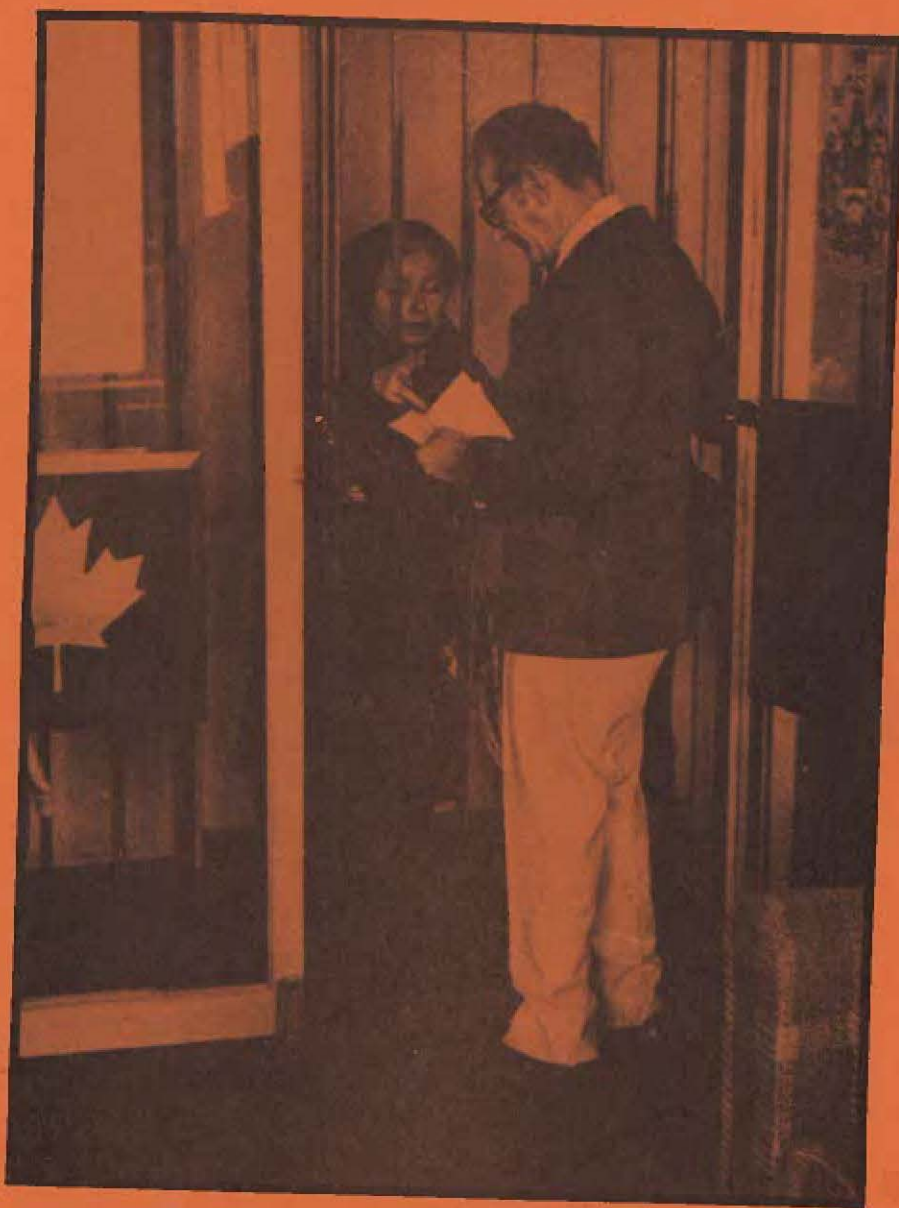


# ONE GIGANTIC PRISON



THE REPORT OF THE FACT-FINDING MISSION TO CHILE,  
ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY  
by Andrew Brewin, Louis Duclos and David MacDonald,  
Members of the Canadian Parliament.  
September 30 to October 10, 1976

Sponsored by  
The Inter-Church Committee on Chile  
Toronto, Canada.

November 1976  
\$1.50

# THE SOUTHERN CONE



- 1 Santiago
- 2 Resistencia

- 3 Montevideo
- 4 Rawson

The COVER photo was taken from inside the foyer of the Canadian Embassy in Buenos Aires. The Embassy is on the 25th floor of a downtown high-rise office building. Since the occupation of the Embassy by refugees during July, 1976, a rather forboding barrier of steel bars has been erected outside the glass walls and doors of the Embassy area.

Friends and fellow-Christians,  
it is time that you realize  
that our continent is becoming  
one gigantic prison, and in  
some regions, one vast cemetery.  
That human rights, the  
grant guidelines of the Gospel,  
are becoming a dead letter,  
without force. And all this  
in order to maintain a system,  
a structure of dependency that  
benefits the mighty privileged  
persons of always, of your  
land and of our land, at the  
expense of the poor millions  
who are increasing throughout  
the width and breadth of the  
continent.

from

AN OPEN LETTER TO NORTH AMERICAN CHRISTIANS  
October, 1976

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## THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA

In the last three years "a cloud of terror" has descended on Latin Americans. Regimes, which are dedicated to exploring the frontiers of torture, which leave a wake of jailed, kidnapped, murdered and exiled citizens, which repress through unemployment and economic hardship have risen to power. The basic rights which ordinary men and women use in order to express themselves, to give life and direction to their communities and their nation have been smashed in country after country. The struggle of decades for social emancipation in societies wracked by injustice and dependency has been dealt devastating reverses.

It is precisely the organizations which have given hope to the poor and those which have defended the defenceless which are now persecuted. The church is told to remain in its cloisters saving souls and leaving the rest to Caesar. Lawyers are encouraged to forget about the difficult cases of political prisoners and those disappeared. Labour unions must collaborate or be demolished. Community groups must organize make work programs and soup kitchens for the thousands who are unemployed due to economic policies implemented at great social cost.

Men and women are manipulated by paternalistic military governments whose objective is "order" and whose primary tactic is to label all agents of change as "subversive". "National security" becomes the rationale for repression. Because of "national security" community meetings cannot be held or are supervised, school curricula are censored, newspapers are closed down, unions are dismantled, political parties outlawed or put into recess. Because of "national security", para-military or para-police groups, vigilante death squads -- the "brown shirts" of the 1970s -- are allowed to roam freely, kidnapping and murdering.

The agents of repression are the armed forces of Latin America. They follow in the footsteps of the military men who wrested control of Brazil from democracy in 1964. They fulfill a pattern designed, in large part, by the Pentagon. They have been the recipients of training, arms and aid from North America.

There is no neat dividing line between the militarized regimes of South America and the lands to the North. The military dictatorships are, to a large extent, the creatures of North American policy. They facilitate the economic advancement of North American corporations. When a group of distinguished Central American theologians addressed an open letter to North Americans, they made the connection directly. "All this, our brothers and sisters, is carried out in the name of 'Western Christian civilization', on the backs of our people, and with the benediction and support of your government, of your armed forces, without which, our dictators could not maintain themselves in power for much time."

Canadians lack close military involvement with Latin America, but are we really very far removed from the strategic objectives of the United States? In a situation dominated by repressive regimes, with whom do Canadians seek alliance? Are we forging linkds of solidarity with the oppressed? Or are our economic and governmental institutions becoming integrated with the oppressors?

This report aims at forging new links in a human chain of solidarity against oppression.

### The Visit to Latin America

Conversations about a fact-finding mission To Chile began afresh in the spring of 1976. Increasingly disturbing reports regarding imprisonment and exile for political reasons, harrassment of refugees, and repression of human rights in Argentina and Uruguay were piling up beside the continuing news of oppression in Chile. The Inter-Church Committee on Chile agreed to sponsor a fact-finding visit by three Canadian Members of Parliament to the three countries of the "southern cone" of Latin America. Several other Canadian organizations, including Amnesty International (Canada), Oxfam Canada and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace supported the effort.

The purpose of the mission was two-fold: to undertake an observation and evaluation of the situation of refugees and Canadian response to their needs; and to observe the general situation of human rights in the countries visited.

### The Participants

Each of the three Members of Parliament involved in the fact-finding mission has taken a special and specific interest in human rights, and in the particular situation in Chile as well as in other countries. Mr. Andrew BREWIN, a member of the New Democratic Party, has represented the Toronto riding of Greenwood since 1962. His legal experience, advocacy of civil liberties and knowledge of immigration policies are well known. Mr. David MACDONALD, a Progressive Conservative, has represented the Prince Edward Island constituency of Egmont since 1965. His interest in human rights and issues of world development has led him to undertake several previous fact-finding missions, often together with Mr. Brewin. Mr. Louis DUCLOS, a Liberal, represents the Quebec riding of Montmorency. In addition to experience as a civil servant, Mr. Duclos spent several years in the Canadian embassy in Bogota, Colombia. The three members thus represented the three major Canadian political parties, three diverse geographical backgrounds, three major Canadian religious denominations. They embodied a variety of previous international experiences and a long experience with the discussion of external affairs and immigration in the House of Commons.

Mr. George CRAM, a member of the national staff of the Anglican Church of Canada, accompanied the Members of Parliament on behalf of the Inter-Church Committee on Chile. Mr. Cram had participated in an earlier mission to Chile laying groundwork for the special program for Chilean political prisoners. Prior to his present work in Canada, Mr. Cram spent several years as a missionary and community worker in Venezuela and the Dominican Republic.

Also important to the success of the visit were the workers in religious and humanitarian agencies in Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. They made available their knowledge, experience and advice. The ecumenical solidarity between Latin Americans and Canadians working for human rights has been essential to the continuation of efforts.

In addition to the Members of Parliament and Mr. Cram, the advance teams, and the church workers in the countries visited, a small "team Canada" from the Inter-Church Committee maintained communications links and press relations for the project.

The sponsors and participants in the fact-finding mission were conscious that earlier visits by foreign observers had resulted in increased repression and danger to individuals who had spoken with visitors. Careful precautions were called for in order to preserve as much as possible the safety of those on the scene. An advance team was sent to Argentina, Chile and Uruguay to make preparations. A representative of the Inter-Church Committee accompanied the Members of Parliament on their visit.

The Members of Parliament set out for Santiago on September 27, only to discover that due to a high-level junta decision they would not be permitted to enter Chile. A rapid reorganization of plans resulted in their arrival in Buenos Aires on September 30th. Although advance teams visited several regions of Chile, Argentina and Uruguay, the Members of Parliament concentrated their time, spending most of the ensuing ten days in Buenos Aires and Montivideo. They arrived back in Canada on October 11, 1976.

#### The Inter-Church Committee on Chile

The Inter-Church Committee was created in the fall of 1973 when members and leaders of a number of major Canadian denominations responded to the bloody coup in Chile. An ad hoc committee was set up to make representations to the Canadian Government. It sought to prompt Government action to defend human rights in Chile, and to open a large number of places in Canada for the refugees who were forced to flee from the tyranny of the Pinochet regime. As the emergency continued, the work of the committee expanded.

The Inter-Church Committee on Chile has sponsored several visits to Chile by Canadian observers during the past three years. On its own behalf, and in collaboration with the Canadian Coalition on Chile -- including labour, humanitarian and civil rights groups -- it has made frequent representations to the Canadian Government. Among the requests made by the Committee have been proposals for bringing the most difficult refugee cases to Canada, for bringing larger numbers of refugees, for taking a more active international stance for the restoration of human rights in Chile, and for the refusal of official aid and public or private investment funds to the Chilean junta. In cooperation with Chilean Church agencies including the Ecumenical Committee of Cooperation for Peace and with the Canadian Government, the committee has developed a program to facilitate the release and transfer to Canada of a limited number of Chilean political prisoners.

Through cooperation with local welcome and reception committees formed by religious and humanitarian groups, the Inter-Church Committee has assisted in the resettlement of several thousand Chilean refugees in Canada. It has provided assistance in innumerable cases of family reunion, legal complication and refugee appeals.

On January 1, 1976, the Inter-Church Committee will become the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America. This change is a direct response to the spreading blanket of repression which smothers freedom in South America. The new committee will continue an active role in the defence of human rights and refugees from political oppression. It will seek the cooperation of the church and non-church groups who share the concern with promotion of human justice.

The Inter-Church Committee on Chile includes representatives from the Anglican Church of Canada, the Society of Friends, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Lutheran Church of America (Canada section), the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society, the Toronto Passionist Community and the United Church of Canada and works in close liaison with the Canadian Catholic Conference.

The Committee may be contacted by writing Inter-Church Committee on Chile, Canadian Council of Churches, 40 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto, Ontario, or by phoning either: Mr. John W. Foster, Chairman, 929-5931, ext. 220, or Mrs. Florrie Snow Chacn, Co-ordinator, 921-4152.

## THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REPORT

Report on Visit to South America

Three Members of Parliament, Mr. David MacDonald, Mr. Louis Duclos and Mr. Andrew Brewin were invited by the Inter-Church Committee on Chile (composed of the Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United Churches, the Society of Friends, the Scarborough Foreign Missionary Society, and the Canadian Council of Churches) to visit three South American countries, Chile, the Argentine and Uruguay. We accepted the invitation and were accompanied on our visit by Mr. George Cram on behalf of the Committee. Our task was to study what action is needed in Canada in regard to refugees from these countries and the examination in general of the issue of human rights in these countries.

CHILE

We had intended to go first to Chile and, through the Canadian ambassador of that country, notified the Chilean government of our intentions to make the visit and of our willingness to discuss the matters with which we were concerned with representatives of the Chilean government. We learned from Chilean newspapers of the announcement of our arrival and of proposed interviews with officials of the Chilean government.



However, after we had started on our trip to Chile we received notification from the Department of External Affairs that we would not be welcome there. We therefore abandoned the proposed visit to Chile. We were given no specific reason for the refusal of the Chilean authorities to see us or let us come to that country. We consider it a serious matter that Canadian Members of Parliament should not be allowed to visit a country with which Canada has had diplomatic relations for many years and which is apparently looking for both public and private financial investment from Canada. We have attached as an appendix to this report a copy of a letter we have sent to President Pinochet on this subject.

#### ARGENTINA

We proceeded then to Buenos Aires and spent more than a week there. We interviewed the United Nations High Commissioner's representative, our own ambassador and members of his staff and many of those in the churches who were responsible for administering aid and looking after the welfare of refugees, human rights organizations, a number of refugees, officials of the government of the Argentine and a large number of interested individuals. For reasons which will become

obvious we do not name those whom we visited.

We found that a grave situation existed in regard to human rights. Many individuals were detained without trial and without charges. At least 1,000 have totally disappeared; others have been tortured and assassinated. When we spoke to the government authorities they did not deny the facts but excused them on the grounds that they were, in effect, in a state of war which had been provoked by the activities of the leftist guerillas.

A government official referred to an international Marxist conspiracy but when asked who it consisted of he mentioned the whole international press with specific reference to the New York Times. The difficulty seemed to be that while the government originally took action against guerillas of the left wing they had now proceeded to attack institutions and individuals suspected of any actual or possible political views to the left. Parliament has been dissolved; trade unions deprived of their function of collective bargaining and not allowed to meet; the churches had been interfered with and many church people seized. The Guardian of August 29th reports the macabre execution of five priests and two seminary students last July - an event commented on with horror by the

Pope himself. "Death squads" carry out a reign of terror; houses are raided late at night and members of families have been seized and subsequently disappeared completely. The Government is either unable or unwilling to control these right wing death squads. We read daily in the newspapers of such killings. Indeed, when we were there the President, General Videla, narrowly escaped a death plot. No one seemed to know his assailants but within the Argentine news of the attempt on his life was censored for twenty-four hours.

We were particularly concerned with the plight of refugees. At the time of the coup in Chile many thousands of refugees had entered the Argentine from Chile, many came from other countries in South America and notably Uruguay. These refugees had been given access to the Argentine but their status had never been regularized.<sup>1</sup>

The United Nations High Commissioner assumed the protection of these refugees and still had some 10,000 listed as such. The High Commissioner said that there were at least 2,500 urgent cases. The Argentine government recently announced a decree which required all refugees in the country to register with the authorities by the end of October 1976.

<sup>1</sup>for further detail, see the Inter-Church Team Report, Argentina, Refugees.

Many refugees were afraid to register as they feared that information would become known to those who composed the death squads. The Argentine authorities did not conceal their intention to do all on their part to have the refugees leave the Argentine and this involved, in many cases, their return to the country of their origin where their political views and activities might make them victims of repression.

The general condition of the refugees was made clear when we discovered while interviewing refugees in one home in Buenos Aires where 105 refugees were housed, that a camp in Rosario (about 100 miles from Buenos Aires), had been raided by units of the army and all the refugees detained as well as all of the staff of the churches that were looking after them. In our view it is not an exaggeration to state that many of these refugees are living in a state of terror.

We examined carefully the Canadian program to assist these refugees. In July the Canadian government announced an expansion to the number of 6,000 of refugees from Chile which it was ready to accept; 4,500 have already been accepted and most of them are now in Canada. This left a surplus of 1,500 which we understand is not necessarily the final figure. However, we feel that procedures for admission were unsatis-



factory - the main reason being delay. Even after the refugee is certified as a refugee by the United Nations High Commission, if they seek to come to Canada they are subject to the usual Canadian examinations which involve a health check in which records are sent to Port-of-Spain in Trinidad and are often delayed. This is followed by a security check and further examination by a small staff of immigration officers. The applicants are checked again to determine over again whether the applicants are refugees and also to determine whether they would be likely to establish themselves successfully in Canada. The forms that were used included the questionnaire based on the point system used to deal with independent applicants.

Our conclusions from this were that consciously or unconsciously the attitude of the Canadian examining officers was that of treating refugees similarly to ordinary immigrants and to allow very few special concessions because of the emergency faced by the refugees. At the pace which the examinations were proceeding we did not believe that the added quota of 1,500 could be filled within a period of less than two years. We therefore strongly recommended to the Government that a special task force composed of a high government official and a representative of the churches should be sent out to

deal with the refugees on an emergency basis outside the normal flow of immigrants. This method has already been adopted by Holland, Sweden and other countries. We also repeat the recommendation made by the Joint Senate and House of Commons Committee on Immigration that standards for the definition and admission of refugees be clearly set out in legislation or at least in explicit regulations. We furthermore believe that existing conditions in the Argentine government should extend to the Argentine the provisions made applicable in Chile for an oppressed minority.

We have heard it said that those admitted to Canada by means of a refugee program might turn out to be a group who would be dangerous to Canada. We find this view to be without a factual basis. First of all there is an existing security check which we presume would be continued whereby all those found to have been engaged in activities of a violent nature are screened out. Secondly, we have found no indication that those already admitted to Canada have been of a subversive nature or of a danger to Canada. Thirdly, we believe that Canada is big enough to carry out its humanitarian policies in regard to refugees without feeling the influence of a few who might conceivably misuse their opportunity to come to Canada.

URUGUAY

The situation in Uruguay does not seem as unsettled as that in Argentina but there is tight repression none the less. Censorship is applied. Many newspapers have been closed down; even the church messages to the church members have been closed down. In Uruguay there are no political parties allowed to operate and a declaration has been made that if and when an election is held, former members of parliament will not be eligible for election for fifteen years. Here, as in the Argentine, the trade union movement is virtually non-existent. We encountered some evidence of people being afraid to talk to us because of a general spirit of repression.

SUMMARY

In all of the three countries we have discussed, the government is a military dictatorship. We do not feel qualified to examine the reasons for this. We believe, however, that it is conditioned in part by the economic situation in each of the countries concerned. This situation now includes a high level of inflation and the lower rate in the increase in wages thereby substantially reducing the real standard of living. The government emphasizes free enterprise, external trade,

support from multinational corporations and foreign borrowing. The situation in none of these countries can be called stable. They have all experienced democratic institutions and are people of vigorous traditions. We would urge that Canada, in cooperation with other like-minded countries, should make it clear to the government of Argentina and other governments that positive action towards the restoration of human rights would be a pre-condition for the granting of loans and capital, that such restoration should include -

- a) vigorous action to restrain death squads;
- b) the publication of lists of people detained as political prisoners, and;
- c) early trial in the case of people detained as political prisoners.

It is sometimes argued that these matters are of an internal nature and that questions of trade and finance are separate from "political considerations". In our view however, the extent of the deprivation of fundamental human rights is a matter of grave international concern. It involves a wholesale breach of standards recognized by the world community and stated in the United Nations documents and many treaties. To make international action effective however, it is clearly necessary that international action be truly inter-



national action be truly international in nature and we recommend that through the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations, the government of Canada should seek the cooperation of other countries with a view to putting international pressure on the countries concerned to restore basic standards of fundamental human rights.

