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- Dirt Resistant (Teflon) Protection
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- Loveseat \$49
- Recliner \$39

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Each Area

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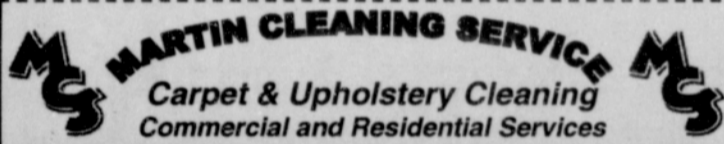
#### UPHOLSTERY COUPON

Sofa (under 6 ft)

\$69

Loveseat or Chair

\$49



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## Pinochet Put Under House Arrest

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who once ruled Chile unchallenged, was put under house arrest Wednesday after he was formally notified that he faces homicide and kidnapping charges.

Angry supporters of the former ruler shouted insults as two vehicles carrying court officials and police officers sped to Pinochet's countryside home in Bucalemu, 80 miles southwest of Santiago, to serve him notice that Judge Juan Guzman indicted him and ordered his house arrest.

The procedure marked the enforcement of Monday's house arrest order, meaning that Pinochet must remain confined to his countryside residence.

Lawyers for the 85-year-old former

dictator, meanwhile, continued to prepare their appeals to try to have the charges and the arrest order annulled.

Members of Pinochet's legal team and several right-wing politicians were inside the house as the notice was served.

Retired Gen. Luis Cortes, one of Pinochet's closest associates, urged the demonstrators, who chanted pro-Pinochet slogans, to remain calm and allow the notification to be completed.

The charges filed by Guzman on Monday stem from the "Caravan of Death," one of the most notorious cases of human rights abuses during Pinochet's 1973-90 dictatorship.

The caravan was a military group that executed 75 political prisoners shortly after the 1973 coup led by Pinochet. The remains of 18 of the

victims were never recovered.

Pinochet's lawyers were planning to appeals on two fronts, according to lawyer Ambrosio Rodriguez.

Rodriguez told state television that one appeal will insist that Pinochet's old age and poor health prevent him from properly defending himself, thus violating his constitutional right to a just trial.

Chilean penal law only exempts people from trial if they are declared insane or demented, but not for physical illness.

Pinochet lawyers have argued, unsuccessfully so far, that the right to a fair trial is granted by the constitution, which prevails over penal law.

Pinochet suffers from "moderate dementia," according to medical tests ordered by Guzman earlier this month.

In indicting Pinochet, the judge

ruled that that mental condition "reduces, but not eliminates," his capacity to stand trial.

"In spite of his physical troubles, his advanced age and his motion problems, he understands questions posed to him and answers clearly," the judge added.

A second appeal, lawyer Rodriguez said, will seek to prove that the indictment issued by Guzman "is baseless" because the judge lacks proof against Pinochet.

Guzman held Pinochet responsible for the caravan because its commander, Gen. Sergio Arellano, was acting as his personal envoy.

Another retired general, Joaquin Lagos, who commanded one of the military regions where most of the killings occurred, recently said Pinochet was responsible.

## Kidnapped American Oil Worker Found Dead in Ecuador Jungle

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) A U.S. oil worker who was kidnapped last year with seven other foreigners in Ecuador's jungles was found dead, shot in the back. A sheet covering his body said he was killed because the oil company refused to pay a ransom, authorities said Thursday.

Police identified the victim as Ronald Sander, a technician for Helmerich & Payne Inc., based in Tulsa, Okla. He and the others were kidnapped in October.

Dressed in khaki-colored overalls and leather boots, Sander's body was covered with a white sheet, emblazoned with the words in Spanish: "I am a gringo. For non-payment of ransom. HP company."

According to a police report,

Sander was found with five gunshot wounds to the back Wednesday in an isolated jungle region known as El Condor, about 110 miles northeast of the capital, Quito. A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Quito said he was aware of the report but declined to comment.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Ron Sander and extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends," said Hans Helmerich, the company's president and chief executive officer.

