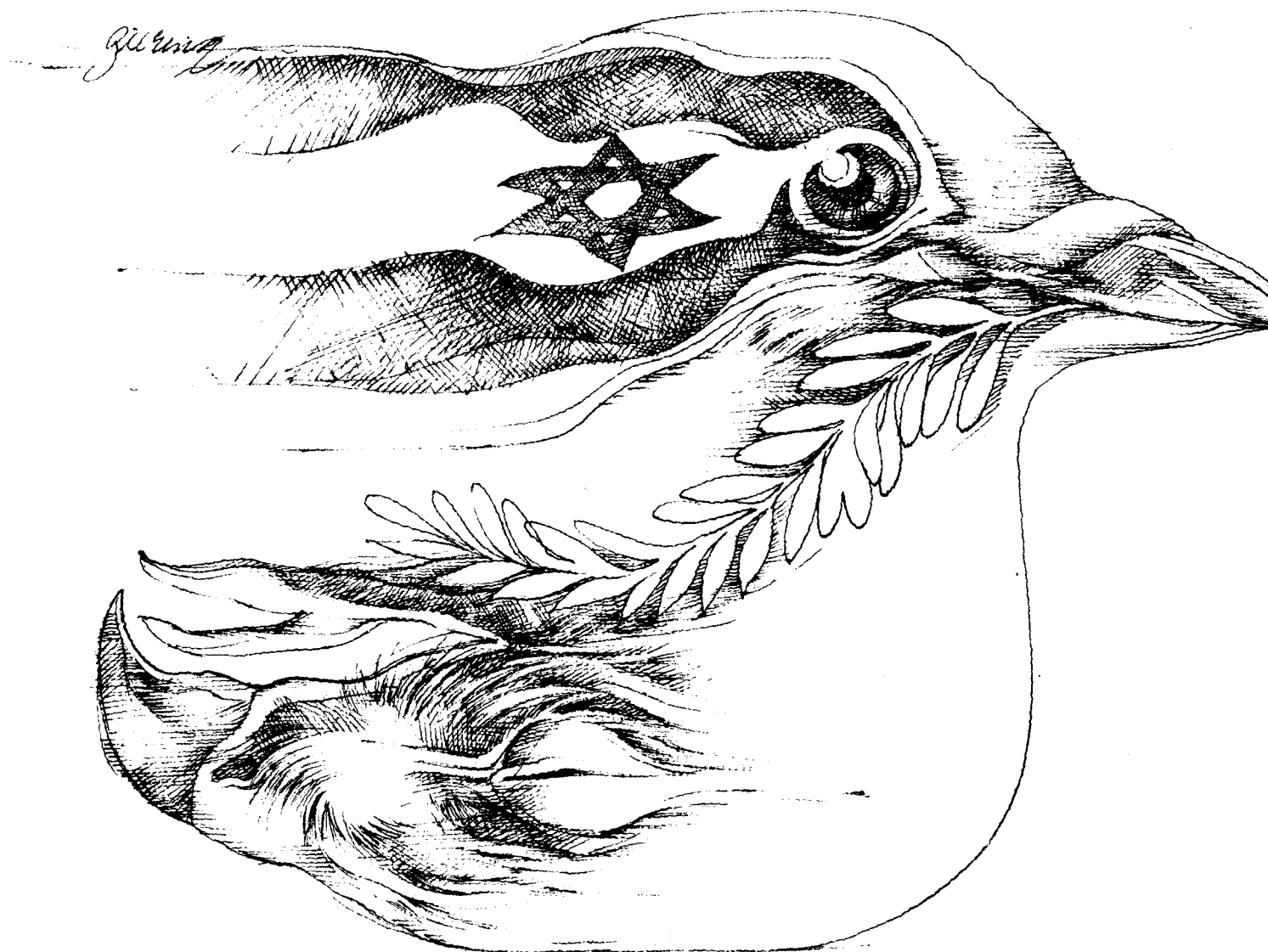
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## A Time to Make Peace

If one believes in the future of Israel in the Middle East—and I do—one has to be a dove. In other words, one has to strive constantly, systematically, for understanding and compromise, for a mutually acceptable *modus vivendi* with our Arab neighbors.

This choice of mine is not merely a question of ethics. I am a dove because I am a realist. I know the hawkish, tough attitude is usually looked upon as the realistic one, as opposed to the “naive, unrealistic” search for peace.

“Peace is not a dirty word,” once exclaimed an irritated Abba Eban. The question is: is it also a working proposition?

It is strange how many people equate intransigence with realism, despite the fact that history, more often than not, has proven the contrary. This is especially true for the period between the Six-Day War of June 1967 and the Yom Kippur War of October 1973. During those six years Israel’s policies have been increasingly shaped by the so-called realistic ap-

proach of the ruling triumvirate of Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan and Israel Galili, minister without portfolio and Meir’s closest advisor. The famous “Galili Document,” adopted by the government as an election policy only a few weeks before the outbreak of the latest Israeli-Arab war, called for continuation and reinforcement of settlements in the occupied territories.

Now what is left today of the “Galili Document”? Not much, I am afraid. Dayan’s plan for expansion embodied in this document, and which he

by Victor Cygielman