We have made it clear that in our opinion the situation in these countries is grim and conditions unstable. However, we believe that in these countries there are many individuals devoted to democracy and human rights and that they will eventually prevail.

Louis Duclos

David MacDonald

Andrew Brewin

November 1976

OTTAWA, OCTOBER 12, 1976

PRESS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS BY RETURNING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

David MacDonald: "It was much more difficult to have conversations in Uruguay because of the almost totally-controlled situation of military control and repression that exists there. If I was trying to characterize the difference in our response to visits to Argentina and Uruguay, I would say that in Argentina we found a situation of terror really, of great insecurity, while the situation in Uruguay I think could best be characterized as one of very great depression."

Andrew Brewin: "We found a surprising degree of unanimity about some of the features of the question of human rights. There is no doubt that the Argentine has been governed by a military dictatorship. But one of the things we found particularly horrifying, was the fact that there seems to be almost a complete lack of control. Everyday, in the newspaper, you read accounts of shootings and hangings sometimes attributed to the left wing guerillas, sometimes attributed to the right wing ... particularly the right wing, which is almost apparently completely out of control.

In other words, the government said they knew nothing about what happened, although very stringent methods were being taken to control the left-wing guerillas. There seemed to be very little effort to control the right wing "death squads" as they are called, and daily we met very many of the people who had been their victims.

Right in the middle of the night someone would come to their houses, haul the husband out of bed. They were masked and he had to put on a mask, and they would take him away. His family were completely unable -- despite long investigation going from police office to police office or government agencies -- to find some trace of what happened to him.

Andrew Brewin: "We did see government officials and we asked them about this, and their major defence of the whole situation was that they were in effect in a state of war. A state of war against whom? They said that they were in a state of war against Marxist conspiracy. It was an international conspiracy. Who are the conspirators? "Well, all the press, gentlemen, are conspirators," this was said by a high government official. We happened to be reading the New York Times and we asked if the New York Times was one of the Marxist conspirators, and they said "yes indeed."

Andrew Brewin: " ... turning the guns of this world on almost anybody who either has shown or might show some degree of opposition to the regime that they have, they pursue this with a zeal that should have a better cause.

The effect of this is that the churches are being suppressed, many churchmen are detained and imprisoned, many of them have the pastoral letters and messages censored, magazines shut down. The labour unions still exist in theory but they are not allowed to meet, they are not allowed to bargain collectively, they are not allowed to express opinions, they are not allowed to hold elections, and so though labour unions still pursue a shadowy existence, as an effective functioning organization they do not exist. One could go on to control of the press, to detailed control of the universities ..."

Louis Duclos: with regard to refugees " ... the most serious situation concerns the Chileans, and more recently the Uruguayans. We have been told by the officials of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees that in the last month there

has been a shift, up to a month ago most people applying for the status of political refugees ... were from Chile, but in the last month it seems that the majority of the people are from Uruguay. The reason being, as far as we have been able to see, the very, very close co-operation between the Secret Police in Uruguay, and Argentina, in particular. We have heard of cases where Uruguayan political refugees who have been living in Argentina for some time have been picked up by the Uruguayan police and brought back to Uruguay or found sometimes dead or taken to jail in Uruguay."

"We have been told that idealistically speaking the Argentine government wish to find a third country for as many as possible, but in the case where the international community, including Canada, won't be able to absorb all of those who in the eyes of the Argentine government will not be permitted to remain in Argentina, .. then they will be returned to their country of origin which will be either Chile or Uruguay, and I think it is obvious that there will be a reception committee on the other side of the border which will be quite tough with them."

Andrew Brewin: "We don't say that Canada should do all the job by itself ... but we've absorbed larger figures from other countries such as Czechoslovakia and other countries who have contributed to Canada. We know of the people who are Chilean and are involved, they can contribute too: the ones who have already come are doing useful jobs, so we don't think it's unreasonable to say now there is a special emergency, get going and deal with that emergency in the interest of humanity."

David MacDonald: "With respect to investment in Chile -- quite obviously the three of us were hoping that we could make an on the ground assessment of the situation in Chile to see whether our concern about human rights and about repression ... to know how serious it was and how it was affecting the people there.

The very fact that we were not allowed to enter should say something pretty clearly to any Canadian investor. If members of the Canadian Parliament are not allowed to visit a country in which Canadian capital is going to be expended, it seems to me to be an absolutely impossible situation. I would think that the investors or the management of these Canadian corporations will have to very seriously consider their situation in light of this result.

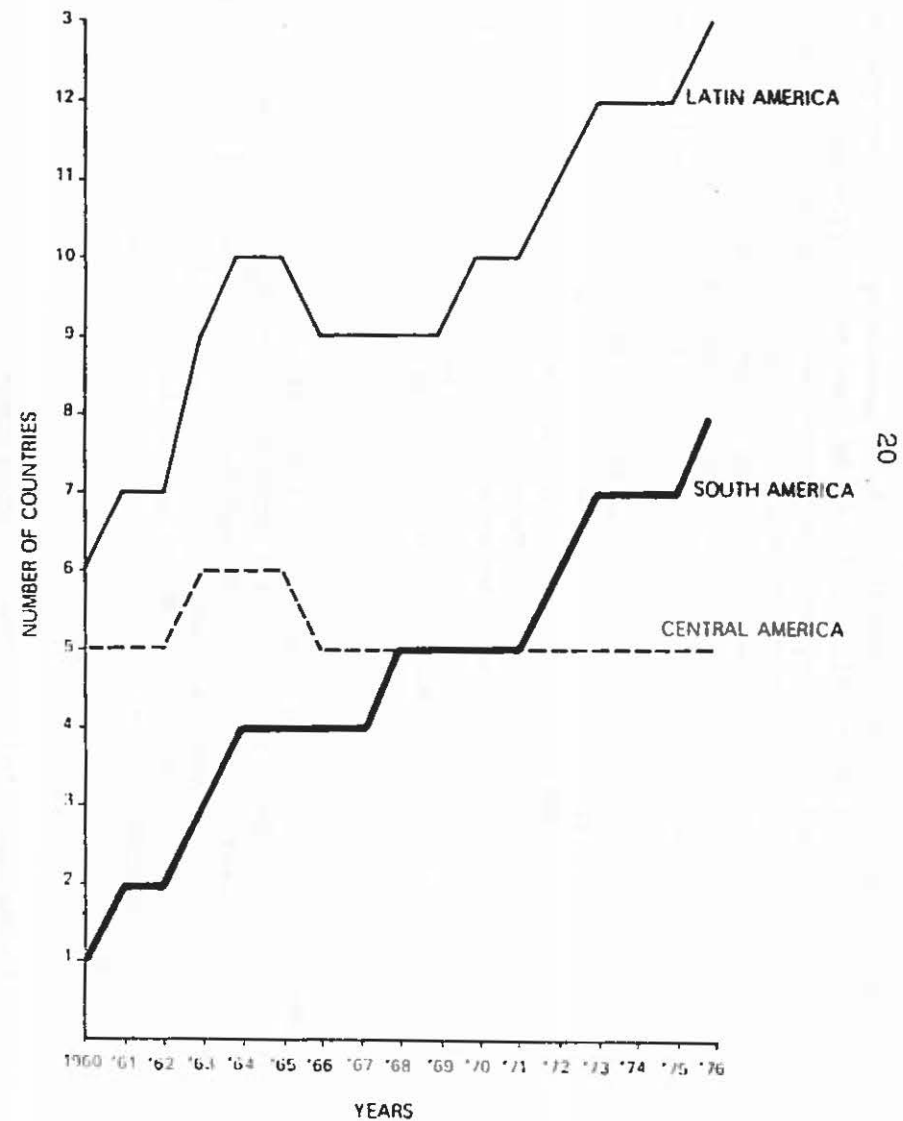
"I want to make it very clear that the decision by the military junta of Chile, apparently was not taken by any junior official, because later in a press conference we've learned that President Pinochet made some exceedingly derogatory remarks about our visit and about what we'd hoped to do there, in spite of the fact that we'd made it very clear that we wished to have a full range of discussions. I think if the President of Chile can take that kind of abusive and offensive attitude to Canadian parliamentarians ... I think the reflection on our country as such ... I think that we are in an impossible situation in seeing any kind of Canadian investment and in particular any kind of public investment being advanced.

"I just don't see, if Canadian parliamentarians can't visit there, how we can have a Canadian investment there. Does that make it clear?

MILITARY RULE IN LATIN AMERICA 1976



LATIN AMERICA: COUNTRIES UNDER DIRECT MILITARY RULE (1930-1976)



from Jorge Nef, ed. Canada and the Latin American Challenge. 1977.



## REPORT OF THE INTER-CHURCH TEAM

Introduction

Mr. George Cram, representative of the Inter-Church Committee on Chile, accompanied the three Canadian Members of Parliament on their visit to the "southern cone". Three other Canadians, working with the Inter-Church Committee, participated in advance work for the visit. They arranged interviews, and assisted with arrangements in such a way as to attempt to secure the safety of those Chileans, Argentinians and Uruguayans who co-operated with the mission. This work was only possible through the efforts of the religious denominations and agencies in the countries concerned, who have become engaged in the work of defending human rights and assisting refugees and prisoners.

The following report is based on the experience of the Inter-Church Team who were engaged in facilitating the visit of the Members of Parliament. Those involved spent a month in the countries concerned. Although the Members of Parliament were refused entry to Chile, Mr. Cram and other members of the Inter-Church team were able to carry out a brief visit to Chile and to contact religious, humanitarian and Canadian diplomatic agencies on the scene.



A church-sponsored "popular kitchen" in Chile.

## CHILE

### Purpose and plans

We planned the visit of the Members of Parliament to Chile in order that we might see at first hand the present situation. So much has been written about Chile in recent years that we felt it was very important to listen directly to what people living in Chile had to say.

The Inter-Church team, through a variety of agencies, prepared for the Members of Parliament to meet with people from a wide cross section of Chilean life. The Canadian Embassy in Santiago was asked to assist by obtaining some official interviews and arranged meetings with the Ministry of Justice and the President of the Supreme Court of Chile. The Canadian Ambassador arranged an informal reception so that various other persons might arrange to meet with the Members of Parliament.

We were conscious of the criticism which have been made by the Chilean junta regarding persons whose views regarding Chile are based on conversations with exiles and others outside Chile. We were determined to have our team see Chile with their eyes. Unfortunately, at the very last minute, the junta decided not to permit the Canadian parliamentarians to make an on-the-spot evaluation of the situation. Entry was prohibited to our Members of Parliament.

After the fact, the Chilean Embassy in Canada pretends that the refusal was due to lack of official advance clearances. The fact that official interviews with high level Chilean figures had been confirmed prior to the visit, and that the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs had informed the Chilean press regarding the arrival of the Members of Parliament, has been ignored.

"LA TERCERA de La hora" martes 28 de septiembre de 1976 Pág. 11

## Parlamentarios de Canadá verán realidad del país

Hoy llegarán a esta capital tres parlamentarios canadienses que permanecerán durante una semana en el país, con el objeto de imponerse de la actual situación que vive Chile.

Los parlamentarios son Louis Duclos, que representa al Partido Liberal por la provincia de Quebec; David Mc Donald, conservador por la provincia de New Brunswick y Andrew Brewin, neo-demócrata por la provincia de Toronto.

Aunque su visita es es-

trictamente privada, según se señaló en la Cancillería, los canadienses han manifestado a través de su embajada en Santiago el interés que tienen por entrevistarse con altas autoridades chilenas.

Es así como han solicitado audiencias con el presidente de la Corte Suprema y con el Ministro de Justicia, entre otros personeros.

Su permanencia en el país se prolongará hasta el 3 de octubre próximo.

The announcement of the M.P.s visit in  
the Santiago press.

A brief overview

We cannot speculate on what findings the Members of Parliament might have made, had they been permitted to enter Chile. The Inter-Church Team was, however, able to spend a limited amount of time in Chile. On the basis of our observations, we can present some of our findings.

We walked through the streets and saw the small businesses that have closed, and the prices of merchandise for sale. We were told of the constant erosion of the purchasing power of the average family over the past two years. Consumer Price Index, Dec. 1974 = 100, July, 1976 = 914.51. We talked to some of the 20% plus of the population that are unemployed. We visited a "popular kitchen" in one of the working class areas where the community tries to supplement daily rations for children who can no longer be adequately fed at home.

We were told of the working of the "MINIMUM EMPLOYMENT" plan of the Junta; how the government itself suspended its own legislation regarding pension, health care, workman's compensation, etc., in hiring workers under this plan. How the government suspended even the minimum wage law. How private employers are permitted to lay off their regular work force and then hire others to do those same jobs on the "MINIMUM EMPLOYMENT" scheme - without the normal benefits.

We were told of the situation of union leaders - for example those from the Federation of Copper Workers (C.T.C.). These were people elected following the coup d'etat under the watchful eye of an inspector from the Ministry of Labour, and who represented Chile at the 1974 Conference of the I.L.O., and who now, in 1976 have been "discovered" to have been badly elected and malconstituted! We had documented for us the suspension of contract bargaining, the right to elect union leaders, the freedom to call an assembly, the right to be fired only for cause -- not to mention the right to strike.

In the area of human rights, official detentions have been reduced in recent months. This is apparently because the percentage of people who disappear and who later show up as detainees is decreasing. Since disappearances continue, a higher proportion of the "disappeared" now remain disappeared.

However, there are many family members and friends of the disappeared ready to talk. Their only hope at times is to pray that sufficient international solidarity can cause their loved one, now disappeared, to appear again in one of the detention centres or prisons.

The curfew law still exists after three years of military rule. A "state of siege" still exists - whose double purpose seems to be to allow the secret police time to accomplish "disappearances" and to justify "hardship" bonus salaries for all military while working people starve!

We submit these few and limited observations. We expected that the Chilean junta would welcome the chance to explain their interpretations, give their side of the situation. Did they cancel the visit of the Canadian Members of Parliament because their side of the case simply does not add up?

## ARGENTINA

### Background

Government by repression, and the violation of human rights, in Argentina, must be seen against a background of decades of social struggle. When economic conflicts have entered crisis the Argentine military have taken over. In 1930, an "infamous decade" of military rule favourable to the old landowning elite began. The mass pressure of organized workers in Argentina resulted in the rise to power of Juan Peron, an army colonel who gained the support of industrial businessmen, and elements of the military as well. Peron became President in 1945 and was overthrown by a military coup in 1955. From exile he remained a powerful symbol of resistance and alternative approaches to the series of military and civilian governments which followed. In 1966, the Argentine military again overthrew an elected President, ushering in seven years of strike-breaking, wage freezes and rural repression. Their economic policy which benefited large foreign firms and large landowners provoked growing resistance from organized labour and other popular groups. The 4 million industrial, clerical and government workers unionized under the General Confederation of Workers (CGT) acted again and again against the military policies. Meanwhile guerilla groups claiming allegiance to Peron or to revolutionary Marxism grew up.

In 1973, military rule gave way in a Presidential election in which a candidate endorsed by exiled Juan Peron, Sr. Hector Campora was elected with 50% of the vote. With the victory of the Peronist party, elements of that party allied themselves with conservative sectors of Argentine society, and Juan Peron returned to Argentina to replace Campora as President. When Peron died, in July, 1974, his wife Isabel, assisted by one of her ministers, Lopez Rega, took over. They were unable to enforce the type of economic policy which would pacify the army and please foreign investors. Further, despite encouragement given to right-wing death squads, including the AAA (Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance), Isabel Peron and Lopez Rega were unable to control militant strikes of left wing guerillas. These factors, together with the increasingly open corruption of government officials, provoked a further military coup under Army Chief General Jorge Videla on March 24, 1976.

The violation of basic human rights was amply evident under the regime of Isabel Peron. However, the situation has continued to deteriorate dramatically since March, 1976. The Inter-Church team was told again and again that despite Argentine experience with military dictatorships the present moment in the country's history is particularly serious. Murders, arrests, torture and military intervention have touched too many sectors of national life and too many families. Refugees from other military regimes in Latin America now find themselves subject to distressing persecution in Argentina itself.



### The visit

The Inter-Church Team spent three weeks in Argentina, in September and early October. We talked with dozens of people in Buenos Aires and in brief visits to several other parts of the country. Clergy and lay people from Argentine churches and members of human rights groups were interviewed. The team visited the staff of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and had long conversations with others working with refugees. We were able to meet the families and friends of many Argentinians who have disappeared, been killed or detained. In the refugee hostels and in special meetings we talked with many refugees, especially Chileans and Uruguayans.

The minimum guarantees to human life and safety have broken down to such an extent that the team had to exercise extreme care in arranging interviews. Many offices and institutional buildings could not be used. Even with careful precautions taken, many Argentinians simply could not risk visibility by meeting the Canadian Members of Parliament. The Inter-Church team listened to their stories and received the documents which they wished to share with these concerned about human rights.

### Human rights in a society in conflict

There is a constant tension between appearance and reality in Argentina. Many of these interviewed told us it is difficult to demonstrate the real situation to outsiders. On the surface of Buenos Aires -- a large cosmopolitan city of 8 million -- things seem prosperous and normal, particularly in the financial and commercial core of the city. A curtain of silence protects the complacent. There is an official policy of silence about many events. There are no lists of detainees published by the Government. There is no national stadium - like the infamous one in Santiago, Chile -- into which prisoners have been herded. Few people have actually been able to get into the jails to visit political prisoners. The large number of those disappeared or detained without official recognition increases the climate of terror: it seems a person might simply drop out of daily life with scarce notice. Several people argued that the publication of an official detainees list would destroy the myth in which many Argentinians take refuge, that what is going on is merely a repression of left-wing guerillas.

The major source of evidence on the real effects of repression is accumulated slowly through personal testimonies. Most families either have a person missing from their midst or a relative in prison or know of such a case. From numerous personal accounts a social picture of the violation and deterioration of fundamental human rights emerges.



Since November, 1975, two important Argentine human rights groups have been set up in response to this mounting evidence of misery. A third group with thirty years of experience in the field continues in the present emergency. The groups cooperate closely but have specific specialized tasks. All three have received documentation and personal testimony on thousands of cases: the families of the disappeared, the detained and the tortured. Evidence has been gathered on people murdered. Cases have been documented where bodies have been discovered on the beaches and in the Rio de la Plata, and reports investigated of the tossing of people to their death from helicopters over the ocean.

Important as each individual case is, the size of the problem has outgrown the ability of any group. The human rights associations testify to a minimum of 17,000 cases of disappearance, detention or killing. Other reputable sources quote 20,000 to 25,000 as a more adequate figure. Whatever the appropriate statistic the need to educate their fellow-Argentines regarding the proportions of the crisis preoccupies the human rights groups. Their efforts are devoted to building a strong and unified movement for the restoration of human rights to the Argentina people.

#### The Victims

What sort of people make up these macabre statistics? Evidence was presented of a certain amount of almost anarchistic activity by the various death squads roaming the cities and towns, without a clear pattern emerging from the accumulation of victims. But, most of the political violence has been directed upon the working people of Argentina. Those active in trade unions, peasant associations and those active in community work among the poor are especially vulnerable. Students have come under regular attacks. Professors and professionals in the social sciences and in medical fields have also been victimized.

#### Refugees: Without Refuge

Caught in the escalating violence are the 20,000 (approx.) Latin American refugees and political exiles in Argentina. These threatened people are those who have had to flee from repressive political and economic policies in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Among them are many union and peasant leaders, former students and community workers. They represent an important part of the opposition forces against the military dictatorships in Latin America. Some of the refugees and exiles have resided in Argentina for many years. Many more have arrived during the past three years, fleeing increasing militarism and repression in Uruguay and Chile. More arrive in Argentina each day.

Since the military take-over in March, 1976, refugees in Argentina --already persecuted by right-wing vigilantes during the administration of Isabel Peron -- have come under increased danger. Refugee hostels under the supervision of the United Nations High Commission have been raided by gangs. Church-run hostels have been raided by military. On several occasions refugees from these hostels have been beaten up or detained. More than one hundred refugees and exiles have been killed during the past year. In June an early morning raid of the headquarters of the Catholic immigration services netted an address list of the refugees registered with the agency. The insecurity built

up by these and other events was symbolized by the small group of refugees who undertook an occupation and hunger strike in the Canadian embassy in Buenos Aires in July. In October, the Argentine Government withdrew the police protection from hostels in Buenos Aires.

