

“Milton Friedman Replies: Advising Chile”

by Milton Friedman

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Our committee wishes to express shock and dismay on learning Milton Friedman has been serving as an economic adviser to the Pinochet Chilean junta. It is extremely difficult to reconcile his being permitted to so act while providing regular columns on the U.S. economy for your highly regarded magazine.

Kathryn J. Anderson

Mary Grabow

Florence Heist

Citizens' Committee on Human Rights and Foreign Policy

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*✓ Milton Friedman replies: I am not now, and never have been, an economic adviser to the Pinochet Chilean junta. I spent six days at the end of March 1975 in Chile under the auspices of a private Chilean bank. I gave public lectures and seminars on inflation, talked to many citizens from different walks of life and met with many government officials, including General Pinochet. That was my first and only visit to Chile, and my only contact with Chilean governmental officials.*

*Having set the facts straight, let me add that, despite my sharp disagreement with the authoritarian political system in Chile, I do not regard it as evil for an economist to render technical economic advice to the Chilean government to help end the plague of inflation, any more than I would regard it as evil for a physician to give technical medical advice to the Chilean government to help end a medical plague.*

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Compiled by Robert Leeson and Charles Palm as part of their “Collected Works of Milton Friedman” project.

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