**CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL EVENTS IN THE PU PERIOD**

**1970**

*January*

PU coalition announces candidacy of Allende for presidential elections
Jorge Alessandri and Radomiro Tomic nominated as candidates for National Party and Christian Democrats respectively

*September*

Presidential elections; PU wins 36 per cent of vote, National Party 34 per cent, Christian Democrats 28 per cent; US columnist Jack Anderson later reveals unsuccessful ITT (International Telephone and Telegraphy Corporation) collusion with Christian Democrats and Chilean financial interests to prevent congressional ratification
US State Department expresses ‘dismay’ at Allende’s victory
Run on banks starts financial panic
Christian Democrats demand Allende’s agreement to ‘statute of guarantees’ for existing freedoms and legalities, including ‘integrity of armed forces’

*October*

Allende signs statutes of guarantees; Congress ratifies his election
Suspension of US aid to Chile
Fascist Fatherland and Freedom Party attempts unsuccessfully to kidnap army C-in-C General Schneider, in hope of provoking coup; Schneider killed (CIA involvement later revealed in US Senate hearings)

*November*

Allende inaugurated
Release of all political prisoners; MIR announces ‘critical support’ for PU

Diplomatic relations restored with Cuba

*December*

Land occupations by campesinos in south

**1971**

*January*

Copper nationalization bill; announcement of plans to nationalize coal mines and all banks

*February*

Announcement of plans to nationalize nitrate industry
First symptoms of internal economic boycotts as cattle-ranchers drive their herds into Argentina

*March*

Hostile comments on Chile in Nixon’s foreign-policy statement
Government begins take-over of mainly US-owned copper mines

*April*

Municipal elections; PU wins 50.9 per cent of votes; Christian Democrats and National Party present some joint candidates for first time, winning 44.6 per cent

*May*

First nationalizations of major industries (mainly textile) other than copper

*June*

Leaders of campesino land occupations clash with police
July
Copper nationalization bill unanimously ratified by Congress

August
Formation of Christian Left Party within PU, combining breakaway Christian Democrats and former members of MAPU not committed to Marxist-Leninist position
Minority section of Radical Party leaves PU to form Radical Left Party, aligned with Christian Democrats

October
US copper companies denounce PU compensation terms, which include deductions for excess profits and illegal operations
Government defines proposed public, mixed and private sectors of economy, with former specifying size of companies for nationalization – these would amount to 150 in all

November
Fidel Castro visits Chile

December
Right-wing mass mobilization begins, with ‘march of the empty cooking pots’ by wealthy Santiago housewives in protest against shortages caused by increased demand, due to rising wages

1972

January
First of many Christian Democrat-led congressional censures of PU ministers forces resignation of Jorge Toha, Minister of Interior; on his reappointment to Cabinet, Christian Democrats announce future non-cooperation with government

February
Government specifies 120 companies due for nationalization; Congress passes measures severely restricting legal basis for further nationalizations
US court freezes New York funds of Chilean public agencies in retaliation for PU indemnification terms for US companies

March
CUT promises workers’ active support of government’s nationalization programme
Details published of ITT involvement in attempts to prevent Allende’s ratification; ITT admits authenticity

April
Moderate PU candidate defeated in symptomatic election for rector of University of Chile

May
Confrontation in Concepción between MIR and right-wing activists

June
Talks between government and Christian Democrats, opposed by sectors of PU
Dismissal of Pedro Vuskovic, Economics Minister, closely associated with nationalizations and heavily attacked in right-wing propaganda

July
Suspension of talks between government and Christian Democrats; Christian Democrats and National Party announce joint platform for next year’s congressional elections
In Concepción MIR and sectors of PU hold a Popular Assembly, criticized by Communist Party as departure from legality


**August**

Renewed right-wing demonstrations against government include participation by some Christian Democrat workers

**September**

Kennecott Corporation brings successful legal action in France for seizure of Chilean copper cargo, pending settlement of dispute over indemnification

Attacks on left-wing radio stations; street clashes between right and left in Santiago and Concepción during anniversary celebrations of 1970 elections

**October**

Beginning of strike by Christian Democrat-controlled lorry-owners’ confederation, allegedly over lack of spare parts; shopkeepers and some professionals join strike; state of emergency declared to deal with economic crisis; Christian Democrats refuse discussion of crisis with government; factories threatened with closure occupied and maintained by workers

Army C-in-C General Prats reaffirms constitutional role of military

**November**

Kennecott persuades Dutch and Canadian banks to suspend loans to Chile

New Cabinet appointments include three military officers, among them Prats as Minister of Interior; Christian Left Cabinet members resign over government’s ‘conciliation’

End of lorry-owners’ strike

**December**

US breaks off talks with Chile to renegotiate debt repayments
eighty to forty hectares and forces further ministerial resignations
Assassination attempt on Prats, now clearly identified as leader of non-interventionists in armed forces
*Tancazo* (tank regiment revolt), supported by Fatherland and Freedom Party; workers resist with factory occupations; revolt put down within a few hours; Congress refuses Allende’s request for full emergency powers
End of El Teniente strike
Renewal of lorry-owners’ strike, allegedly in protest at lack of spares but also against PU proposals for state transport system

*July*
Sectors of CUT dispute government decision to return to owners factories occupied during *tancazo*
Allende agrees to Christian Democrat demand for implementation by army of laws for arms searches; Allende and Christian Democrats reopen talks for constitutional solution of political crisis

*August*
Christian Democrats break off talks with Allende and declare support for lorry-owners’ strike
Shopkeepers and professional groups join lorry-owners’ strike in increasing numbers; strike leaders demand government’s resignation
Sabotage on power lines and railways
Arms search laws increasingly used by military to intimidate workers
Three military men, including Prats, join Cabinet
Sailors and workers at Valparaiso naval base denounce plans for coup by navy; Cabinet criticized for lack of action over their detention and torture by naval intelligence
Armed confrontation between Communist Party and Christian Democrat supporters in neighbourhood of Congress, which accuses Allende of violating constitution; deputies call on armed forces ‘to choose between executive and legislature’

Resignation of military Cabinet members; Prats also resigns as C-in-C of army; Allende charges opposition with risking civil war and encouraging military intervention
Right-wing papers and radio station openly demand military intervention; Congress rejects Bill for their closure
Mounting sabotage and terrorism, especially by Fatherland and Freedom Party

*September*
Demonstration in Santiago in support of PU on third anniversary of elections reckoned at half a million people; Allende warns of plot to overthrow PU
Allende appeals to Christian Democrats for resumption of talks; they reply with demands for his resignation
On the eleventh PU overthrown by coordinated military coup; Allende and advisers killed, following Air Force attack on Moneda Palace; sporadic armed resistance, mass arrests and executions, banning of all left-wing political parties, suspension of basic democratic and human rights; declaration by General Pinochet, leader of new military junta, of intention to ‘eliminate every trace of Marxism from Chile’