The refugees are not safe from the intervention of the agents of the repressive military governments from which they have taken refuge. The Argentine military allow, and appear to co-operate with, security agents from the neighboring countries to work within Argentina seeking out political refugees. The Uruguayan police, for example, occupy a whole floor of the Federal Police building in Buenos Aires. Prominent members of the Bolivian and Uruguayan political opposition, in exile in Argentina, have been murdered in recent months. In late May, Senator Zelmar Michelini and Hector Gutierrez Ruiz, both exiled Uruguayan politicians were kidnapped, tortured and killed. Michelini, a member of Uruguay's Colorado party was a former minister of industry and commerce, while Gutierrez Ruiz, of the Blando party, was a former president of the Uruguayan Congress. Several weeks after their death, the former President of Bolivia, General Juan Jose Torres, exiled in Buenos Aires, was murdered.

In an atmosphere of increasing terror, the United Nations list of most urgent cases grows each day. During August and September, 1976, the increased activity of Uruguayan police agents in Argentina was reflected in a dramatic increase in the number of new applications from Uruguayan refugees.

Among the many cases examined in interviews, the Inter-Church team found the following case typical:

An Uruguayan citizen was detained without trial for one and a half years in Uruguay. In 1974 he was released on conditional liberty. Unable to get a job of any kind, he moved to Argentina in late 1974. At first he had no problems. In February, 1976, harrassment began when a group of armed Uruguayans in civilian clothes searched his home, interrogated all its occupants and took their names. The armed men repeated inquired if they were politically active in Argentina. They threatened further action if the residents of the house did not leave Argentina in 20 days. They said that the same thing would happen to them as to the five Uruguayan refugees found dead on a beach in Montevideo in November, 1974. After the raid, friends counselled the family to seek refuge with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. They held back. Two days after the March coup, a decree was published calling on all foreigners to leave Argentina. Other Uruguayans were kidnapped and bodies began to appear in the Rio de la Plata. At the end of April, 1976, the Uruguayan family sought the protection of the United Nations High Commission. In May, they applied to come to Canada. They were told that the process would take about six months. In October, 1976, they still had no final answer.

The refugees are caught in an extremely tense situation. Many are drained by months of insecurity. Many have no financial resources. Their physical and psychological situation is negative and discouraging. An Argentine government decree issued on September 1, 1976, added more insecurity. The new decree orders all persons without permanent residence in Argentina - including most refugees - to register with the Department of Immigration within

two months. They are to answer a questionnaire on their background and to provide authorities with their present address. The Argentine Government will use the information to check the background of the refugees. Those without political "problems" will be given permanent residence in Argentina. Those with an active history of political involvement will be told to seek residence in a third country. If no third country is available, the refugees unwanted in Argentina will be returned to their country of origin to the hands of the regime from which they escaped in the first place.

The refugees feel exceedingly vulnerable in the face of the registration decree. They believe that right-wing vigilantes may gain access to their names and addresses, or that the information will be given by the Argentine authorities to the secret police in their former homelands. They cannot face the possibility of being forced to return to the repression from which they have sought refuge. When the Inter-Church team left Argentina in early October, only slightly more than one-third of the refugees and others without permanent residence had registered with the government. Although the registration period has since been extended past the end of October, the pressure remains on the refugees. The need for third countries willing to receive them is urgent.

During the three years up to September 30, 1976, a total of 4,550 refugees have left Argentina for third countries. But, movement out of Argentina is slow and limited, and new refugees arrive to fill the places vacated. The United Nations High Commission remains with approximately 12,000 refugees registered.

Given the increasingly precarious situation of many cases, particularly since March, 1976, the United Nations High Commission appealed in June for a new effort by receiving nations. The Commission is constantly updating its list of most urgent cases. Some countries have responded with special missions to Argentina and special programs for particular groups of refugees. However, the number of visas presently available is far outweighed by the quantity of people needing them.

The United Nations High Commission list of most urgent cases included some 300 cases involving over 800 persons in early October, 1976. About 45% of these people are Uruguayan, 40% are Chilean and Bolivians, Paraguayans and others make up the remaining 15%. Most refugees and political exiles are in danger in Argentina. Those few who are placed on the High Commission's urgent list are people who have been detained, expelled, beaten up, or threatened in a serious manner. They are people whose safety is least secure.

#### Canada and the Refugees

In response to the special appeal of the United Nations High Commission the Canadian Government agreed to receive an additional quota of refugees. However, those applying to Canada find many obstacles which do little to reduce their insecurity.

First, refugee applicants are informed that the Canadian process is a long one, up to five or six months. At the present rate of acceptance, it will take 18 months to fill the 1,000 visas Canada has offered. Other countries have made a special effort to move urgent cases, in two weeks, one month or even in 48 hours.

Secondly, the overall orientation of Canada's selection system seems still to be governed by normal immigration criteria related to employability in Canada. Several people on the United Nations High Commission urgent list have been refused entry to Canada because they lacked the requisites for "adaptation" to Canadian society. One such person received a formal letter of refusal which stated that his job skills were in an area where there were few job openings in Canada.

Thirdly, while Canada has responded to some extent to the large number of Chilean refugees, there seems, as yet, little awareness of the position of Uruguayan, Bolivian and Paraguayan refugees in Argentina. While such countries as France, Cuba and Sweden have admitted a significant percentage of refugees from each of these nationalities, Canada has accepted only four Uruguayans and three other Latin American refugees from Argentina, as of September 30, 1976.

The Canadian approach does not seem oriented to the fact that the applicants are refugees, victims of persecution, seeking refuge from an increasingly precarious environment. The refugee applicant is given little opportunity to explain his or her status as a refugee. Canada puts little weight on the testimony given by the applicant to the United Nations High Commission which provides the basis by which the Commission registers the person as a refugee.

Of a total of 1,248 persons (595 cases) presenting themselves to Canada between January and September, 1976, only 364 persons have left Argentina for Canada. Due to this very slow Canadian process for refugees and the 70% rejection rate to date, it is not surprising that the United Nations High Commission and other refugee aid agencies hesitate to refer many urgent cases to the Canadian embassy.

If Canada is to assist the endangered refugees, it must begin to act much more quickly, recognizing the increasing insecurity presented by the Argentine situation and the ominous operations of both vigilante groups and the secret police and intelligence forces of the Latin American dictatorships. Canada must respond to the urgent cases of refugees as refugee cases not as immigrants seeking employment. Canada's response should be defined by the need for humanitarian assistance to the persecuted not by the logic of manpower planning in Canada.<sup>1</sup>

#### Workers and Peasants

Very stringent measures are being taken by the Videla military government against the working people of Argentina. The government has succeeded in making "subversion" -- the threat to national security -- the number one political problem. Under the guise of fighting left-wing guerillas -- which exist and undoubtedly are undoubtedly active -- the government has used the military and the police against all sorts of opposition groups and popular organizations.

1. For specific recommendations from the Members of Parliament and the Inter-Church team see the Memorandum to the Honourable Bud Cullen in the statements section of this report.



The right to strike has been suppressed. Many workers have been laid off or fired. The military have intervened directly in dozens of unions. Particularly hit have been the larger of the national federations: steel workers, light and power workers, teachers, oil workers, bank employees, etc.

The army has been frequently used to deal with industrial disputes. The Inter-Church team was given examples where the army had shot at workers unwilling to carry out dangerous jobs in particular factories. Well known examples include the use of the army against the workers of General Motors who held a work stoppage to protest deterioration in health conditions. Workers at another factory, Santa Rosa, were forced to work in dangerous conditions under the pressure of drawn guns. The military were directly present in a number of factories including Ford, Fiat and the shipyards of Rio Santiago.

In general, workers are held in a squeeze between rising costs and declining real wages, in a situation where the government is giving little attention to reforms which would solve long standing social and economic problems. While salaries have been frozen except for one recent 12% raise, inflation has been running at 15% per month through 1976. Many service workers -- taxi drivers, hotel employees -- while saying little about the military and the police, told the Inter-Church team that their salaries were barely enough to cover food and rent and each week the rising prices created new personal crises.

In conversations with union leaders, the Inter-Church team were given an example of the dangers faced by active workers. Three couples had been kidnapped the previous Thursday night. People dressed as civilians but stating they were the police arrived at their homes. All six were blindfolded and beaten. They were then transported to a building they could not identify. For a whole weekend they were questioned, beaten and tortured. They were given little food and hardly any sleep. In the darkness early Monday morning they were dropped off on a Buenos Aires street. They were told not to mention their ordeal or they would not survive the next time. All three men were trade union activists. One of the men had been active for only a short time, his wife hardly understood what a union was. One of the men reported the incident to some of the union leaders, who explained to our team how terribly these people had been tortured and reported that they were in hiding.

We were asked, on many occasions and often with great anxiety, about the possibilities of getting such endangered Argentinians quickly out of Argentina. The union leaders asked us once again. They had a number of people in hiding and the latest example of repression only enlarged the need. They insisted as always that the Argentinians did not want to leave their country, but there were cases which really had no alternative.

Union officials describe the city of Coroba as one of the centres of greatest persecution against workers. House searches and the kidnapping of workers and their families were daily occurrences. The army was visibly present in many factories and the unions had been recently informed that workers had been shot at work for refusing to do certain dangerous tasks.

Argentine labour has a tradition of active response to such military repression. As workers are squeezed economically and pressured militarily,



larger unified actions are occurring. In the first few months after the March, 1976 coup, many unions were willing to give the military a chance to develop their policies. However, the steadily declining economic situation and the direct intervention by the military in factories are now provoking more aggressive response from the workers. The Inter-Church team were told that the strikes in September and October were evidence of this change.

The Inter-Church team received reports regarding the concerned army attack on the peasant leagues in the north of Argentina. Hundreds of peasant homes have been ransacked, many peasant detained and tortured, and many other disappeared. These actions have been taken under the guise of destroying guerilla bases. Because many of the peasants are of Paraguayan background they could report similar army attacks on peasant organizations across the border in Paraguay. They saw what seemed to them a coordinated stepping up of repression against popular groups in several Latin American countries.

We asked why so little information on these events reaches the outside world. We were told that it was almost impossible to send information by letter because the mail was checked, and that repression would be increased if people were caught sending such news abroad. These people had little money, and little chance of travelling. Even if they left Argentina, they felt, any denunciation they might make might be traced back and place their friends and relatives in greater danger. Since the Argentine press was censored, there was little likelihood of gaining local publicity for their plight.

### Neighborhoods

The work of community groups in poorer neighborhoods in Buenos Aires is being upset by continual police and right-wing vigilante interference. The Inter-Church team was told by people doing pastoral and social work in these neighborhoods that it is increasingly difficult to visit or to meet with the people, many of whom are immigrants and refugees. It is very common for armed men, often carrying machine guns while dressed in civilian clothing, to arrive unexpectedly at a number of houses in such neighborhoods each week. They give some pretext or other for searching the houses. After a search they give the residents a short time to remove their belongings. They then knock down or burn down these houses. On other occasions, if no one is home, the houses are ransacked, belongings are taken by the gangs, and the houses destroyed. The objective seems to be to leave the residents of these neighborhoods in a state of constant insecurity and fear. Armed men, in police uniforms or civilian clothes, patrol regularly in cars and military vehicles.

Night raids are common. People turn up on some occasions in a police station or jail. Frequently no information is available on where they have been taken or for how long they are liable to be held. Lawyers have attempted to seek information on the disappeared persons and to defend the imprisoned. This defence work is viewed frequently as itself a "subversive" activity and many lawyers who have attempted to defend such prisoners have themselves been jailed or killed.

Talking with the people who work in poor neighborhoods or with immigrants and refugees, as well as with lawyers and others who have been their co-workers disappear or under threat, the Inter-Church team was struck by the tool which tension has taken. Exhausted and tense, caught in a difficult and complex

situation, these community workers continue their vital work.

### Education

The military have intervened in Argentine universities and hundreds of professors and students have been expelled. The military have removed large numbers of publications from bookstores and newstands, and book-burning has occurred as well. The important Latin American publishing house, Siglo XXI has had its Argentine branch closed.

Many high schools have received warnings from the military that their curriculum would be checked. At others, the military arrived unexpectedly, requisitioned the course of studies and stated that they would return in two weeks with revisions according to the objectives of the present government. Several people told the Inter-Church team that the Ministry of Education under Sr. Bruera had stated that its educational plans would ensure that all students would leave the school system prepared to accept the kind of society the military was building for Argentina.

### The press and public Information

Only very limited news of the violation of human rights reaches the printed page. While thousands have disappeared or been detained, only a few cases of habeus corpus appeal appear in the press, and these are noted in small sections on the back pages. Newspapers, particularly those in the provinces, critical of the government or of the action of para-police and para-military groups, have been closed down. A number of journalists have been fired. Most newspapers in Buenos Aires carry stories of how the government focuses are eradicating subversion. During the stay of the Inter-Church team, a number of articles appeared showing how President Videla was meeting with various sectors in society concerned with the violation of human rights. Videla assured them that the government was doing everything in its power to control the situation. Action which would properly embody his words was and continues to be sadly lacking.

The newstands are filled with a whole series of new magazines written by military or right-wing elements, including the very conservative Church magazine: Tradition, Family and Property. Other opinions have been repressed. In the spring and summer of 1976 a large number of books on Hitler and a variety of Nazi writing -- including anti-Semitic tracts -- were widely available. As a result of concerted pressure by international public opinion and the large Jewish population in Argentina these works were removed. They were slowly returning to the newstands during the time the Canadian team visited Buenos Aires.

### The Church

Intimidation and repression as lived by many Argentinians has also been felt by many sectors of the churches. There have been a number of attempts -- similar to those in other Latin American countries -- to divide the church and to persecute those people who work with the poor, or the young, or those concerned about social justice and human rights. In Argentina, during the past year, right-wing bands and para-police and para-military groups have been

responsible for the murder of a number of priests and seminarians. They are suspected of being responsible for the murder of Bishop Angelli, a man widely known for his commitment to the people of his diocese who suffer from injustice.

Other types of harrasment were reported to the Inter-Church team. Clergy and lay people involved in pastoral and social work in poor neighborhoods have been frequently threatened. Some priests have been forced into temporary exile by threats on their lives or safety. Others can no longer sleep in the working class neighborhoods where they work because the kidnapping are so frequent. Bombs have been tossed a number of offices and institutions of church agencies. Many church people have turned to assist the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in the work of caring for the thousands of refugees in Argentina. These people have been threatened, accused of being "subversive" and have been detained in several cases.

Attempts to control or manipulate religious teaching and public religious expression were reported. During the September preparations for the large scale pilgrimage of young people to the shrine of Lujan, the military interfered with poster preparation. The organizers prepared a poster carrhing a recent statement from Pope Paul VI, which read "If you want peace, respect (defend) life." The military authorities insisted on a change and the poster carried the slogan "May all brothers be united."

For several months, the military have been arriving at religious schools and demanding the course outline for the study of religion. This is reviewed and returned to the school with necessary changes indicated.

The popular Latin American edition of the Bible has been under attack by the military, by some conservative Bishops in Argentina, and by military governments in some other Latin American countries. This Bible, with a fully approved text, has gone through several editions and has been distributed in the thousands in all of Latin America. Because it contains photographs and commentary referring to present day Latin American realities of oppression and the search for justice, it is now considered "subversive" by conservative authorities. The two publishing houses responsible for the distribution of this edition of the Bible in Argentina have been shut down.

With the killing of more priests in February, 1976, many Christians from a number of different denominations decided to organize themselves to work ecumenically to defend human rights. This ecumenical attempt to work together seeks two things: to inform the Christian community about the full extent of violations against human rights and to encourage them to join in the defence of human rights. With the further murder of three priests and two seminarians in July -- in the San Patricio parish of wealthy suburgan Beggrana -- the ecumenical movement has taken new life. Many conservative bishops have begun to express their own concern about the widening extent of violence and repression in Argentina.

## URUGUAY

### The Visit

"That place is closed up tight as a drum", we were told, before we left for Uruguay. The Inter-Church team made two visits of several days each in September and October. We were advised that the years of systematic and violent repression would mean that there would be few people free to speak with us about the condition of human rights.

Indeed, since 1974, when the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International sent a joint commission to Montevideo to investigate the violation of human rights, the Uruguayan officials have permitted no other human rights organization to undertake an official visit. The government was not pleased with the I.C.J. findings on illegal detentions and the torture of political prisoners.

The Inter-Church team overcame this limitation, to some extent, by talking with many Uruguayans exiled in Argentina. Further, we did succeed in arranging a number of conversations within Uruguay itself. In addition, we were presented with documentation which provides significant evidence on the ongoing persecution of Uruguayans both in Uruguay and in Argentina.<sup>1</sup>

### A Controlled Society

Montevideo is a much more subdued city than Buenos Aires. It has a gray, still appearance. Economic activity is depressed, prices are high. We were told by former parliamentarians that workers had lost approximately 70% of their purchasing power since 1972. Since March, 1974, all trade union activity has been prohibited. Unions exist, but under the control of the central military offices.

Official statistics report that the cost of living increased 105% in 1974, 67% in 1975, and almost 30% in the first six months of 1976. The prices of many goods in Uruguay are 30% higher than international prices. Food in particular has been hit, despite Uruguay's traditional role as a food exporter. Rents have gone up 2,000% in the past three years. Although Uruguay exports large quantities of meat, Uruguayans are not permitted to eat meat during several months each year.

People are generally very quiet on the streets, in the buses and even in restaurants. After 10 p.m. streets are virtually deserted. Meetings and gatherings are only allowed after permission is obtained from the authorities.

Repression has been a dominant characteristic of Uruguayan society since the late 1960s, when major counter-attacks were made upon the Tupamaros, an urban revolutionary guerilla movement which developed during the 1960s. However, even then President Juan Bordaberry admitted, when he dissolved Parliament with the assistance of the Armed Forces in June, 1973, that the danger from the Tupamaros had been overcome. Since that time, Uruguay has been ruled by a civil-

1. See testimonies and lists presented in the People's Report section following.



military dictatorship which has tightened the lid of repression systematically. During the last four years one in every 54 Uruguayan citizens has been interrogated or detained -- from 50,000 to 60,000 people. An estimated 5,000 to 6,000 people remain imprisoned. About 700,000 people, largely between the ages of 18 and 40, have left the country for economic or political reasons. Many of them have taken residence in Brazil or Argentina, while others have travelled as far as Europe and North America.

#### The Militarization of the Americas

In October, 1975, a conference of army commanders from 15 American countries -- including the U.S.A. -- was held in Montevideo. The host, General Vadora, detailed the nature of the hard line which had been applied by the Uruguayan military, and justified it as a key element in the fight against leftist subversion. General Vadora called on the representatives of other Latin American countries to insure greater cooperation among police, military and security forces. A wave of arrests and a renewal of torture in many Latin American countries followed the meeting. Hundreds were detained in Uruguay. The offensive against political exiles and refugees in Argentina began to assume the proportions of an extermination campaign. Innumerable testimonies point to the source of these crimes in the civilian-military dictatorship in Uruguay and its armed forces. There is also considerable evidence of the complicity and collaboration of the Security Forces of Argentina in the wave of disappearances and murders. Prominent political figures were assassinated. Others were detained and tortured. Some were found dead on the beaches of Montevideo and the streets of Buenos Aires. An extensive Amnesty International investigation has documented and exposed many cases and elements of the press in Buenos Aires -- the Herald and La Opinion -- have carried the stories.

Special appeals were made to the Inter-Church team on behalf of a number of persons kidnapped and feared dead. We received information and documentation on the kidnappings of Gerardo Gatti, Enrique Rodriguez Larretta, Pilar Montedonico, Jorge Gonzalez Cardozo, Elizabeth Perez Lutz, Hugo Mendez, Monica Solino, Chantia, Dr. Liberoff, Nbio Ariel Melo Cuesta, and Winston Mazuchi Frantaches.<sup>1</sup> Are these people and others like them already beyond help? The mutilated bodies which appeared in the Rio de la Plata were never identified by the Uruguayan authorities. Nor have friends and relatives been able to secure information about these people from detention centres and jails.