"Ron had over 24 years of faithful service to the company and his loss will be felt throughout our organization," Sander, 54, worked as a toolpusher on a Helmerich & Payne drilling rig when he was abducted, the company said. Sander is from Missouri, but Helmerich & Payne declined to release his hometown.

Officials said the company had been working for four months to attempt to win the release of Sander and the other hostages.

Sander, whose body was flown back to Quito, was one of five Americans seized Oct. 12 from oil camps in Ecuador's El Coca region, about 150 miles east of Quito.

The other Americans have been identified as David Bradley, of Casper, Wyo., an oil field platform foreman for Helmerich & Payne; and Arnold Alford, Steve Derry and Jason Weber, all employees of the Oregon-based Erickson Air-Crane Co., and residents of Gold Hill, Ore.

Also among the kidnap victims are a Chilean, an Argentine and a New Zealander. Two Frenchmen also were seized, but escaped days later.

Ecuadorian authorities have said in recent months that negotiations with the kidnapers — thought to be a criminal gang — had stalled over the amount of ransom demanded.

Oil industry and military sources have told The Associated Press that the kidnapers are strongly suspected in deadly dynamite attacks in December against the country's main oil pipeline.

A top oil company executive,

speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press last month that the blasts began after a demand for \$12 million was met with a counter-offer of \$500,000.

Soon after, the first explosion hit Dec. 9, destroying a section of pipeline in an isolated jungle area, 83 miles northeast of Quito.

The executive said negotiations resumed by radio after the kidnapers made contact from their secret location, demanding "a lesser amount," which the executive declined to specify. The negotiators made a counteroffer of \$800,000, which the kidnapers also turned down.

Another round of blasts on Dec. 12 followed, one of which killed eight passengers in a passing bus and seriously injured 19 others.

Authorities believe the kidnapers are members of the same criminal gang that held seven Canadians and an American for ransom for 100 days in late 1999. Alberta-based United Pipeline Systems has never confirmed reports that it paid \$3.5 million for the release of its

## Cuba Frees Czech Citizens After They Admit Breaking Law

HAVANA (AP) — Two prominent Czechs jailed for more than three weeks in communist Cuba headed home Tuesday after they admitted breaking the law in a case that strained relations between two former Cold War-era allies.

Czech lawmaker Ivan Pilip and Jan Bubenik were arrested Jan. 12 after meeting with Cuban dissidents. They were released Monday night after crafting an admission signed before diplomats from several nations.

Havana had accused Pilip, 37, a former finance minister, and Bubenik, 32, a former student leader, of traveling to Cuba on behalf of American interests, accusations that U.S. authorities called "ludicrous."

The pair met with dissidents after flying in from a meeting with representatives from Freedom House, a pro-democracy group that receives money from both the U.S. govern-

ment and private sources. Freedom House has declined comment on whether it was involved in the Czechs' trip to Cuba.

Tension between the two countries ran high in recent weeks, with Cuban President Fidel Castro calling the Czech embassy in Havana "a cave of spies," which had "spent 10 years spying." The Czechs could have faced up to 20 years in prison if convicted of acting against Cuba's security and inciting a rebellion.

Pilip and Bubenik's admission, which they drafted Sunday, said they came to Cuba of their own accord and that they didn't know their activities on the island would be considered subversive and illegal, Johnson said.

They acknowledged "that they violated national law and if that violation had offended the Cuban people then they ask for forgiveness," said Juan Pablo Letelier, a Chilean con-

gressman and president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's human rights committee, at an airport news conference. The statement was not made available.

In Prague, Czech Foreign Minister Jan Kavan expressed relief at their release. He stressed that they were freed without the official Czech apology Castro demanded. "We have no reason to apologize," Kavan said.

Czech President Vaclav Havel invited them to visit him Wednesday. In Cuba, the Communist Party daily Granma did not mention the Czechs' release.

