CHILE

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held to renew all the members of the Chamber of Deputies (150) and half of the Senate (25) on the normal expiry of their terms of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Chile, the National Congress, consists of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

The Chamber of Deputies is composed of members elected for 4 years in a ratio of 1 per 30,000 inhabitants. The total number of seats in the 1973 elections was accordingly 150.

The Senate is composed of 50 members elected for 8 years, half of whom are renewed every 4 years.

Electoral System

All citizens of either sex who are at least 18 years of age (lowered from 21 since the previous elections) and who can read and write have the right to vote. They must be inscribed on the eleotoral list of their district. They must not have been condemned for a crime with a sentence in excess of 3 years' imprisonment.

Electoral lists are revised annually. Voting is compulsory except in case of legitimate obstacle (illness, absence, etc.).

To be eligible as Deputy or Senator, the candidate must be a national of Chile and must have the right to vote. He must never have been condemned for a crime subject to afflictive punishment. Deputies must have completed 21, Senators 35 years of age on the date of their election.

Candidates must either be presented by a recognized political party or — if they are independent — by 2,000 electors if the candidate is for election as a Deputy and by 5,000 electors if the candidate is for election as a Senator. Governors and Mayors must resign from their posts 12 months prior to the elections if they wish to be candidates. Ministers, Governors, magistrates of the higher courts, public prosecutors and managers of public entreprises which are contractors of the State may not be elected. A Deputy may not be a

Senator and vice-versa, and no member of the National Congress may hold a public position paid out of public funds.

There are 27 electoral constituencies for Deputies and 10 for Senators.

In each constituency, members of both Chambers are elected on the party-list system, without alliances or vote-splitting but with preferencial vote.

Each voter, who receives a single ballot-paper containing all the lists submitted in the constituency, has 1 vote. This he casts by making a specific mark opposite the name of the candidate he supports on the list of his choosing.

The number of votes obtained by each list is calculated by adding the number of votes cast for its candidates. Seats are then distributed proportionally between the lists according to the d'Hondt method. Should a list thus prove to be entitled to more seats than the number of candidates it submitted, the surplus seats are allocated to the other lists according to the same method.

The seats obtained in each case are then attributed to the candidates who have received most preferential votes on their list.

Where a seat of a Deputy or Senator becomes vacant during the term for which the incumbent was elected, a by-election must be held between 60 and 100 days from the date on which the event causing the vacancy occured.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The elections consisted essentially in the confrontation of 2 alliances of parties: the Confederated Party of the *TJnidad Popular* and the Democratic Confederation, commonly known as the "CODE". The *TJnidad Popular,* led by President of the Republic Salvador Allende, comprised the Communist, Socialist and Radical parties, the Action Movement for Popular Unity (MAPU), the Popular Independent Action and the Christian Left. The CODE comprised the Christian Democrats (headed by ex-President Eduardo Frei), the National Party, the Radical Democrats and the Radical Left. A socialist splinter party, the Socialist Popular Union (USOPO) took an independent stand.

The electoral campaign started on January 18, 1973. The main issue concerned the Government's follow-up to its " constitutional road to socialism " — undertaken since the Communist and other parties of the Left came into power as a result of the election of Mr. Allende as President in 1970. One of the aims of CODE was to obtain two-thirds of the parliamentary seats, which could have permitted it to force President Allende either to resign or to abandon the Marxist-socialist line of the Government coalition.

In the election to the Chamber of Deputies, *Unidad Popular* presented 139 candidates, the CODE 147, and the Socialist Popular Union 30. The number of candidates for the 25 seats available in the Senate was 39.

As a result of the elections, the CODE retained its overall parliamentary majority, with 87 Deputies and 30 Senators. Due to the presidential system prevaihng in the country, however, President Allende remained in power as head of the Government.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Congress*

Number of registered voters .	4,510,060
Voters	3,661,898 (81.2%)
Blank or void ballot papers .	59,539
Valid votes	3,602,359

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats in the Chamber of Deputies	Senate
Democratic Confederation (CODE)	2,003,047	55.60		
— Christian Democrats . .			50	19
— National Party			34	8
— Radical Democrats . .			2	87 (93) 30 (32)
— Radical Left . .			1	3
Unidad Popular. . .	1,589,025	44.11		
— Socialist Party.			I's	
— Communist Party			25	
— Radical Party . .			S	
— Action Movement for Popular Unity (MAPU)			63 (57)	19 (16)
— Popular Independent Action				
— Christian Left . . .				
Socialist Popular Union (USOPO)	10,287	0.29		J_(2)
			150	50

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Lawyers.	28
Farmers.	17
Professors.	17
Physicians and dentists.	16
Engineers.	**11**
Clerks.	10
Workers.	9
Journalists.	8
Merchants.	8
Accountants.	6
Students.	4
Housewives.	4
Industrialists.	3
Social assistants.	2
Others.	7
	150

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men .	136
Women	14
	150

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

21-30.	**9**
31-40.	**54**
41-50.	**52**
51-60.	**31**
Over 60.	**4**
	150