The Inter-Church team was told how the militarization of Uruguay has influenced other aspects of civic life. The police, armed forces and penitentiary aspects of the national budget of Uruguay consume well over 50% of yearly resources, the armed forces taking \$80 million annually. The social consequences are tremendous. Many other services, including education, health and welfare suffer accordingly.

#### A Forgotten Nation?

Concern for the situation of Uruguay's people has come belatedly in the international community. Mounting criticism led President Bordaberry, and some U.S. officials, to suggest a more moderate line be taken within the country. Instead, the armed forces moved to depose Bordaberry. A new coup

1. See the People's Report section for testimonies and documentation.



placed Dr. Dimichelli as provisional president, and elections were postponed by the military for a further five years. A National Council -- made up of civilian and military members -- will make all appointments in government and judicial posts.

Uruguay has taken an aggressive position regarding world criticism of torture and murder. On October 10, 1976, the President of Uruguay attacked the "Democratic party of the U.S., with Senator Kennedy at the head", and accused them of being the "best ally of sedition in Latin America". The remarks seem in response to a cut-off of U.S. military aid to Uruguay in the wake of Congressional concern about human rights.

During October several articles appeared in the Uruguayan and Argentine press calling for unity among the armed forces of Latin America in front of international criticism on violations of human rights in Uruguay and other countries. Those who express concern regarding human rights are accused by the Uruguayans who have spearheaded this aggressive stand, of being the allies of communist subversion.

We felt the fear that presently engulfs the lives of Uruguayans today, as we talked with them both in Uruguay and in Argentina. Each interview was difficult to arrange. People talked to us in an extremely guarded and measured manner. They wanted to speak about the situation, and to give us documentation for international use, but they could in no way be quoted directly because of the danger to their lives. The press, the radio, television, progressive magazines have all been silenced within Uruguay. Labour unions, political parties and the church have little if any voice. There are few protections for the independently-minded or the critical. Yet the people who spoke with us were willing to take the risks which it necessitated. They insisted that we carry the story of their persecution out to other countries.

Uruguayans appealed for immediate international action insisting on the restoration of human rights in their country. They expressed hope in the midst of their fear. The events of the last few years have convinced the Uruguayan people that only a united effort can overthrow the enemy in their midst.

## THE PEOPLE'S REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

The enclosed documentation presents testimony on individual persons or explains the wider consequences and conditions of the serious repression in Argentine and Uruguay. It was all received during the recent visit of the Canadian Church and Parliamentary Team to Argentina and Uruguay.

Some of the documents particularly those received from Uruguayans were prepared and presented to us with significant risk to the safety of a number of people. The translation of these documents attempts to give voice to a greater number of those people persecuted and without defence. Wide international concern and action on behalf of these people is one important defence.

PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Permanent Assembly for Human Rights was set up in November, 1975. Its members include distinguished Argentine citizens from a wide variety of institutions and professions, and includes membership from the different churches. Together with a number of other human rights organizations, it collects and documents testimony on the increasing violation of human rights in Argentina.

Buenos Aires, August 1976

To: President of the Nation,  
General Don Jorge Rafael Videla,  
Government House.

Re: Human Rights

With our greatest respect:

With regard to the repeated exhortations of the president of the Republic of Argentina to the people of Argentina asking for our collaboration in order to achieve the full implementation of human rights in the country, we fulfill our task by responding to these exhortations and in this way we are pleased to write to his Excellency the following appeal.

The Permanent Assembly for Human Rights was constituted in Buenos Aires, in Nazareth House, Carlos Calvo 3121, on December 18, 1975. It was formed by persons of different religious, political and ideological convictions, but people equally convinced that the implementation of human rights is an indispensable conditions for achieving a climate of peace and harmony. Concerned with the violent situation that prevents the majority of the peaceful, well intentioned and constructive Argentine people from working with tranquility of spirit and hope for that country that we desire.

It is necessary to look at the condition in which population of the country has lived for some time, permanently threatened by terrorist violence of different tendencies. Workers, students, businessmen, priests, members of the Armed Forces, simple men and women of our country, have been victims of this violence. Massive massacres, kidnappings, disappearances, pillages, assaults, bodies found on roads, streets or parks, have been part of the daily news and comment. In the midst of this climate, the Argentine family feels perplexed, wounded and anxious. The confrontation of ideas, which has been the source of progress, has been dissolved lately into a situation which only contributes to paralyze, destroy, encourage chaos, destabilize governments and disfigure the image of our country in the rest of the world.

For all these reasons, the Assembly received with great satisfaction and hope the clear definitions of President General Jorge Rafael Videla on March 30, 1976, when he said: "The indiscriminate use of violence from one or another tendency has placed the inhabitants of the nation in an atmosphere of insecurity and of exhausting fear." The commitment assumed by the Armed Forces (points 2 and 4 of the "Proposals and Objectives of the Military Junta) is to implement the values of Christian morality" and "the implementation of a judicial and social order". Equally important for us are the words of the ex-Chief of the Federal Police, Brigade General Arturo A. Corbetta who affirmed: "The ethics of the conduct is, then, the necessary and essential element of police action in all its manifestations.

Ethics as content, and legality as external and formal expression of this content." We integrated and committed our strength to these affirmations in order to support their realization.

Numerous incidents, which we document in the enclosed presentation, demonstrate to us that the above mentioned proposals have not been implemented. The lack of adequate information about procedures, about lists of prisoners, conditions of these same prisoners, the people fired with no clear explanation given, the situation of so many detained people that have not undergone any trial, creates a situation in which people are afraid, and with good reason, of para-police or para-military forces or armed bands that act with impunity. This situation has undermined the trust of the people, who want the government to use the force at its disposal for the order and the security of the nation, exclusively within the ethical and legal framework and with a clarity of information which eliminates all doubt.

There have been many authoritative and trustworthy voices that have pointed out clearly the path to be followed. In particular, we would like to express our profound agreement with the declarations of the Argentine Episcopacy in its Pastoral Letter of May 15, 1976, which says: "The common good and human rights are permanently inalienable and have value in all concrete space and time. No emergency, however acute it is, authorizes us to ignore human rights and the common good". Later, it points out the errors that have occurred and that are necessary to avoid.

If, in our eagerness to obtain the security that we so desire there are indiscriminate and incomprehensibly long detentions, ignorance about the whereabouts of the detained people, lack of communication with detained persons for long periods of time and a denial of religious services;

If, with the same objectives, some constitutional guarantees are limited or if the right to defence is postponed;

If, in the justified search for indispensable economic recuperation...people are taken to the edge of misery or to misery itself, through the wage and price game or through lay-offs and firings, at times with very little justification;

If, by trying to avoid those blameworthy abuses of mass media communication, the simplistic solution of suppressing the mass media so that it cannot express the necessary truth, even when in some cases this may hurt;

We are intensely concerned that some of these actions condemned by the Episcopacy continue to occur daily in all parts of the country. We understand the enormous difficulty that the government has in carrying out its task in the midst of the conditions of terrorism of the different tendencies that have struck the whole country. The president has asked for understanding for the measures taken by the Armed Forces. With this spirit, in all that which is for the re-establishment of the implementation of human rights we understand the necessary contribution of public opinion towards such an end. Therefore we are sending our opinions and concerns to the authorities.

"Only the truth can save us", Cardinal Primatest, President of the Episcopal Conference stated a short time ago. This Assembly dedicates its strength to the clarification and implementation of this truth for the good of the Argentine people and the future of our country.

Respectfully we greet his Excellency, the President of the Nation.

THE PENITENTIARY JAIL IN CORDOBA

September, 1976.

Letter: Denunciation

In these past weeks, in the city of Cordoba, printed copies of letter-denunciation written by the political prisoners confined in the Penitentiary Jail of this provincial capital have been circulated. Its authenticity and veracity are completely beyond doubt. The complete text follows below:

"This is a letter-denunciation which we want to make available to all the political opinion of Cordoba, to its most representative sectors, to its church, to the political parties, to its trade union and labour organizations, to its well-known persons in the arts and the sciences; We want it to reach all who best represent our people, as well as the international organizations which work for the defence of human rights."

"We want this letter to be sent to the Argentine League for the Rights of Man (Liga Argentina por los Derechos del Hombre) and the Permanent Assembly (Asamblea Permanente) which defends human rights, in order that the military, ecclesiastical, trade union and political authorities, etc. may know the atrocities which take place daily at the hands of the military personnel and the plainclothes policemen behind the walls of the penitentiary jail of Cordoba and in the name of the III Corps of the Army."

"We plead to everyone who knows of this letter to spread it by making copies and sending it to the relatives of political prisoners, to their friends and to anyone who can do something for them. In the future we will try to release new letters denouncing the specific brutalities which are being committed here. However, this becomes more difficult all the time. In this way, we will attempt to strengthen the unity of the relatives of political prisoners, in order that a great movement of solidarity will be developed."

"We, political prisoners, are totally isolated from the world and from our most beloved relatives. Since March 24, 1976, all visits have been prohibited and not even the letters which are sent to us from our relatives reach us. We are totally ignorant of their situation. We are not allowed to listen to the radio. In addition, the common prisoners have been prohibited from coming close to our pavillions during the 24 hours of the day. On July 15, 1976, one of us, Mr. Moyakarzel, was talking with a common prisoner and was found in the act by our executioners. As a consequence he was brutally beaten. Then he was stripped and staked in the open, to suffer the intense cold of the weather in such conditions. He died within 24 hours while still staked in the open."

"The guards come to our pavillion armed with hard rubber sticks which they use to beat us brutally and indiscriminately. To bear witness to this treatment



are R. Sallustra and F. B. Rivera who were beaten in the most sensitive parts of their bodies. The most basic human rights are not respected. The prisoners are beaten according to the whim of the guards. The prison is no longer a place to guard those prisoners being blamed or "subversive" activities. The methods of torture which are employed here are beyond anything told about the activities of the Nazi Gestapo. The beatings of prisoners begin at the beginning of each day. The guards pretend they want to obtain information but they are not interested in it; they are already pre-determined to beat again and again without motive, and in some cases reach levels of sadism, which it is impossible to express. After the beatings, the bodies of the victims are taken out of the prison with the explanation that they attempted to escape. We denounce that the following persons were taken out dead from this prison:

Bertelli, Mosse, Hernandez, Puchetta, Vega, Zorrilla, Funes, Rossetti, Arguello, Abdon de Maggi, Barberi, Dobre, White, Toranzo, Vera, and Vaca Narvaja."

"Members of the army, we insist, enter our pavillion daily, weilding hard rubber sticks. They perform requisitions and beat the prisoners on their backs and in the most sensitive parts of their bodies. On July 5, 1976, an army man brutally beat a prisoner until the prisoner fainted. Then he threw his body out of the pavillion. The army man, whose name is believed to be Raul Bianfucco or Biaufucco, drew his pistol and fired several shots at the head of the fallen prisoner in the presence of several astonished prisoners. One of the prisoners tried to intervене in order to prevent the assassination. However, another officer intervened by killing this second prisoner as well.

"We do not write here about the rules and conditions which are imposed upon us because we have already mentioned the conditions of our confinement in the past. We only want to mention the most recent order that we have received: "Beginning August 28, 1976, and up to September 30, 1976, it has been decided that absolutely nothing may be sent to those prisoners under military jurisdiction". The arguments which have been given to the relatives of the prisoners consist of telling them "the prisoners don't need anything".

"It is unnecessary to state that we lack any kind of legal assistance".

"The food is abominable, very scarce, inconsistent and has an absolute lack of protein and vitamins. As a consequence, a large number of ailments plague the prisoners; loss of weight (in some persons up to 15 kilos), gastritis, ulcers, hemorrhoids, dysentery, loss of teeth, etc. Those who suffer chronically from heart diseases, diabetes, etc. are totally without medical attention. Medicines which are brought by our relatives are confiscated and when the doctors attempt to palliate certain ailments, they find themselves impotent before this situation. The action of the military of confiscating medicines affects all political prisoners, without exception, whether they be lawyers, priests, doctors, union leaders, students, etc."



The copy of the letter-denunciation circulated in Cordoba is followed by a brief text posing the following questions:

Why are these people in Prison?  
Why aren't they given a legal process where they may have the opportunity to defend themselves?  
What is the list of prisoners in the jail in Cordoba?  
What is the list of missing prisoners and who is responsible for their lives?  
Who is responsible for the death of prisoners who inadvertently appear dead after supposed "guerrilla" actions?  
Is there truth in the testimony of the information releases of the III Corps of the Army?  
Why is it that political prisoners are not considered as human beings, deserving at least the same treatment given to common criminals?

There are approximately 1200 political prisoners lodged in the Penitentiary Jail of Cordoba, from which the above letter-denunciation comes. The jail has an actual capacity to lodge 400 prisoners. With other characteristics, in general less brutal, the conditions of lack of communication, bad food, crowding, misinformation, and bad treatment are reproduced in the other detention institutions of the province. But if the situation of those who are imprisoned in these establishments is uncertain, all the more grave and irregular is the situation of those unknown detainees who are lodged in unofficial centres like "Campo de la Perla" situated close to the road that unites the city of Cordoba with the city of Alta Gracia. "Campo de la Ribera" and "La Perla" in addition to lodging an undetermined number of unrecognized prisoners, comply with a certain stage - of interrogations with illegal pressures (oppressions) - which a great number of prisoners undergo, some for a number of weeks, always with their eyes blindfolded and their heads covered. According to other accounts, which so far are not totally proven, there are detention camps similar to "La Perla" and "Campo de la Ribera" in "Pampa de Olaem" and "Pampa de Achala".

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The situation of the jails in Cordoba, testimony about which is given in the above letter-denunciation of the prisoners and the information they give, indicated a systematic violation of the most elemental and constitutional human rights. Even in a moment of national difficulty demonstrated by the tremendous events taking place in the country, Cordoba is exceptional: powerful forces in this province, inside and outside the prisoners, are trying to destroy every human right and implant a reign of brutal arbitrariness.

This document is an attempt to denounce such outrages and in this way to gain the necessary response, both civil and military, democratic and in solidarity of the people of Cordoba and of all Argentinians.

The following testimony has been received from the Institution C.I.A.S.

Situation of the following young people:

\*Monica Maria Candelaire MIGNONE - 24 years of age, single, pedagogist, Argentine citizen, home address, Santa Fe 2949, 30th floor, Federal Capital.

\*Maria Marta Vasquez Ocampo LUGONES - Argentine citizen, 23 years of age, married, psychologist-pedagogy, home address, Emilio Mitre 1258, 2nd floor, Federal Capital.

\*Cesar Amadeo LUGONES - Argentine citizen, 26 years of age, married, medical veterinarian, home address - Emilio Mitre 1258, 2nd floor, Federal Capital.

\*Beatriz Carolina Carbonell de PEREZ WEISS - Argentine, 23 years of age, married, social worker, home address - Camacua 208, 10th floor, Apt. 22, Federal Capital.

\*Horacio PEREZ WEISS - Argentine, 25 years of age, geology student, married, home address - Camacua 208, 10th floor, Apt. 22, Federal Capital.

The five people mentioned above were detained in the early morning of May 14, 1976, in their respective homes. The operations were similar. Due to the fact of existing witnesses, since the detained woman lived with her parents, we will relate here the episode of the detention of Miss Mignone. Through other witnesses, we know that the operations carried out in the homes of the Lugones couple and Perez Weiss couple were similar.

At 5 o'clock in the morning, a commission of 7 men dressed in civil clothes presented themselves. They were dressed in work clothes and were very heavily armed (machine guns, grenades, etc). They came in two Ford Falcon autos well guarded on the street Santa Fe almost at the corner with Aguero. Santa Fe is an avenue in the center of the city with a lot of traffic and well taken care of by police patrols and other guards of various types because it is a zone where there are many banks and where many important people live (eg. in the house next door a commanding general of a brigade of the army; half a block away, the house of Admiral Rojas; one block away, General Iniguez, ex-chief of Police, etc.). Five of the occupants of the cars knocked on the door of the apartment of the Mignone family, presenting themselves as coming from the Argentine army to carry out a process (procedure). When the door was opened to them, and they were able to distinguish the occupants - the Mignone parents, and several of their children and nephews, they asked Monica what were her belongings. They checked over her possessions, took out her agenda with addresses and some manuscripts and said that they had to detain her and take her to Regimiento 1 of the Infantry Palermo, for the investigation of another person. This is the way they did it. The check was very superficial. The procedures were correct and lasted a little more than half an hour. The guards remained outside beside the vehicles with their machine guns. They didn't ask if we had arms. The parents of Monica Maria Mignone had an opportunity to talk with those in charge of the operation. These men insisted upon the fact that they were officials of the Armed Forces. Their behaviour, their answers, their affirmations, cultural level, the form in which they spoke and moved all revealed that without a doubt they were officials of some part of the Armed Forces. In the case of the Perez Weiss family, they first went mistakenly to the home of the parents of Horacio and their answers were similar. They took the parents so they would point out the new home of a brother of Horacio. This brother noticed that a police car approached the first commission and after a

brief conversation left. The man in charge of the building where the Lugones live said that the vehicles used for the procedures were driven by men in uniform.

Through what has been expressed here and through another series of indicators and previous evidence, it can be proved beyond a doubt that these five young people mentioned here have been detained by people from the Armed Forces. All this has also been evidenced by another person who had access to the agenda and address book of another. These five young people were very good friends and enjoyed common activities. They also had apostolic and social concerns in common. They had carried out activities related to community development in the Pantagonia on several occasions. Some of them, especially Monica Mignone and Maria Marta Vasquez, from the time they were 9 years of age, had participated in activities of community development, education and religious activities in the slum area called "Villa de Emergencia de Bajo Flores" in a sector called Bellen. Both of them, in their work of psychopedagogy went to the Pinero Hospital in the Municipality of Buenos Aires. Monica Mignone was also teaching in the National University of Lujan. They saw each other frequently. They did not participate in political activities.

From the moment of their disappearances, there has been no information about these young people. All efforts to find out about their whereabouts have been in vain. An indictment has been brought forward for illegitimate detention in the respective police sections. Habeus corpus has been presented to the Federal Judiciary for Crimes and Corrections No. 1, responsible to Dr. Narquadt, and to the Federal Police as well as the Ministers of the Interior and of Defence. All petitions have been answered negatively.

High officials of the Army and of the Marines have affirmed that they are not registered as detained by their forces or found in their offices. The same answer has come from the Federal Police after concrete checks with the chief and the sub-chief of the police. Mr. Emilio F. Mignone, father of one of the detained young people, has written an open letter to the President of the Republic asking for information on the whereabouts of his daughter and he hasn't received any answer.

THE TEXT OF THE LETTER SENT BY MR. EMILIO MIGNONE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATION, GENERAL JORGE RAFAEL VIDELA.

Buenos Aires, May 25, 1976

"Mr. President:

"On May 14, 1976, at 5 o'clock in the morning, a group of young men dressed in civilian clothes, although with similar clothing heavily armed, broke into the apartment at 2949 Santa Fe, 3rd Floor, in the capital where I live with my wife and 5 children. The boss of the group indicated in a loud voice that they were carrying out procedures of the Argentine Army.

"After a superficial check of the apartment, because there was nothing that could incriminate us, the armed group took my daughter Monica Maria Candelaria Mignone (C.I.Pol.Fed. 6.336.146). The one in charge of the operation said that they were taking her to the 1st Regiment in Palermo for some information related to another person.

"The behaviour of these men was severe, but measured and correct. For these reasons and for other indicators, among them the ostensible character of the action and the content of the dialogue that they carried on with my wife and I, I had the impression that those who were directing the operation were effectively officials of the Armed Forces. This certainty is the only hope that gives me strength in these terrible moments as I think of my daughter.

"From that date until today for eleven days, I have not been able to get any news about Monica. It is as if the earth had swallowed her up. Nobody makes themselves responsible for her detention or tells us where she can be found. All of the organisms consulted or notified either personally or through the presentation of a habeas corpus presented to the Federal Judiciary of Crime and Corrections No. 1 of the Federal Capital have responded negatively, including the police, the Armed Forces, the Minister of the Interior and the Penitentiary Service. And this is very serious, because from many points of view, I have few doubts of the participation of the Armed Forces in this matter.

"Faced with such a situation and with all possibilities used up, I come to you as the only alternative left, Mr. President, calling on you not only in your condition as Head of State and Commander in Chief of the Army but also as a Christian, as a citizen and as a father.