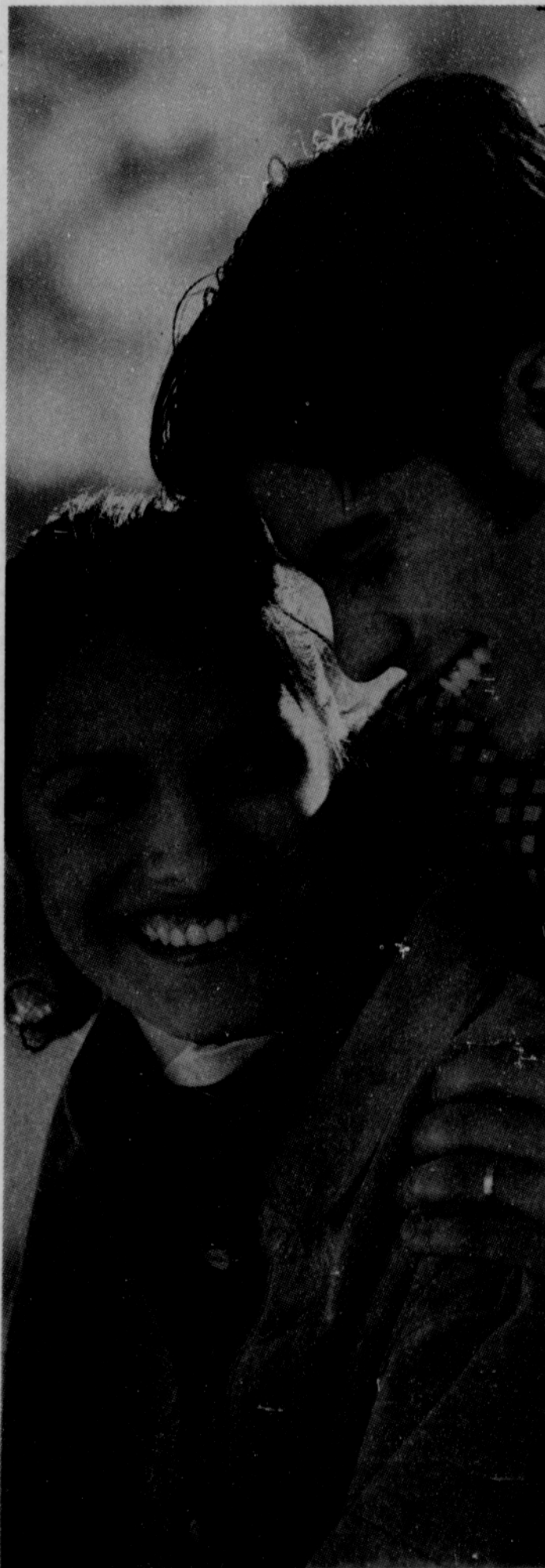
Cuban authorities remain furious about the Czech Republic's role last year in introducing a U.N. resolution to condemn Cuba for its human rights record. Poland, another former socialist ally, cosponsored the resolution, which was later approved at a meeting in Geneva.

## Centro Mexicano's Annual Partnership and Networking Celebration

In its first two years of operation, Centro Mexicano, the nonprofit Mexican Cultural Center of Oregon has established numerous partnerships with educators, businesses, artists and social service agencies. These organizations have used the center's

resources to create enhanced relationships with Oregonians of Mexican descent, while expanding community awareness and understanding of the rich cultural traditions of America's closest neighbor. Centro Mexicano will host a special Febru-

ary round-table meeting as an informal opportunity for all of the center's community partners, from civic groups and educators, to media outlets and businesses, to meet each other face-to-face. The event promises to be more than learning about each partner's involvement in Centro Mexicano. It will also be a celebration of many successes and recognition of the value of each partnership. It will also be an opportunity for other organizations interested in forging new relationships with someone who may be interested in Centro Mexicano's programs, we encourage you to share this invitation with them. The event will be on Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Centro Mexicano, 1224 SW Morrison St. For more information, please call 503/274-9973.



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Happy 5<sup>TH</sup> Birthday Adrianna Love NaNA

