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Chile: Communist Newspaper El Siglo Resumes Publication After Nearly 16 Years

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On Sept. 4, the newspaper El Siglo resumed publication after a hiatus of nearly 16 years. At the time of the 1973 coup, El Siglo was the official newspaper of the Chilean Communist Party. On Sept. 13, 1973, the paper's offices were surrounded by soldiers, its equipment confiscated and staff arrested. El Siglo is initially due to appear twice a month. At a press conference, newspaper director Andres Lagos, editor Guillermo Torres, and alternate president of the Colegio de Periodistas, Jorge Richards, emphasized the importance of El Siglo's return toward strengthening press freedoms in Chile. In addition to notable communist militants, such as Luis Barria, painter Jose Balmes, writer Poli Delano, and song writer Mauricio Redobles, the newspaper's editorial board also includes Christian Democrat attorney, Jose Galeano. In its first issue, Galeano wrote that El Siglo reappears "not as an official mouthpiece of the Communist Party, but as a pluralist expression of all sectors who are honestly disposed to reconstruct a civilized national coexistence." El Siglo is the second leftist publication to make a reappearance this year. A month ago the magazine Punto Final, linked to the Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria (MIR) resumed publication. (Basic data from Notimex, DPA, 09/04/89)

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