"I am not interested here in finding out what the eventual responsibility of my daughter might be, something that results from an investigation that is carried out, nor to talk about her innocence, of which I am intimately and objectively persuaded because she lives with us. I am only asking something very elementary in a civilized society: to know where she can be found, WHAT AUTHORITY HAS DETAINED HER: WHAT STATE IS SHE IN (since she has a congenital health problem); and if it is possible, what she is accused of.

"I am making this appeal animated by the concepts presented in your television address given last night, where you said that one of the essential objectives of your government was the 'energetic protection of the human rights of all members of the community...rights which are sacred and inalienable..for the dignity of mankind.' I agree with you that the fight against subversion 'demands drastic measures' and I am willing to support the necessary understanding that you ask of us. But I do not see how there can be an incompatibility between this demand and the natural right to know the whereabouts of a detained person.

"If Mr. President, as I am certain you agree to give me this simple information, it will bring peace to a family that is now in anguish and very desperate, a family that wants to believe in the authenticity of the principles and the human values, both Christian and Argentinian which you enunciated.

"I omit other considerations from this letter for it is not the correct moment.

Signed by Emilio Mignone"



Personal testimonies from Argentina, received from human rights organizations

1. ON APRIL 25TH, 1976, WE RECEIVED MR. REMY VENCENTINI'S OWN TESTIMONY:

On April 14th, 1976, I was resting and watching T.V. with my wife when someone knocked on the door of my apartment. Upon opening it we were confronted by four men heavily armed with pistols and machine guns, who said that they were members of the Army and had come to search the apartment.

They asked us if there was anyone else there and we told them no, but that our 18 year old daughter lived with us until two days ago. Since then we have had no word of her and we were very worried. They searched through some things and then compelled us to accompany them. They put us aboard a great Falcon car and drove down Escalada St., towards the river. About 20 blocks from where we were taken the car was stopped and with blindfolds which they made out of a sheet that they took from our apartment they blindfolded us and made us lie down on the seat of the car. In this position we travelled approximately 30 minutes until we reached a place where we got out, which could be an office building from the way people seemed to be coming and going continuously. We remained there until Monday, April 19th, and were taken from there early on the 20th, and took us in the same way, keeping us blindfolded and our hands tied near Roca Avenue on Cosquin St., where we stayed for 10 minutes and then without explanation we were taken to our apartment. We asked them for our personal effects (money, documents, watches, etc.) and they told us that they were only following orders and knew nothing about that.....

WE WERE 5 DAYS ARRESTED WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE, BLINDFOLDED AND HANDS TIED BEHIND OUR BACKS.

We slept on the floor, on top of a blanket or small mattress, which were preferably given to the women.

They took the documents and possessions. From my wife they took a gold watch, money, bifocal glasses, etc., and from me my 317 document and my identification card.

According to the list that was called each day there were 47 persons there at first. Later they said that 5 were freed and that left 42. (Approximately 12 women.) Several times during the night they used to wake us to check if we were still tied and blindfolded. When they discovered that somebody had the blindfold loose they would threaten to burn the eyes or kill them. They always spoke to each other as Captain, Major, or Colonel. There was an enormous difference between the treatment of those people and the wardens (guards) who tried to treat us in a humane way. On one occasion (Friday night) it seemed as if they were going to transfer us to another place (they said a ship). They made us wait standing for several hours but apparently, from what they said, they could not get the place they had to take us. Later after threatening us they gave us some sweet water to drink which made us sleep all night, something which did not happen on previous nights. On Saturday they took me and pushed me to go up and down elevators and down hallways to a group of individuals headed by, according to them a major who asked me about my daughter. Upon answering him that I knew about her for several days as I had told them before, they started to beat me on the back and stomach and my head against the wall, later they did to me, what they call the "submarine" trying to drown me and afterwards they took me to "try out" the "little machine," which they call it. They left me semi-unconscious and well bound, proof of that is that part of the palm of my hand is numb.



In reference to the problem of my daughter, enclosed is a separate hand written note.

----- (TEXTUAL)

2. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONY FROM MR. HUGO OJEDA ON THE 16TH, OF JUNE 1976:

In order to fulfil our duty we wish to inform you that Mr. Hector Muller has been murdered. He was a retired chemical worker who served for a prolonged period the position of general delegate of the Interior Committee of the Empress Sulfacid in Fray Luis Beltran, in the locality of Capitan Bermudez, in the province of Santa Fe. He was 65 years of age.

He was taken from his home: Sargento Cabral 51, in the locality mentioned above, at dawn on May 29th, by a group which was armed and wore civilian clothes. In spite of innumerable inquiries to the diverse governmental authorities, of the Command 61 of Corp 11 and of the Security Forces, no information was obtained and we did not even find out if an investigation was made.

Yesterday, On June 15th, a body which appeared floating in River Parana was identified as that of Hector Muller. It had bullet holes and marks to show that he had been beaten. He was completely nude and had only one shoe. According to authorized opinion he had been thrown into the river about 11 days before.

About the circumstances surrounding this monstrous crime of the fascist groups we have only presumptions. More than a month ago numerous workers of the company Ceramica Verbano of Capitan Bermudez were arrested, among them a nephew of Muller who is still detained. Mr. Muller led the inquiries. Delegations asked for the liberty of these detained. During this process the chief of personnel of Verbano was murdered, whose surname was Pardal. After this Muller was sequestered. We suppose that the murder was the answer to the murder of Pardal.

We attribute, in the zone, this crime to an organization disguised as the (Agencia de Vigilancia de Seguridad de Empresas) Vigilant Agency for Company Security, which was founded in the Zone of Rosario by the ex-chief of SIDE, Colonel Sa, who now is doing something else. This organization is directed by Colonel (SR) Larrechea, who after this act resigned. The organization is financed by the large companies, Petroquimica (PASA), Frigorificos Swift, Sulfacid, Teel Roscach, Acinder, etc., and its aim is to repress labour movement and activity, mainly at the level of the factories, that is to say, that which they call ("la guerrilla fabril") the factory guerrilla. To this organization should also be attributed the beatings and the burning of the homes of the delegates of the companies Teel Rosach and Sambí. Also the murder of the worker Di Grandi, from the private oil company of San Lorenzo, who appeared floating in the River Parana where he had been hidden tied to a cement block and the simultaneous kidnapping and definite disappearance of a worker of Petroquimica (PASA), by the name of Vergara.

All interviews solicited by the neighbours and the organizations of the zone have been denied. The complaint is now under investigation.

Cordially,

HUGO OJEDA

----- (TEXTUAL)

3. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING REPORT ABOUT DR. ALFREDO NICHOLAS BATTAGLIA

Argentinian, 44 years of age, married, two children, lawyer since 1958, has carried on his profession actively since that date in the city of Mar del Plata, Dolores, Madariaga. Studied in Madariaga. Defender of workers and political prisoners and unions. Lawyer for the ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN Affiliated since youth to the Communist Party of Argentina.

He was arrested the day of the military "coup," on the 24th, of March at 5 A.M. He was taken from his home in pyjamas and a hood placed over his head. He was badly treated from that moment and for at least 10 days in the Naval Base of Mar del Plata, when he was kept in the submarine without the most minimal necessities. He was for days without even being allowed to go to the bathroom and spent entire days tied to a chair, with the hands tied behind him and always with a hood over his head. His wife was allowed to visit him only twice and a lawyer for five minutes when he signed a power of attorney in front of his captors. This lawyer believes, although he had not confessed it to his wife, that he has also been subjected to electric shock. He was later transferred to the Air Base at Mar del Plata and there the conditions under which he was held improved. He is in a room with two other people and receives correspondence, newspapers, magazines, books and has good food, etc. However, he has only been allowed to see his wife and have visits from colleagues, lawyers and friends have been denied.

The College of Lawyers of Mar del Plata has interceded for him, an interview was held with Colonel Barda, chief of the Zone of Mar del Plata, who reported that Battaglia was detained, and that his situation would be resolved by his superiors, and that he was an active militant of the Communist Party and that he personally considered him as a "conflictive" man. According to reports the detention of Battaglia was ordered by the Navy through its Service of Information. He was accused of belonging to a group called "Fertita" and of having participated in the preparation of the "Marplazo" (actions that were in preparation but never came into effect). Of course all this is absurd, invented by the direct repressors. 26 days after his arrest it is still not known why he is detained. Nobody has explained anything and his situation must be resolved by the "superior authorities." His colleagues from Mar del Plata asks that his liberty be solicited from the Ministry of the Interior, also from the Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, direct and exclusive gestures, as lawyers and colleagues.

----- 19-4-74 (true copy)

4. TESTIMONY OF THE KIDNAPPING AND THE BIOGRAPHY OF DR. LIBEROFF, THE DAY FOLLOWING THE KIDNAPPING OF THE URUGUAYAN LEGISLATORS

Dr. Manuel Liberooff was born in Parana, Argentina, March 3rd, 1921, travelled to Uruguay in 1943 where he obtained Urugayan citizenship.

He was married in 1948 to Silvia Nemirovshy and settled in Carrasco where his two children were born.

He studied medicine in Uruguay and graduated in 1952. He worked in his profession without interruption until July 12th, 1973, when he was detained by the Security Forces of Uruguay and after 5 months of absolute "incommunication" he was deported to Argentina by decree. We should clarify that he practiced medicine in what is known as "family medicine" whose characteristic is working in the neighbourhood and slum areas.

His political militancy started in 1962 in the Frente de Izquierda de Liberacion (FIDEL) Left Liberation Front.

1970-73 - During this period he was president of CODEPA - Departamental Commission of Parents.

1971 - Candidate for the Frente Amplio, for list 101, supporting the candidature of General Liber Seregni.

1972-73 - Treasurer and Secretary of Press and Propaganda of the Medical Union of Uruguay - Also director of press and propaganda through radio and T.V. about themes of sanitation and popular interest.

November 11th, 1973 - is deported to Argentina and with an enormous effort settled and began to practice medicine.

From that moment and at 52 years of age he reinitiated his work and permanent vocation, that of service to the community. Nothing stopped him, including severe pain which culminated in a difficult operation which took place in April of this year and from which he was convalescing.

On May 19th, 1976, at 3 in the morning, persons dressed in civilian clothes and strongly armed broke into the home of Dr. Liberoff. They said that they were from the Federal Police. Previously they had penetrated the house of a neighbour mistaking it for that of the Liberoff. The neighbour was brutally beaten and threatened until he was forced to indicate the place where Dr. Liberoff lived.

After knocking down the door with the butts of the long weapons, they confronted Dr. Liberoff and beat him sadistically, they put a hood over his head and took him by force to an unknown destination.

Before leaving this group robbed every object of value in the house and the doctors office. Valuable medical instruments were completely destroyed.

Finally the wife, who was convalescing from a grave illness, was threatened and compelled not to have seen what happened. Nothing has been known about Dr. Liberoff from that date.

The Habeas Corpus presented on his behalf was answered negatively.

Bishop Marozzi is the bishop of Resistencia, a diocese in the northern part of Argentina. Like many bishops he has received constant appeals for help from families and friends of disappeared persons or political prisoners. He has responded with sensitivity, and as a pastor has been able to visit the jail in Resistencia. His concern for these prisoners has angered certain right wing sectors of the police and military. They have expressed their anger by further mistreating a number of prisoners helped by the bishop.

#### THE BEAUTIFUL SENSIBILITY OF A BISHOP

##### The Transfer of Political Prisoners

##### The Situation in the Jails

The letter of Bishop Marozzi, a copy of which is enclosed, addressed to the relatives of political prisoners in the prison of Resistencia, in the province of Chaco, is scarcely one episode in the attitude of the Church in front of the present iniquity. The Church thus accompanies all those who are suffering and condemns all the irrational manifestations of violence. Bishop Marozzi, with beautiful sensitivity, has assisted and continues to assist without distinction all the prisoners and their relatives, a gesture which should not involve reprisals. However, an inconceivable (unthinkable) hate promotes revenge for such solidarity against several of the political and union prisoners detained without legal process at the disposition of the National Executive Power.

##### Testimony 1.

On June 30, 1976, the following persons were transferred from the Prison of Resistencia to the Prison of Rawson: Carlos Mariano Zamorano Vega, lawyer; Nestor Montenegro, trade-unionist; Father Nunex, priest; Jose Portnoy, student; Ruben Becerra, radical worker; and Enrique Erro, ex-Senator of Uruguay. In spite of the diversity among these persons a group which included a priest, a union leader, two Communist party members, an activist of the Radical Civic Union Party and an ex-legislator of Uruguay who had asked for political asylum in Argentina, they were all accused, if the term has any value, of being "subversives" even though there is no legal indictment against them. Accused of "subversion", this has justified torture against them as well as being blamed for a terrorist action against the office of the Federal Security Forces which occurred weeks earlier. As they tortured these political prisoners, the torturers shouted constantly: "...this is for the 142 orphaned children", referring to the children of the policemen who died on that occasion and others. However, their main "argument" suggested by another phrase shouted at the prisoners, was: "You are the people who sustain the interest of Marozzi and the "church" in these things. Each of the verbal and physical injuries was accompanied by the same explanations: This is happening to you for being "Marozzistas".

The week before the transfer of the prisoners to Rawson, Zamorano Vega, Montenegro, Father Nunez, Portnoy, Becerra and Erro had been collectively congratulated along with other prisoners by the chief of security of the prison of Resistencia for their discipline, order and hygiene. Their part of the prison was outstanding as a result of the organization and comradeship achieved by the prisoners. Perhaps these reasons granted a great fluidity and cordiality to the relations between these above-mentioned prisoners and Bishop Marozzi, by means of without doubt the immense prestige and respect which this religious man enjoys. Although it seems surprising, this seems to have been the motive for which these prisoners were punished, and subjected to so many annoyances.



Nestor Montenegro, for instance received 45 blows and kicks - he counted all of them - before he fainted. When he got off the plane, he received several brutal blows and fainted again. Becerra was continually hit in the kidney area and even a week later his urine showed blood. The same kind of treatment was given to Zamorano, Portnoy and Erro, and Father Nunez suffered from a sharp, deep head wound produced by a blow from a rifle. Unfortunately for him, his situation as a priest brought down the worst accusations of "linkages" with "Marozism".

Once they arrived at Rawson prison, the prisoners were put into cages called "chiquero" or "chancho" which were approximately three square metres. During the first four days, ten prisoners were crowded into each of these cells; later, from the fifth to the tenth day, four prisoners were left in each cell. The temperatures upon leaving Resistencia were above 30 degrees Centigrade, but in Rawson, thousands of kilometres to the south, the temperature descended to 5 or 6 degrees below zero, an intense cold that the prisoners had to endure with only summer clothing, in cells with no heating, without mattresses or blankets, without light and with little bread and water. They were not allowed to leave the "chiquero" for any reason, and therefore they had to use this place for all needs and activities for ten days. These conditions which included the cold, the beatings, etc. were the cause of both physical and mental breakdown among the prisoners.

For these prisoners against whom particular reprisals were taken, the number of whom is greater than the six mentioned specifically here, there was finally "an explanation" offered by one of the functionaries of the Rawson prison: "This is the result of the subversive publicity from Resistencia and so that you begin to acclimatize yourselves".

#### Testimony 2.

This case explains what happened at the same time to another group of prisoners transferred from Resistencia to Rawson. The group includes three young people from Cordoba, Vicente Angel Castaneda, Hector Araoz and Guillermo Rojas. These three were detained in the prison at Resistencia under Executive Power in the same section as the six prisoners already mentioned.

On the 13th or 14th of April 1976, Castaneda, Araoz and Rojas were brought from Resistencia to the jail called Villa Devoto, situated in the Federal Capital (Buenos Aires). They were placed in Cell Block 5. This cell block consists of a hallway and several cells, each one with the capacity for two or three prisoners. Five or six prisoners were forced to live in this space with only three mattresses and blankets available for all. Only one meal was served daily - around 1 p.m. - It was breakfast, lunch and supper at the same time. Given the very poor quality and very small quantity of the food provided, the prisoners would buy very small portions of cheese and candy and bread in the canteen when they had some money. When they were able to obtain this, they would have some small thing to eat at night.

Periodically, each cell block in Villa Devoto would receive a visit from the guards who supervised the Requisa section, known as the "la Patota". These guards were armed with heavy sticks and they would cruelly punish the prisoners for any pretext. During the last visit by these armed guards before



their transferral to Rawson prison, Vicente Angel Castaneda and Hector Araoz resisted the humiliating demands from "la Patota" guards - which consisted of undressing completely and separating their buttocks with both hands. Their refusal brought about a punishment that lasted 12 days. During that period periods of recreation, visitors and correspondence were all denied. Later, all the prisoners at the disposition of the Executive Power were held incommunicado until June 22, 1976.

At the time that this period of isolation ended, Castaneda and Araoz were transferred to Rawson prison. At the time of their departure from Cell Block 5, their heads were fully covered so that they wouldn't be aware of where they were being taken. However, they were aware that two other prisoners were being taken with them, one of them being the trade union leader, Nelson Collazo. From their departure from the prison until they arrived on the plane in a police wagon they received innumerable blows. In the airplane they were chained to one another, with their arms crossed, wrist to wrist, and lying on the floor. They made the whole trip in these conditions, with their head between their knees as well, all the time receiving blows and threats.

Once they arrived - probably at the provincial airport of Chubut or the aeronaval base, "Almirante Zar" - all of them were kicked roughly off the plane and thrown like potato bags into a police wagon. They were injured because of the blows and wounds received all over their bodies and heads. At Rawson, they remained for three hours in the "chiquero" and later were placed in the 5th Block with Zamorano Vega, Father Nunez, Montenegro, Ruben Becerra, and ex-Senator Erro. Portnoy had been transferred to another cell. From that time, some improvement in their situation have been noted.

What is the objective of these testimonies provided by the relatives of the people detained now in Rawson prison? Firstly, they want to show, by means of the exposed cases, an idea of the generalized (extent) of arbitrary actions taken against social and political prisoners in Argentina, the majority of whom are detained by decree of the Executive Power, without any legal process. Secondly, they want to expose the implications of the transfers of prisoners from one prison to another: the bad treatment and the thousands of miles of distance put between the detained prisoner and his relatives and work and school companions, all with the purpose of undermining the moral of those detained, and of weakening the solidarity with them. Finally, to expose the increasing, although still exceptional, actions, taken in the recent transferrals from Resistencia to Rawson: the irrational reprisals taken against the Church for its sensitivity and humanity personified in the person of Bishop Marozzi.

There is no doubt that the behaviour of Bishop Marozzi is free of any political implications. His solidarity work is the logical outcome of the doctrine of the institution he represents and is the practical application of recent statements by the Episcopal Conference of Argentina. In addition, his work in defence of human rights, coincides with the repeated statements of the Argentine military government which took power on March 24, 1976, and with the democratic majority within the officers and troops of the Argentine Armed Forces.

Information on the above-mentioned prisoners

Carlos Mariano Zamorano Vega: Detained under decree of the Executive Power since November 1974. Argentinian citizen, 36 years old, lawyer devoted to the defence of political prisoners. He was representative of the Communist Party in the provincial committee of Tucuman. He was vice-president of the Argentinian League for Human Rights and, also, a candidate to the Executive of the International Federation of Human Rights (an organization accredited with the United Nations).

Ruben Becerra: Detained by decree of the Executive Power since October 1974 when police assaulted a local of the Electricity and Energy Union in Cordoba. He was a worker in the Provincial Energy Company of Cordoba, and an activist of the Radical Civic Union Party.

Hector Araoz: Detained at the disposition of the Executive Power since October 1974 when police assaulted a local of the Electricity and Energy Union in Cordoba. He was also a worker of the Provincial Energy Company and an activist with the Communist Party.

Father Nunez: A priest from the province of Misiones. Detained without legal process at the disposition of the Executive Power.

Guillermo Rojas: He was detained at the disposition of the Executive Power on November 22, 1974. He is a mechanical engineer and electrician; an activist in the Communist Party in Cordoba.

Ex-Senator Enrique Erro: Detained at the disposition of the Executive Power without legal process since the beginning of 1975. An Uruguayan citizen who had sought political asylum in Argentina.

Nestor Montenegro: Detained at the disposition of the Executive Power since July 7, 1974. He was representative of the transportation union in Buenos Aires. He was arrested along with 150 other workers.

Jose Adrian Portnoy: Detained since June 17, 1975, at the disposition of the Executive Power. He was a student leader in Buenos Aires and studies biochemistry.

Vicente Angel Castaneda: Detained since December 5, 1974, at the disposition of the Executive Power and without any trial. 28 years old, married, with two small children; he has been a metallurgical worker since 12 years of age and has worked as an electronics technician. He was a member of the Communist Youth Federation in Cordoba; a member of the Central Committee of this federation and member of the provincial committee of the Communist Party in Cordoba.

Nelson Collazo: Detained at the disposition of the Executive Power since early in 1975. He was representative of the union in the Rigolleau de Berazategui factory in the province of Buenos Aires.

LETTER FROM THE EPISCOPAL ASSEMBLY TO THE MILITARY JUNTA

-published in newspapers on July 7, 1976.

"Those who sign below, members of the Executive Commission of the Argentine Episcopal Conference, have had today (7/7/76) our regular periodic meeting of this commission, and during this meeting, as it was obvious, we have considered the serious acts of violence that have recently shaken our country and in ways unknown before in this country, intimately wounded the heart of the Church.

Naturally, we are referring to the incredible assassination of a religious community in St. Patrick's Parish in Buenos Aires. We know, through the words of the Ministry of the Interior and by the presence of the Minister of Foreign Relations and Cult in the burial services, as well as of high military chiefs, that the government and the armed forces participate in our sorrow and, we even dare to say, in our astonishment.

But, we cannot, and neither do we want to emphasize only this crime, because in addition, every day the newspapers bring us news about many other murders of which we never know how they occurred, and who is responsible. All these events provoke unrest and worry among the Argentinian people. We ask ourselves, or more precisely, people ask themselves, at times only in the intimacy of their home or in their circle of friends - because fear is spreading - what does all of this mean? What forces are these which act with such power that they proceed with impunity and with such anonymity to act arbitrarily in our society? And naturally many begin to ask: What guarantee, what rights remain for the ordinary citizen?

Clearly, this situation produces uncertainty among the people and does not help to achieve the desired pacification that the government pretends to reach.

Based in the daily experience of the Church which receives petitions from all kinds of people, we want to reiterate our request put forth in the document of the Plenary Assembly of the Argentine Episcopal Conference on the situation of prisoners and the possibility of obtaining at least some information to bring relief to their families.

We all desire - and we feel that we, the Bishops, have the right to say the we desire it as much as anyone - a future of peace, progress, freedom and fraternal life in our country, according to our best traditions. Are these not the most rooted and the most Christian traditions? What better can we desire than an effective re-affirmation of the principles of thinking which gave our country its being and its freedom? These principles are Christian. As a result we all have the responsibility to say that we are searching for a country where right reigns for all permitting the achievement of the common good.

Responding to the needs of our communities, we wish to present these words, certain of your understanding, men whom we know as people with high ideals and generous attitudes towards the country, its institutions, and its citizens, making ourselves the spokesmen for many people who don't know how to or who do not dare to direct themselves to the leaders of our country.

As pastors we ask our Lord God to give to you, our leaders, the light and the strength to carry out the high and important responsibilities that you have.

Signed by: Cardinals Raul A. Primatesta and Juan Carlos Aramburu.  
Bishop Vicente Zaspé, Archbishop of Santa Fe, President  
and first and second Vice-President of the Argentine Episcopal  
Conference (CEA).

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Telegram of the Pope, Paul VI, to Cardinal Raul Francisco Primatesta,  
President of the Argentine Episcopal Conference:

"IN FRONT OF REPEATED ACTS OF VIOLENCE THAT HAVE CULMINATED WITH THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS, THE HOLY FATHER EXPRESSES HIS ENERGETIC REPULSION FOR THESE ABOMINABLE CRIMES THAT CONTRADICT THE CIVIL AND CHRISTIAN SPIRIT OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE, AND WHILE IT OFFERS FERVENT ASSISTANCE, UNITED TO THE SORROW (PAIN) OF YOUR EMINENCE, OF THE BROTHERS OF THE EPISCOPACY, FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, PRIESTS, RELIGIOUS AND FAITHFUL, TO WHOM WE ASK TO WORK WITHOUT DISCOURAGEMENT IN ORDER TO BANISH ALL VIOLENCE AND TO INSTALL A FRATERNAL AND PEACEFUL LIVING TOGETHER. WITH ALL THESE DESIRES, I OFFER YOU THE APOSTOLIC BLESSING.

(published in the newspapers on 7/7/76)

*L.P. Documentation*

**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHURCH PEOPLE IN ARGENTINA**

**ED. NOTE:** *The following is a report by a group of priests in Argentina of the murder of ten priests, two seminarians and the suspected murder of a bishop. All but one of the incidents took place this year and, as the report indicates, were perpetrated by right-wing terror groups with government connections. The account was translated and published by the Catholic Institute for International Relations. The full report may be ordered by writing to CIIR, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1 4JL, England (\$2 airmail, \$1 regular mail).*

**FATHER CARLOS FRANCISCO MUJICA**

On May 11, 1974, Father Mujica was assassinated by the occupant of a black Peugeot in front of the parish of San Francisco Solano de Floresta, Buenos Aires. He had just celebrated evening mass.

Some days previously Father Mujica had celebrated a requiem mass for Jose Chejolan, a peasant killed in a political demonstration in the Plaza de Mayo, the main square of Buenos Aires.

Father Mujica's commitment to the oppressed was well known. His last words were "today more than ever it is necessary to be with the people."

**FATHER JOSE TEDESCHI**

On February 2, 1976, Father Jose Tedeschi was seized from the Villa Itati in Bernal by a group of armed "civilians." His body appeared days later with marks of torture, with his eyes gouged out. Father Tedeschi was an outspoken advocate of human rights. The inhabitants of the area feel indignation and abhorrence at this horrifying murder which has never been explained.

**FATHER FRANCISCO SOARES**

On the morning of February 15, 1976, in the Chapel of Carupa in the Diocese of San Isidro, Father Soares was shot along with his invalid brother by a group in civilian clothes.

Father Soares' death was linked to those of three other people. Two union officials of the Astarsa Shipyard in Buenos Aires and the wife of one of them had re-

cently been seized, tortured and killed. The woman was a catechist of the Chapel of Carupa. She was found bleeding to death and one of her breasts had been ripped away. The police of the Tigre division (of course, unofficially) claimed responsibility for the killings as part of a campaign of political intimidation.

At the woman's funeral Father Soares had denounced the murders and had named those responsible.

**FATHERS FRANCISCO JALICS  
AND ORLANDO YORIO**

At midday on Sunday, July 30, 1976, about 100 members of the Argentinian navy surrounded the Bajo Flores Sector of the Buenos Aires suburb of Avellaneda and broke into the chapel where a priest, a friend of Fathers Jalics and Yorio, was saying mass. When the mass ended, they forced the congregation outside with the exception of nine catechists. They simultaneously occupied the priests' house after stationing armed men on the roofs of surrounding buildings and blocking roads. Fathers Jalics and Yorio were detained.

The house was ransacked and members of the navy interrogated Father Yorio for several hours about his alleged connections with "Marxism" and "subversion." In the meantime, the nine catechists were made to stand, hands above their heads, against the wall inside the chapel with guns in their backs.

Father Jalics and Yorio were taken away in a car. The catechists, blindfolded

(continued on page 6)



and hands tied, were thrown into a van. They were all taken away—it is thought to the school of Naval Mechanics in Buenos Aires.

One of the catechists was a nephew of the politician, Francisco Manrique. Through his intervention all were set free the following day after interrogation and threats that "if they returned to the area they would be plugged with lead and left in a ditch."

One of the catechists, Monica, an ex-nun, had been seized some days previously. Following the navy's raid on the suburb, Monica's corpse was delivered by the navy to her parents.

The navy deny they have Fathers Jalics and Yorio in custody. No one knows where they are or whether they are alive or dead. No information has been given either to their Jesuit superior or to the Episcopal Vicar of Flores.

#### **FATHERS KELLY, DUFFAU AND LEACEN; SEMINARIANS BARLETTI AND BARBEITO**

On Sunday, June 27, 1976, the priest of San Patricio (in the suburb of Belgrano, Buenos Aires) preached in his sermon about the death penalty as a violation of human rights.

A seminarian, Salvador Barbeito, a teacher of the San Maron school, had received anonymous threats. Clearly those responsible disagreed with what was being taught to the catechists at the school. Although not linked to the Third World Priests Movement, the parish was very much in sympathy with the thinking and directives of the Second Vatican Council and the 1968 Conference of Latin American Bishops at Medellin, Colombia.

The teachers of the secondary school of San Patricio had also received threats of violence.

In the early hours of Sunday, July 4, 1976, the son of a senior officer living in the area noticed a Peugeot with four occupants in suspicious circumstances. The car flashed its lights. The young man reported this to Station Number 37 of the Federal Police. The information was ignored.

Finally, the young man identified himself so that the matter would be given attention. The police then offered him a lift home in a police car. He refused the offer

and on his way home passed the spot again. There he saw a police car approach the parked Peugeot and words were exchanged. The police car then drove off.

The young man went home and mentioned the matter to the police guard at his home. The policeman said that the occupants of the Peugeot had identified themselves as members of the SIDE secret police and had said "they had come to do away with pinkos."

From his house the young man saw armed figures entering and leaving the parish house. He thought that they had asked the priests' permission to go through their house for greater convenience. At about 2:55 a.m. the Peugeot drove away quickly.

The next day one of the boys from the parish knocked at the door of the priests' house. He received no reply. He entered the house through a window and found Fathers Duffau, Kelly and Leacen and Seminarists Jose Emilio Barletti and Salvador Barbeito shot dead in their rooms. The priests bore signs of beatings on the mouth with rifle butts.

On one of the carpets in the house slogans had been painted with aerosol, "For corrupting the virgin minds of the young" and with chalk on one of the doors, "For our dead comrades in Federal Security." The chalk slogans were immediately erased by the police when they arrived on Sunday morning.

#### **BISHOP ENRIQUE ANGELELLI FATHERS LONGUEVILLE AND MURIAS**

Immediately before the coup d'etat of March 24, 1976, Monsignor Enrique Angelelli, Bishop of La Rioja, gave a sermon warning against a coup at a mass celebrated in the Air Base of Chamental. A senior officer complained about the sermon saying that he had not gone to mass to hear politics. Bishop Angelelli withdrew religious services at the Base. Bishop Victor Bonamin, a senior military chaplain, ignoring the local Bishop, went to celebrate mass later at the military base.

The priests of Chamental, Fathers Longueville and Murias, supported their Bishop in his actions. Father Gabriel Longueville was French. He had worked in La Rioja for five years. He was one of

several foreign priests working in Argentina. Father Carlos Dios Murias was Argentinian born in Cordoba. He was a Franciscan. He had been in Chamical for a little more than a year. Before studying in the seminary, he was a pupil of the Military College at Cordoba. Many of his old classmates are now officers in the Argentinian army.

In the large parish of Chamical there had been a traditional tension between the Church and the extreme right-wing group *Tradicion, Familia y Propiedad* (Tradition, Family and Property), which had one of its headquarters in the town. TFP published at that time advertisements in various daily newspapers denouncing the Bishop and his clergy. TFP systematically tape-recorded the sermons of the priests of Chamical.

A fortnight before the death of the priests, a community leader, Wenceslao, was shot at point-blank range at the door of his home. Before killing him, said his wife, they asked him, "Where are the priests?"

Fathers Longueville and Murias were having supper in the home of the nuns next door to the presbytery when two men, with Federal Police credentials, came asking for them. There is no doubt that they did not know them personally. They conversed alone with them for ten minutes. Then the police came back to say goodbye to the nuns. They said they had come to take the priests to the town of La Rioja to identify some prisoners.

The priests went to the presbytery accompanied by the Federal Police to collect some personal effects since they wanted to take advantage of the visit to La Rioja to attend a pastoral meeting which would last a few days and which was to begin the following Monday.

The nuns went to La Rioja at 4 a.m. to report the events of the previous night to the Bishop's office.

In Chanar, a few kilometers south of Chamical the corpses of the two priests were discovered. Father Carlos Dios Murias' body showed signs of torture. People in the neighbouring slums had heard shots in the morning and thought they were from hunters out shooting.

Railway workers saw two bundles in the morning on the railway line and

took them for linesmen sleeping. Returning in the afternoon they found the bundles covered with army blankets. They raised the alarm and uncovered the bodies. A list of names of priests had been left with the bodies.

When the corpses were taken to the mortuary, the first thing done was to burn the blankets.

Informed of the arrest of Fathers Longueville and Murias, Bishop Angelelli went at once to Chamical. During the funeral of Fathers Longueville and Murias, Bishop Angelelli spoke for about an hour about the priests' spirit of self-sacrifice and of the reasons which might have been the cause of their murder. Bishop Angelelli suggested their deaths had been "to silence the voice of the church—the voice for those who have no voice."

Bishop Angelelli spent the next few days in Chamical during which he held three meetings with priests.

The night before his murder on August 3, 1976, Bishop Angelelli and the priest who accompanied him returned after dinner to the parish house at Chamical. They noticed strange movements on the wasteground behind the house where they had left their van, a Fiat Multicarga. Immediately a vehicle with its lights off left by a side street.

The following day at about 3 p.m. Bishop Angelelli and the priest left in the van for La Rioja. At Punta de los Llanos (Route 38) a Peugeot caught up with them and, after watching for a while, forced the van off the road onto the hard shoulder. When the van tried to get onto the road again it crashed and bounced 16 meters. It landed upside down and bounced another 13 meters rolling over several times. Bishop Angelelli was thrown through the windshield and died immediately from a broken neck. His priest companion was picked up by a private car which took him to Chamical.

The body of Bishop Angelelli remained on the road until 8:40 p.m. when the Judge came. The van was removed at once and taken to the air base. There was no puncture in the back left wheel as official reports have claimed.

The Bishop had a writing case in his possession with reports on the deaths of

the priests of Chamental. This writing case mysteriously disappeared. (Copies of this report are, however, in the hands of the hierarchy.)

By order of the Judge, a police committee was sent to the Diocesan Office to search the Bishop's private room. The Vicar General refused permission, citing canon law.

When the body of Bishop Angelelli was already dressed for the funeral, the Judge ordered the autopsy. At five in the morning of the next day the body of the Bishop was delivered to his friends for burial. The funeral service was concelebrated by ten Bishops and 80 priests and attended by an enormous congregation.

Of the people of La Rioja with whom we spoke, no one doubted the real circumstances of the 'accident.'

#### COMMUNITY OF LA SALETTE CORDOBA

La Salette is a religious house founded some years ago and occupied mainly by North American priests. Father Santiago Weeks has been in charge of the Community of La Salette since its foundation. There were five seminarians living in the house.

The pastoral activities of the community were similar to those of the parish of San Patricio, previously mentioned. About midnight on August 3, 1976, some people came to the house and identified themselves as members of the Security Forces. Fortunately a nun was suspicious and immediately got in touch with the Archbishop of Cordoba. In the meantime, the five seminarians and Father Weeks were seized.

The Archbishop contacted senior officers of the Third Army Corps, including General Vaquero. As a result, the expected murders did not occur as in Chamental and the police admitted holding the priests.

That morning the police sent a report to the media which they said had been sent to them by the Montoneros guerrillas who claimed that a Montoneros commando unit had done "popular justice" in La Salette.

As a result of pressure from the U.S. Government, Father Weeks was deported. At the time of writing, the fate or the place of detention of the seminarians is not known. \* \* \*



A scene within the emergency refugee hostel sponsored by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Buenos Aires.

PERSECUTED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES: JAILED IN ARGENTINA

Citizens of neighbour countries, refugees in our country, in order to escape political persecutions in their home countries, fall once again here like in a Kafkian story, in the network of the Argentine police. Even worse is the fact that the police from the neighbouring countries act freely in Argentina, select their victims and take them back to their home countries, torture them or turn them over to the Argentine police. As a living testimony of this kind of persecution, we publish the letter of some Uruguayan citizens detained in Sierra Chica jail.

"Those of us who sign here, Dante Lopez, Acuna Aguero, Rudolfo Campbell, Roque Carpanessi, and Miguel Dabena, are detained in Unidad 2 of the Sierra Chica Jail at the disposition of the Executive Power. We present our case in the following lines":

"We, as well as other friends detained here and in the Unidad 8 or Olmos, LaPlata, are part of the sectors of the Uruguayan people forced into exile by the civil-military dictatorship that presently oppresses our country".

"Against this dictatorship today ruled by Bordaberry (letter written in 1975), we have struggled together with thousands and thousands of workers of the National Workers Central (C.N.T.) as well as in the political struggles with the Frente Amplio and the March 26 Movement."

"As a result of participating in these struggles we have personally been put on the 'black lists' prepared by the managers and owners, thereby losing our jobs and the possibility of getting work in our country. We have also suffered from persecution and detentions at the disposition of the Executive Power in Uruguay. For all of those reasons, along with thousands and thousands of other Uruguayans, we found ourselves forced to immigrate, to look for work, to attempt to renew our strength in pursuit of freedom, justice and the dignity of our country. But, beginning at a certain moment, our situation in Argentina began to get more difficult. The Uruguayan dictatorship found in Argentina conditions favourable for developing its repressive activity, and didn't stop from torturing, kidnapping and assassinating. In October, 1974, three young Uruguayan people, Banfi, Latronica and Jabif were assassinated, and although there is evidence about their executioners from their relatives, these people have not been punished in any way. Five other Uruguayans were kidnapped in Buenos Aires in December 1974. They were Garcia, Hernandez, Brunn and his wife and Stefanelli. On December 27, 1974, they were found shot to death in Soca, about 40 kilometres from Montevideo, Uruguay. Later, other disappearances took place, like that of Natalio Dergam. Nothing is known of him or others since the beginning of 1975."

"Within this framework of activity, we were seized at the end of March and in early April, blindfolded and tied up. We were brutally tortured by Uruguayan police and military personnel who act without disguise in police stations in Buenos Aires. These activities constitute not only a trampling of human rights and a serious offense against the democratic sentiments of the Argentine people, but they also constitute a flagrant and gross injury



to Argentine sovereignty, by concretizing the activity of the infamous Uruguayan torturers in offices of the security organizations of the republic of Argentina."

"Beginning from these events, until the end of April 1975, we were then placed in police dependencies of Unidad 2 together with other detained persons at the disposition of the Executive Power. In spite of the 5 months which have followed, the Judge responsible for the area has given no resolution to our cases."

"Our situation here, even with the generous solidarity of Argentine friends, is particularly difficult because there is a great lack of lawyers and little possibility of presenting a strong defense in front of the magistrate or in the Appeal Court as a result".

"It is to solicit from the League support of this type that we are writing to the League for the Rights of Man .. We know of the difficulties that you have had, the large number of activities that you face, but we trust that you will pay attention to our petition for help given the facts of our situation."

Source: "Argentine League for the Rights of Man".  
Buenos Aires, October 1975.



August 23, 1976

Mr. President, Republic of Argentina,  
General Jorge Rafael Videla.

Your Excellency:

More than just the execution of a legitimate right, or the ability to formulate a petition, the following denunciation is the result of an imperative responsibility of conscience, rooted in the essence of human dignity.

Those of us who sign this denunciation are relatives (mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, sisters and brothers, etc.) of a group of 19 Uruguayan citizens who were kidnapped from their residences in the city of Buenos Aires in the middle of July 1976.

Such kidnappings - executed with the barbarous alienation of those impelled to carry out such an act - took place almost simultaneously and with similar characteristics and procedures. The impunity with which these delinquent types worked permitted the public observation of the greater part of the procedures. In this way, we have been able to know that there were no less than ten of them, dressed not in uniform and very heavily armed. They broke into the houses of the persons kidnapped in the very early morning, stating that they were police agents but not showing any documentation to prove that they were.

Having received the sorrowful news of these criminal acts, with the desperation and anguish that you can conceive, we are attempting to do everything within our power to localize our loved ones or to obtain some sign that would permit us to harbor the security that they will be rapidly found.

Please understand, Mr. President, the spiritual magnitude that we turned upside down in this tragic whirlpool of incessant search for our children, for our spouses, for our brothers and sisters, for these young people - very young for the most part - that have disappeared in such an ignominious manner.

Day after day has gone by in this uninterrupted and infernal search for at least some indication of their existence.

All our efforts have proven unfruitful. There has not been one official response to the events which we have denounced. With disappointment in front of the irresponsibility which we have encountered and with the heavy weight of an increasing sorrow, we are returning home to our country.

Each moment that passes only exists in order to wait for the next for news of encountering those who have been the victims of such savagery.

But we cannot allow impotence nor resignation to exist in ourselves. These would only condemn us to the passive expectation of unending weeping and indefinite waiting. If in many situations resignation is a human virtue, in this case it would be the negation of love, of responsibility, of the solidarity of human beings. For this reason, Mr. President, we cannot lack such virtues, as you cannot be backing in them either, in order to deny our condition as mothers, as fathers, as human beings.

Because you, Mr. President, are the highest authority in the Nation, because you represent the honor and the face of the Armed Forces, because you have the responsibility of assuring and reaffirming faith in the supreme values which you swore to upon assuming your position, because you are a father too, Mr. President, and finally, because you are a Christian, as you have emphatically affirmed, you are inexorably committed to repudiating the barbarity that we are presently denouncing. You must be determined to respond to us with the firm decision that will result in a re-encounter with these persons until now ignored.

Because the pain of each one of us is the pain of all of us, and your pain as well, we have today hope of your answer, of your decision and of an encounter with our loved ones.

Please receive, Mr. President, this anguish which we transmit to you and our firm conviction in your immediate response to this barbarity, ignominy and indignity that we have made known to you.

As you are, we also are parents,

(Original text signed personally by the relatives)

THE FOLLOWING ARE TESIMONIES COLLECTED IN ARGENTINA FROM URUGUAYAN AND CHILEAN REFUGEES WHO ARE SEEKING TO LEAVE THAT COUNTRY DUE TO THREATS TO THEIR LIVES AND POLITICAL REPRESSION.

Case One - Uruguayan

Situation in Uruguay:

She has no political membership nor personal political participation. Her problems derive from the active participation of her sister who was intensively sought by the police. For this reason she was detained for the first time in 1974 for three-and-a-half days. She was interrogated concerning her sister and her political connection with her sister.

During the same year she was again detained for four days, this time from her own house which was violently ransacked. Again she was beaten.

She travelled to Buenos Aires in 1975 to help in the procedures for her sister, doing what was possible in order to free her. She returned to Uruguay and upon entering Colonia in April, 1976, she was about to be detained when she was saved by her brother who had obtained a certificate of good conduct. She remained in Uruguay for 15 days and then returned to Argentina. At the end of the time limit on her visa she returned to Uruguay in order to obtain a visa for another three months. Her relatives became frightened and after a few days she entered Buenos Aires for the last time on August 2, 1976.

Situation in Argentina:

She is illegal in the country, since the permission they gave her was for 20 days which have now expired. She has not made arrangements for leaving the country.

She frequently visits political prisoners, specifically the parents of the boy that she is taking care of. Her first serious security problem in Argentina occurred on Saturday, September 21, 1976. Arriving at her house after returning from Olmos she learned that armed civilians had come seeking her. She found herself obliged to change her residence. She has more than enough reasons to fear for her security, and also for the boy that she is taking care of. (Note: She has been authorized to take care of a young boy of 2½ years of age, but does not have permission to take him out of the country. She will take measures to obtain this authorization.)

On September 24, while she was making a telephone call from the restaurant Entre Rios Y Mexico, armed police entered. They detained all those in the restaurant as well as other persons from the public streets, and brought the group, guarded by armed men and police dogs, to the police commission on Venezuela Street. She remained there for approximately 36 hours. She showed her Uruguayan certificate of good conduct.

Case Two - Uruguayan

Situation in Uruguay:

Up until the creation of the Frente Amplio she was a member of the Socialists. Upon its creation, she became part of the March 26 Movement. She worked as a

French professor and was a delegate of the professors' association in Montevideo.

Her first detention occurred in Montevideo after the coup, when she was taken from her house to police headquarters accused of being a Tupamaro. She was held there for several days and then was freed without any charges against her.

In 1974 she was again taken from her house and brought to a battalion in Montevideo and later moved to the battalion Treinta Y Tres. Again she was accused of being a Tupamaro and was held for four months.

Her male companion was detained with her the first time and is currently still imprisoned with a sentence of between 10 and 30 years.

Coming out from her second detainment she had to receive urgent neurological assistance and continue treatment. Fearing for her health and mainly for the possibility of new detainment, she left for Argentina.

#### Situation in Argentina:

She has temporary residence permission which ends on June 18, 1977.

She has been refused by Canada for emigration. She explains that a high functionary of the French Embassy in Argentina communicated to her that if the U.N. would present her case before his country he would take charge of negotiating her visa in a time limit of no more than fifteen (15) days.

#### Security Problems in Argentina:

In January of this year she was living with an Uruguayan family when the Uruguayan police arrived themselves asking for her. They left after looking over her belongings and taking an address booklet. They said that her only movement should be between her work and her house and she should have no other involvement or they would put her in the hold of the steamship on its way back to Uruguay. They said that they would return (which they did not do).

Subsequently she changed her address repeatedly. In August, 1976, she was followed by an armed civilian to her hotel. In the corridor of the hotel he threatened her with a revolver and proceeded to ask for and record her documentation. He then let her go. Ten days later in this hotel, the owner informed her that the police had come and had taken the guest registry in order to check information in their search for extremists. Because of this she had to change her living place again.

In addition to having objective problems of security and justifiable fears, her health has continued to suffer seriously. She is taking medical treatment.

#### Case Three - Chilean

##### Situation in Chile:

Member of the MAPU-O.C. Party in Chile since 1970, political secretary of a grass-roots group and leader of a neighbourhood. He worked in the construction

enterprise COMASA since 1966, being dismissed for political reasons in November of 1973.

In August of 1974 he was detained in his house and conducted to the Chile Stadium. He had been president of a neighbourhood group which was subsequent to the military coup under heavy surveillance because in the elections of March, 1973, some of the candidates came from this neighbourhood.

He was freed after nine days of detainment during the month of August, 1974. Several days later he was again detained for a short period. The interrogations were based on his political participation and his supposed knowledge of current activists in the neighbourhood. A further fact which aggravated his situation was to have been a leader in what was considered by the new authorities as an illegal invasion of lands.

Feeling insecure, and given the risk he was running of new detentions, he left the country.

#### Situation in Argentina:

He is an illegal in Argentina. He initiated procedures for settling in the country and obtained a certificate that this procedure was in process. He did not succeed in obtaining the document of settlement. The reason for this was that having initiated his procedures for leaving for Australia, he thought that he had very little time left in the country and he didn't go any more to the Department of National Migration (DNM) to keep his settlement process active.

Procedures taken for leaving: refused by Canada and Britain; pending an answer from Australia.

#### Security Problems in Argentina:

On the day of Sunday, August 8, 1976, his wife was travelling in a collective taxi when it was stopped for an inspection by the authorities. All the taxi occupants were interrogated and their documentation taken away. His wife was carrying her passport, identity certificates for herself and her children, a marriage certificate and other documents. An appointment was given at the Department of National Migration for reclaiming these documents. She presented herself at the DNM on Wednesday, August 11, and only the identity and marriage certificates were returned. At the same time she was presented with a card on which was marked at time limit in which to leave the country - a deadline which arrived three days ago.

#### Case Four - Chilean

##### Situation in Chile:

He began political activity in 1969 as a sympathizer of the Communist Party. Subsequently, in 1972, he became a party member. He assumed responsibility as a political attorney in the elections under the Popular Unity government, 1970-73. Also he was a member of the Neighbourhood Supply Committee (JAP) of the La Granja commune (1972-73), and a member of the Vigilance committee of the same commune, operating on the level of the barrio. When the September 11, 1973 coup occurred he was detained the following day by the police for his



activities in the JAP. He was held in the San Gregorio commission for eight days. He achieved his release thanks to the intervention of an Evangelical minister who is a relative. He was a driver for the newspaper La Tercera and as a consequence of the change of government, they asked for his resignation. In addition, given that he was a corporal in Reserves of the Army, he decided to leave the country when the Military Junta called up the reserves.

#### Situation in Argentina:

He entered Argentina as a tourist in May of 1975 under the pressure of possible detention in Chile and the lack of the means of earning a living in his own country. After a short time he tried to take steps to obtain permanent residence status for which information on his past had to be certified by the Chilean consulate. It takes almost five months to obtain the settlement papers. In the interim, problems of health suspended his process and when he was again physically able to continue the procedures the disposition of the DNM had changed, and his settlement process had been dropped.

#### Security Problems in Argentina:

The first manifestation of security problem was his detention on the public streets on the 30th of July. He was detained in the Third Commission for 24 hours in order to check into his background.

Later he was kidnapped from his house by three civilian persons who said they were police officials, although they did not identify themselves. They made him enter an automobile with his hands tied and his head covered, and took him to an unknown place after travelling for about 45 minutes. Upon arrival he was forced to descend a stairway and then was beaten brutally with an object (possibly of rubber). They interrogated him concerning his political activism, knowledge of leaders, meeting places and places where arms could be found. He was left alone for two hours and then his clothes were taken off and other people arrived at the place. The same interrogation was repeated and this time burns were made into his left arm (presumably with burning cigarettes). This was repeated on his legs. The tortures were interrupted, he was ordered to dress and he was taken to another place. At the height of these acts, they threatened him saying he should leave the country or "we are going to blow you up". They took him in an automobile and left him at the corner of Gral. Pay and Rivadavia streets early in the morning.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF URUGUAYANS KILLED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF TORTURE (1972 - 1976)

1972

- May 22 - Walter Sanzo Bianchi, 32, skilled worker, two children.
- May 25 - Luis Carlos Batalla, 32, bricklayer, 2 children
- June 3 - Edison Marin, labourer
- June 28 - Juan Fachineli, professor
- July 15 - Hector Lorenzo Jurado, Methodist Pastor.
- July 23 - Carlos Alvariza, 38, doctor, 3 children

1973

- March 12 - Roberto Gomensora, 23, student
- May 25 - Oscar F. Fernandez Mendieta, rural peasant, ex-seminarian
- June 12 - Ruben Luzardo
- August 22 - Walter H. Arteche, 27
- September - Hugo Leonardo de los Santos, student
- December 19 - Gilberto Gowland, worker

1974

- March 5 - Aldo Perrini, 34, warehouseman, 2 children
- April 21 - Laura Raggio, 20, student
- May 12 - Alberto Balnco
- June 29 - Nibya Sabalsagaray, 24, professor
- Aug. 12 - Anselmo Garcia, bank worker
- Nov. 22 - Ivan Morales, 26, 3 children
- Nov. - Horacio Mujica
- Dec. 13 - Luis Eduardo Gonzalez Gonzales, 22
- Dec. 20 - Graciela Estefanell, 34
- Maria de los Angeles Corbo de Brum, 26
- Hector D. Brum Cornelius, 28
- Mirtha Y. Hernandez de Garcia, 29
- Floreal Garcia Larrosa, 31

Note: The child of the last two, Amaral Garcia Larrosa, three years old, disappeared and no one knows where he is to this time.

1975

- April 29 - Amelia Lavagna de Tizze, 58
- May - Jose D. Rodriguez Lic., prefect.
- July 30 - Alvaro Balbi, 34, 4 children, employee, musician
- Sept. 26 - Carlos Curuchaga, 63, doctor
- Sept. 29 - Pedro Ricardo Lerena Martinez, 33, employee, 2 children
- Dec. 16 - Carlos M. Argenta Estable, 64, dock worker

1976

- Jan. 5 - Julian Lopez, dock worker
- March 2 - Oscar E. Bonifacio Oliveira, 56, worker

March 10 - Eduardo Mondello Techera  
March - Ivo Fernandez, dock worker  
Aldabalde, mine worker  
April - Yic, bricklayer  
April 20 - Talba Juarez de Fachello, 29, student  
April 23 - Ary Cabrera, 48 bank worker, 2 children  
Eduardo Chissola, 28, student  
Elida Alvarez de Anzalone, 24, law student, 1 child  
Ricardo Gil Iribarne, 27, professor, 1 child  
Louis Ferrerira, 38, Worker  
May 20 - Zelmar Micheline, 53, 10 children, politician, ex-president of the  
house of Deputies  
William Whitelaw Blanco, 28, student, 2 children  
Rosario Barredo de Schroeder, 27, 3 children

LIST OF URUGUAYANS ASSASSINATED IN BUENOS AIRES

1974

Dec. 24 - Raul Fielman, student and worker

1975

March 24 - Margarito Mendez, 35  
Oct. 24 - Daniel Banfi, 23, employee  
Luis Latronica, 25  
Guillermo Jabif, 22, employee  
Nov. 11 - Natalio Dergan, 52

PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED IN MONTEVIDEO

1975

Nov. 30 - Fernando Miranda, 52, writer and professor  
Dec. - Eduardo Bleier

URUGUAYANS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED IN BUENOS AIRES

1976

Felix Miguez  
Ricardo del Fabro, 25  
Alejandro Nogueira, 23  
Adriana Ferrara de Nogueira, 22  
Feb. 2 - Winston Mazzuchi, 31  
Nebio Ariel Melo, 32  
May 19 - Manuel Liberoff, 55, doctor  
Ettore Pierri, journalist  
Hugo Gomensoro  
Maria del Pilar Montedonico, 26  
June 10 - Gerardo Gatti, 45  
June 15 - Hugo Mendez, union leader (detained with his wife)

## STATEMENTS

In the following documents we present evidence useful in evaluating the situation in southern Latin America, and in considering what actions concerned Canadians should take.

### EXCERPTS FROM

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group inquiry into the present situation of human rights in Chile, Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. 8, October, 1976.

73. (In its progress report submitted in 1975) "The Working Group found that the invocation of the State of Siege was being used in Chile as a justification or a cover for all kinds of measures derogating from the normal application of laws and sound judicial procedures. It expressed the view that real restoration of human rights in Chile would not be possible until either the state of siege as then applied was revoked or at least its effects were defined with greater precision..."

80. "...the term 'subversious' has hitherto been rarely used in Chilean penal legislation. However, the definitions of the term as contained in decree laws ((under the state of siege)) were so wide as to be capable of providing pretexts for the arrest and trial or practically every person in Chile whom the authorities fear, dislike or wish to eliminate from normal life."

82. "Mr. Hernan Montealegre, a distinguished Chilean lawyer who had studied theology for several years and who was active in seeking to uphold human rights in Chile, was detained on the grounds that he had committed subversive acts. When one of his lawyers who made a petition on his behalf asked the advocate for the government for a copy of the report or for a statement of the reasons, showing the subversive acts which Mr. Montealegre has supposed to have committed, this was refused. He was given no indication whatsoever as to why Mr. Montealegre had been deemed to have committed subversive acts."

84. "It is an indication of the arbitrariness of decisions taken ... that a prominent Chilean lawyer who made a statement to the((College of Lawyers)) calling for the upholding of human rights was charged with and tried for subversion before a war-time military court."

95. (Quoting from written testimony presented by Mr. Tom Harkin, Mr. Toby Moffat and Mr. George Miller, members of the U.S. Congress who visited Chile in March, 1976)

"(1) Fundamental human rights are still being violated in Chile, and the state of siege imposed by the junta has created a lawlessness and a lack of accountability which effectively prevents a solution of the human rights problem under the existing situation."

"(2) The economic policies which the junta has committed itself to, including controls on wages but none on prices, and the firing of hundreds of thousands of people, are dependent on repression, intimidation, and the state of siege which

has characterized the junta from its first day in power."

"...The military leaders of Chile are determined to purge Chile of all political activities and consciousness....The human price of battling this enemy has been of no concern to the junta."

97. "It is an indication of the extremes to which the state of siege has led that all elections have been forbidden in Chile, even in private clubs, sporting and trade union and students' organizations. No meetings of more than six persons are allowed. The Working Group heard of one case in which a football club could not continue to function because it could not hold a meeting to elect its officers."

171. (On April 30, 1976, four armed men in civilian clothes entered 5113 Alejandro Fierro street in Santiago, showed identity cards from the DINA police and held at least 10 persons under arrest. On May 1, 1976, Bishop Enrique Alvear Urrutia of Santiago visited the house to bring medicine.)

In the Bishop's words:

"When I made to leave, a man told me: 'You are under detention', and then, in reply to my question, identified himself by showing his DINA card."

"He soon discovered that I was a bishop. He then telephoned for instructions. An official answered and asked me the name of the person who had given me the medication. I refused to tell him."

"About two hours later, an officer arrived. He told me that he would not identify himself or tell me to what unit those who were occupying the house belonged. I replied that I already knew very well that he was a member of DINA."

"When I asked to see the detention order he said: 'You are not detained, merely retained.' Then he said: 'since you don't want to co-operate in the fights against Communism, which is against Chile and the Church, you can go.'"

253. "Evidence received by the Group from numerous reliable sources indicates that in Chile the pattern prevailing since September 1973 with respect to persons missing or disappeared continues to be followed, probably with greater intensity in some periods.

...the arrest and detention powers of the special services dealing with matters of national security are used with almost complete disregard for theoretical constitutional and legal norms, and because of the abdication of the judiciary these powers are subject to no control by the courts. A person is actually deprived of his liberty with no warrant having been issued -- thus no official recognition of arrest -- and detained in 'unofficial' detention centres where he thus may not be 'officially' held. Persons subject to this type of detention reappear after variable periods of time, either released -- in many cases just dropped on a street corner -- or in official detention.... Many persons, however (some 100 since January, 1976, according to information from one reliable sources which reflects only part of the situation) have never been released or placed in official detention centres; thus they are "missing" or have "disappeared".

301. "The right of a person in legal jeopardy to have available adequate means to assert his defence is a basic human right ...the systematic harassment of persons and agencies who have undertaken to protect and defend accused persons and the intimidation, arrest and expulsion of lawyers who have persisted in these efforts has severely curtailed the right of the accused to an adequate defence.



311. "...the evidence before the Group indicates, that, though the number of political prisoners being subjected to torture may have decreased, the intensity of repression on a selective basis has increased. Thus torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment still reach deeply into many levels of Chilean life, and methods of terror subsist, resulting in an increasing number of instances of death and assassination."

312. "... when a person is arrested by DINA, he is immediately put into a vehicle, where he is tied up and blindfolded. During the trip to the interrogation centre, the securities begin what they call the "softening up treatment" which allegedly consists of cigarette burns, karate blows.....

313. "...besides ill-treatment in the form of beatings, mainly electrical shocks are utilized ...psychological methods of torture, including the use of drugs, have come into systematic use."

320. "Families (of prisoners) are exposed to other adversities; for instance they cannot collect the debts or benefits owed to the persons who have been detained... these poverty-stricken families suffer the scourge of misery, resulting in malnutrition and infantile mortality. Moreover, having been collectively stigmatized as ' dangers to national security', they are prevented from working even if they succeed in finding employment. The Group has been informed that the DINA systematically contacts employers and informs them if an applicant is politically approved or not."

375. "Very few judges have preserved their freedom of judgement as regards matters with any political connotation, and those who have done so have suffered from the hostility of the regime and its supporters -- which constitutes a very real denial of justice.

376. "The Working Group has received concrete evidence of this pusillanimity of the judiciary in Chile."

441. "A number of witnesses stated that trade union leaders and workers for church organizations have been among the main targets of arrest recently, one estimate being that 30 per cent of all recent detentions have involved such groups."

442. "If elementary and inalienable demands of workers bring the crushing weight of government reprisals on the heads of trade unionists, the situation in the field of freedom of association of workers could be said to have deteriorated rather than improved since the Working Group submitted its last report."

471. "Although the Military Government claims that its programmes are in conformity with Christian principles and respect the opinions professed by the Catholic Church, disagreement arises when the Catholic Church expresses its wish that democratic rights and freedom should be restored in the country. The Catholic Church experiences difficulties in keeping its members constantly well informed about its standpoint. Religious organizations related to the Church conduct their activities at the risk of being suppressed at any moment. This is the case of the Vicaria de la Solidaridad, a voluntary agency sponsored by the Catholic Church which carries out humanitarian work among political prisoners and their families.

486. "...it appears that the education of young people is indeed adversely affected by the present situation. Teachers are harassed even in the classrooms by police patrols, and some teachers have been arrested in front of their pupils ....some teachers have been recruited by the intelligence services of the army....some students are also said to be in the service (of these services) and to denounce their teachers.

494. "A number of qualified persons...have drawn particularly attention to the increasing prevalence of malnutrition and infectious diseases, particularly among children ...the major cause of this situation... has been the apparently deliberate government policy aimed at the gradual elimination of the National Health Service. ...Other evil consequences ...are the non-availability of free medicines in public dispensaries, and the high price of medicines available elsewhere; the increasing necessity to pay for medical care previously extended free of charge; and the reduction in the number of doctors. ...Some witnesses indicated that private groups are trying, within the limited means at their disposal, to fill some of the gaps caused by the reduction of public health services and noted the establishment of health clinics by the Vicariate of Solidarity."

503. "...the assertions of the representatives of Chile before the Groups... that there are no violations of human rights in Chile deserving the special attention of the United Nations... are contradicted by the massive information before the Group."

505. "What is profoundly disturbing is that in our time...when memories of fascist regimes and their excesses are still fresh, a concept of government in relation to human rights persists under which a sizeable portion of the population is persecuted or eliminated from national life because of its real or alleged political views, and that the most elementary concepts of democracy, such as any form of election to office, are discarded. The application of such policies and methods of indoctrination and punishment for the purpose of cleansing a country of opponents to officially held doctrines must be a source of grave concern."

510. "Some aspects of the legal facade as used for internal and external public relations purposes are, for instance, the fact that by Decree the number of "official" detention camps was reduced to three, while in reality, ...the number of "unofficial" places of detention in which interrogations and tortures are conducted was greatly increased."

519. "The Group feels that a special and probably an effective role might be assumed by the many members of the United Nations who have sizeable trade relations or economic ties with Chile and who may be further encouraged to use their good offices in influencing the Government of Chile as regards the progressive restoration of human rights in that country."

CANADIAN DELEGATE CHIDES CHILE

(CP wire story, United Nations, George Kitchen. November 12, 1976)

A Canadian delegate expressed concern in the U.N. on Friday over the lack of progress -- despite repeated appeals by the international community -- in restoring fundamental human rights which have been violated in Chile.

Miss Sylva Gelber of Toronto told the U.N. Committee on Social and Humanitarian questions that the concern of Canadians for human rights in Chile is illustrated by a recent request by three Canadian parliamentarians --representing the major political parties -- to meet with Chilean authorities on their home ground.

"The fact that this request was denied," she added, "is a great disappointment and cannot help but further harm Chile's reputation in the international community."

She said Canada also must reiterate its regret that the Chilean government has found it necessary to go back on a decision to allow the entry of a U.N. Working Group and to postpone the visit to a later but as yet unspecified date.

Miss Gelber said: "The government of Chile has frequently reiterated its desire to co-operate with the Working Group, and has indicated that its refusal to allow entry to the group of experts until a more convenient date does not reflect a change in its attitude toward the international bodies responsible for conducting such investigations.

The Canadian delegation believes that the best means of demonstrating a spirit of co-operation would be a renewed commitment by the government of Chile to reverse its decision and to allow the entry of the Working Group.

She added that such working groups are one of the few means at the disposal of the international community to defend human rights. Miss Gelber noted that some governments have tried to "hinder their efforts by insisting upon the twin principles of state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs."



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6  
November 4, 1976

His Excellency  
General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte  
President of the Republic of Chile  
Santiago, Chile

M. le Président,

We have wanted to write you since the day, at the end of September, when we were forbidden entry to your country, but our subsequent trips to Argentina and Uruguay prevented our contacting you before today.

You will undoubtedly remember, M. le Président, that we had formally informed your government, through the offices of the Canadian Embassy in Santiago, of our projected visit to Chile. At the same time, we had requested appointments with the authorities concerned in order to make them aware of the real concern in Canada arising from the present situation in your country regarding human rights, and to learn the views of your government on this subject.

It was with great surprise that we learned of your decision to deny us access to Chilean territory. Our surprise grew even greater when, a few days later, someone informed us that the Chilean press itself, on September 27th, had announced our impending arrival in Chile on the next day and that, in the days following, we would be having interviews with your Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Supreme Court of Chile. Perhaps it would be possible for you to explain to us the reasons for this abrupt aboutface on the part of your government!

Furthermore, M. le Président, we emphasize that we belong to three different political parties which, during the last general election, obtained 95% of the votes cast by the Canadian people. It goes without saying that a lack of consideration by your government of our situation was poorly received by Canadian public opinion and that the relations between our two countries cannot help but suffer.

We would like to express our profound disappointment over the criticisms which you made about our projected visit during a press conference you held following this affair. It seems to us lacking in dignity for the Head of State to comment so derisively on a question as grave as the violation of human rights.

On all counts, your remarks on that occasion revealed your ignorance of the proper functioning of political institutions within the Canadian democratic system of government. It is true that you undoubtedly are not

His Excellency  
General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte  
Page 2  
November 4, 1976

accustomed to troubling yourself with such considerations as the independence of the legislative and judicial branches from the power of the Executive. It is therefore not surprising that you had believed it possible to justify your decision by pretending it would have been just as effective for our representations to have been made by the Government of Canada through its Embassy in Santiago.

Nevertheless, the lack of civility which you and your Government have shown us on this occasion leads us to conclude that the military junta which you lead fears we were justified in our premise of the truth about the violations of human rights, something of which your regime has been guilty since September '73 and which recently, was once again denounced by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Closing formalities ....

Andrew Brewin, M.P.

Louis Duclos, M.P.

David MacDonald, M.P.



ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
and by the UNIT ON PUBLIC SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH  
OF CANADA.

RESOLUTION ON INVESTMENT IN CHILE

Preamble: Canadian churches and humanitarian organizations have been working for several years to make known and to improve the situation of fundamental human rights in the Republic of Chile. Since September, 1973, Chile has been governed by a repressive military dictatorship which took power through a bloody coup, and has held power through declaring a prolonged state of siege, destroying the constitution, outlawing or putting into recess the political parties, and repressing the workers, peasants and community organizations which were characteristic of modern Chilean democracy.

The United Nations General Assembly, with the support of Canadian representatives, has repeatedly expressed its distress at "the constant flagrant violations of human rights, including the institutionalized practice of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary arrest, detention and exile...while...continue to take place in Chile".<sup>1</sup> Full reports by the International Labour Organization (1975)<sup>2</sup> and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (February, 1976)<sup>3</sup> document that fundamental human rights, including freedom of expression, freedom of association, the right to work, and the right to hold trade union elections, to bargain collectively and to strike, are still either heavily restricted or denied in Chile.

The Chilean military junta has sought to encourage foreign investment in Chile, and a number of foreign firms have responded. General Motors, Fiat and Peugeot-Renault have been offered exclusive rights to motor vehicle production in a restructuring of the Chilean vehicle industry. It has been announced that the Canadian firm, Noranda Mines Ltd. will undertake a large joint-venture with the Andacollo region of northern Chile. Many concerned groups in Canada and around the world have taken the position that any sort of economic assistance to Chile, without the prior restoration of human rights, simply postpones the day when liberty will return, and strengthens the hand of a regime notorious for its repression. The United Auto Workers and the International Metal Workers Federation have asked companies to make present and future operations in Chile contingent upon that government's commitment to honour basic worker's rights. At least one corporation -- General Motors -- has for some time attempted to obtain from the Chilean government assurance of respect for those basic workers' rights for potential General Motors employees in Chile which the company deems essential to good management-labour relationships and thus to productivity. The churches, and many other humanitarian bodies, through their support of the ecumenical Committee for Cooperation for Peace in Chile, and their assistance

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<sup>1</sup>from General Assembly Resolution 3448 (XXX), adopted at the 2433rd plenary meeting, on 8 December 1975.

<sup>2</sup>International Labour Office, The Trade Union Situation in Chile: Report of the Fact-Finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association. Provisional Edition. Geneva, 1975.

<sup>3</sup>United Nations Economic and Social Council: Commission on Human Rights, Study of Reported Violations of Human Rights in Chile with Particular Reference to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group established under resolution 8 (XXXI) of the Commission on Human Rights to Inquire into the Present Situation of Human Rights in Chile. Geneva, February 4, 1976.

to refugees in Chile, Argentina and Canada, are well aware of the human cost of the present repressive system in Chile and the continued persecution of many Chileans.

The following resolution grows out of these concerns:

WHEREAS, the government of Chile now constitutes a military dictatorship which systematically violates human rights; and,

WHEREAS, the government of Chile is encouraging manufacturing and mining concerns to establish or expand operations in that country; and,

WHEREAS, the government of Chile seeks to borrow money for various purposes; and,

WHEREAS, an investment of funds in Chile will require the investing corporation to work within the repressive Chilean Labour code and attendant practices of blacklisting and arbitrary dismissal, thus making the company an accomplice in the denial of basic workers' rights; and,

WHEREAS, church groups and trade unions in North America and Western Europe have asked companies to make present and future operations in Chile contingent upon the Chilean government's commitment to honour basic worker's rights.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the United Church of Canada and the Unit on Public Social Responsibility of the Anglican Church of Canada urge corporations considering investments in or loans to Chile, that these not be made until such time as the company is assured:

- 1) that existing laws and practices are not such as to prevent any operations resulting from the investment from freely employing personnel at every level on the basis of ability alone; and
- 2) that employees of any manufacturing, mining or industrial operation resulting from the investment shall have the right:
  - a) to establish organizations of their own choosing; either primary trade unions or federations and confederations;
  - b) to establish such organizations without previous authorization or participation by governmental authorities;
  - c) to freely elect and dismiss their officials and representatives;
  - d) to freely assemble for union business without prior permission of the government or presence of its police;
  - e) to organize the administration of their affairs without interference by the authorities; and,
  - f) to full guarantees as to facilities for their defence if the question of their suspension or dissolution should come before the courts; and;

- 3) that in any mining, manufacturing or industrial operation resulting from this new investment the unions chosen by the employees have the right through free collective bargaining to present their members' claims regarding compensation and working conditions to the employer concerned with recognition of their right to strike in pursuit of normal labour union objectives; and,
- 4) that an objective review by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and/or the International Labour Organization, indicates that a restoration of fundamental human rights has taken place in Chile, or that full free democratic elections have been held; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

that the United Church of Canada and the Unit on Public Social Responsibility of the Anglican Church urge the Government of Canada that until the conditions outlined above are fulfilled, it provide no assistance or encouragement to Canadian private investment in Chile, whether in the form of insurance for the investment; loans or credits to the company concerned or to the Chilean government for feasibility studies, infrastructure development, components or supplies; or in the form of a joint tax agreement or other similar arrangement under which taxes paid by the company concerned to the Chilean government would be credited against taxes to be paid to the Government of Canada; and that no support be given for the applications of the Chilean government to multilateral bodies, such as the World Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank for loans or grants related to such projects.

House of Commons

MEMORANDUM

To: The Hon. J.C. Cullen, P.C., M.P.  
Minister,  
Department of Manpower & Immigration

Ottawa

November 15, 1976

Subject: Visit to South America, September-October, 1976

The Minister has already received representations on the question of the refugee situation in the Southern Cone of Latin America from Mr. Louis Duclos, Mr. David MacDonald and Mr. Andrew Brewin. These three Members of Parliament, accompanied by Mr. George Cram of the Inter-Church Committee on Chile, visited Argentina and Uruguay at the request of the Committee, which represents five major Canadian denominations.

The representatives of the churches now join with the three Members of Parliament in this brief related to the question of Canada's contribution to the refugee situation in these countries.

The delegation met with a wide variety of governmental, church, labour, human rights and United Nations representatives in the countries and visited refugee hostels, refugee families and the families of persons detained or who have disappeared.

CONCERNS

1. The Urgency of the Present Situation

There has been an unstable situation in the Argentine that has become more serious since the military coup in March 1976. There has been increased para-military and para-police activity and this has created a serious situation for thousands of refugees. There have been raids on hostels by these groups causing deaths. In October police protection for the hotels and hostels housing refugees was removed. While the team was visiting in Buenos Aires and happened to be in one such refugee hostel, word came that a raid had been made in Rosario by military units and that all refugees and church staff supporting them were detained for over 24 hours. There is evidence that the police forces of Uruguay and Chile operate in pursuit of their own nationals and with the cooperation of the Argentinian police. In September 1976, the Argentine government made a decree that all refugees must report to the Department of Immigration to register before October 31st. The information collected was to be checked with the security forces of each person's country of origin. Decisions would then be made whether to grant permanent residence or to offer a time period for getting a visa from a third country. Information indicated that refugees with political backgrounds would not be granted residence.

2. The importance of Acting Quickly

The Canadian immigration process has several steps and is very lengthy. Canada's special programme takes an average of five to six months - and the

rate of acceptance is such that the government's July announcement of one thousand additional refugees is likely to take 18 months to process.

A major problem is that while Canada accepts the United Nations definition of a refugee, we do not accept the UN determination or assessment of who is in fact a bona fide refugee. Indeed, Canadian immigration officials reject as refugees a high percentage of those registered by the UNHCR. Apparently this is done without benefit of the results of the UN screening or the refugee status statement, and in turn, the refugees are asked to fill out an immigration form which has no questions about why they are refugees. Refugees believe that the refugee status determined by the UNHCR has been accepted and does not have to be proved and therefore, in their Canadian interview, stress only their positive immigration qualities.

Since Canada can accept only a limited number of refugees, it is clear we must establish selection criteria for refugees which are refugee criteria. The point system applied in normal immigration cases should be entirely discarded. Job offers, etc., ought to have no bearing on criteria and entry into the refugee programme. What is sought is the humanitarian treatment of refugees, not the normal immigration process.

### 3. The Growing Repression in Argentina

There has been a growing degree of repression and deprivation of human rights in Argentina. Many Argentinians themselves are the victims but do not qualify as refugees as long as they are residents of Argentina. However, no borders are available to them to cross, as they are surrounded on all sides by equally repressive military regimes. We believe that Canada should immediately examine what openings might be provided for such oppressed people.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend that every effort be made to fill the allocation of one thousand agreed to last July within the next two to three months.
2. We recommend a Special Mission be sent to the Argentine composed of a team of at least four persons to include an Immigration Officer, a medical doctor, a security officer and a church representative to act as a liaison between non-governmental agencies aiding refugees and the Canadian Embassy. The team should be authorized to visit refugee centres throughout the country.
3. We recommend that a separate and suitable application form for refugees be prepared and this form should differ from the normal application form for permanent residence in Canada. In addition, more use should be made of the UNHCR screening and the testimony of the refugee.
4. We recommend that all UN accredited refugees be considered as refugees for purposes of Canadian immigration, and that selection from within that number



be done on a basis of a set of priorities of a refugee nature: i.e. cases of danger, reunification of family members, flexibility to health requirements (especially with regard to dependent members of the family), UN priority for difficult cases, etc.

5. We recommend that consideration be given to treating as an oppressed minority those from Argentina who do not qualify as refugees but who are nevertheless subject to political repression.

SUBMITTED BY

**Church Representatives**

Mr. George Cram  
Mr. John Foster  
Mrs. Florrie Chacon

**Parliamentary Representatives**

Mr. Andrew Brewin  
Mr. Louis Duclos  
Mr. David MacDonald

## ACTION

Use this report as a resource for your own initiative. Work to change the situation described herein.

### \*New initiatives for refugees:

- write, phone or wire the Hon. J.C. Bud Collen, Minister of Manpower and Immigration in support of the position outlined in the M.P.'s church memorandum, including
  - a special immigration mission now
  - clear refugee criteria of selection
  - speedy reception of most urgent cases
- press for a further quota of refugees from Uruguay and Chile and ask the Government to make provisions for the persecuted from Argentina.

### \*Concrete pressure for restoration of human rights:

- let the Hon. Don Jamieson, Minister of External Affairs and the Hon. Jean Chretien, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, know that you support the position taken in the conclusion of the M.P.'s report that any assistance to the governments of the countries visited must be conditional on visible steps toward the restoration of human rights.
- press your provincial human rights commission to take an interest in international human rights situations and to take leadership in bringing these issues to the attention of the Canadian federal government.

### \*Stop Canadian investment:

- write Mr. Alfred Powis, President, Noranda Mines Ltd., P.O. Box 45, Commerce Court West, Toronto, Ontario, stating your support for the churches position of opposition to Canadian investment in Chile until democracy is restored or human rights are re-established.
- let the Canadian Government know that you oppose any Canadian public funds being given to assist such investment projects as the Noranda Mines venture in Chile.
- join in the campaign against the Noranda investment and Canadian bank loans to Chile, by writing and offering your help to Task Force on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility, 600 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ontario.

### \*Inform others:

- pass this report to your friends, neighbours and co-workers.
- raise the topic of action for human rights, refugees and political prisoners at church and community or labour groups of which you are a member.
- keep in touch with the Inter-Church Committee on Chile, 40 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario and with other groups (see Keeping Informed on page 84) active in the work of the defence of human rights.

## KEEPING INFORMED

### Newsletters

The Chile Bulletin: published by the Inter-Church Committee on Chile, every two or three months. Carries news of the church in Latin America, of refugees and human rights. Send a donation to the Inter-Church Committee on Chile, 40 St. Clair Avenue East, TORONTO, M4T 1N1. Ask to be added to the mailing list.

Latin America and Caribbean Inside Report, LAWG Letter and Chile Report. Three publications carrying news and analysis on Latin America and Canada's governmental and business relations with the Latin American peoples. Available together at \$8.00 per eight issues, from the Latin American Working Group, Box 2207, Station P, TORONTO, Ontario. M5S 2T2.

Amnesty International (Canada) publishes a monthly bulletin on the situation of political prisoners around the world. Amnesty also publishes valuable research reports and articles on key situations including Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile. Amnesty groups are organized in many Canadian cities. For the bulletin (\$5.00 per year) or for further information, write Amnesty International (Canada) 2101 Algonquin Avenue, OTTAWA, Ontario.

Chile - Groups in virtually every major city in Canada publish regular or occasional bulletins on Chile. If you have difficulty in finding such a publication in your area, write the Inter-Church Committee on Chile.

Argentina - The Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Argentina has prepared a valuable dossier on the violation of human rights in their country, entitled Argentina '76. For copies, send a donation to D.C.R. Argentina, P.O. Box 335, Port Credit Station, PORT CREDIT, Ontario. L5G 4L8.

Uruguay - The Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Uruguay publishes an occasional bulletin, to inform Canadians regarding the situation in their country. For a copy send a donation to P.O. Box 277, Station P, TORONTO, Ontario. M5S 2S8.

### Articles and pamphlets

Canada and the Rights of the Chilean People. A brief presented to the Canadian Government by the Coalition on Canadian Policy Towards Chile, March, 1976. An overview of the situation with specific policy recommendations reflecting the views of labour, humanitarian and church groups in Canada. Available on request from the Inter-Church Committee on Chile.

Orlando Letelier, Economic 'Freedom's' Awful Toll. An examination of the social effects of Chilean economic policy since the coup of 1973.

Chile: Recycling the Capitalist Crisis by NACLA. A study of the pressures on Chile, its workers and consumers and of the policies of the Junta. Available from LAWG @ \$1.25.

Argentina: In the hour of the furnaces by NACLA. An exploration of the background of social struggle in Argentina, the place of foreign economic intervention and the role of labour, together with documents from various right-wing and left-wing groups. Available from LAWG \$2.25.

## THE LOST CONTINENT

The cloud of terror that has descended on Latin America in the three years since the downfall of Allende shows no sign of lifting. In country after country civil rights have been blotted out, elementary principles of justice have been abandoned, political and trade union freedoms have been erased, and the future has been placed in the hands of a dogmatic and arrogant soldiery. For the most part, the internal springs of opposition and revolt have been ruthlessly suppressed. The fears that once existed of an outbreak of successful Cuban-style rebellions have long since proved groundless. A generational change will be needed before the aspirations of Latin Americans to create a better continent can begin.

In the meantime, rescue and protest have become the order of the day. Protest is necessary and may be effective. Many Latin-American military regimes have sent their financial spokesmen hawking round Europe, desperate for loans. They should be bluntly told -- as they have already been told by the United States Congress -- that the availability of money depends on an observable decline in the present level of repression.

Rescue is equally important. The situation in Argentina, where thousands of refugees have gathered from neighbouring countries in the past three years, is particularly bleak. These refugees, who believed that they have found a safe haven, have discovered since the military coup last March that Argentina is perhaps the most dangerous spot in the whole continent. They are permanently at risk. Right-wing terror squads operate with impunity, even against those under the nominal protection of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Editorial, The Guardian, London. 27/8/76.



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40 ST. CLAIR AVENUE EAST,  
TORONTO, ONTARIO.  
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Photo Credit: David MacDonald,  
World Council of Churches.