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TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

* United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of TortureReport of the Secretary-General

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was established by General Assembly resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981 for the purpose of receiving voluntary contributions for distribution, through established channels of assistance, as humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals who have been tortured and to their relatives. The Voluntary Fund is administered in accordance with the advice of a Board of Trustees, composed of a chairman and four members with wide experience in the field of human rights, acting in their personal capacity; they are appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments. On 1 November 1982, the Secretary-General announced that he had appointed the following persons to serve for a three-year term on the Board of Trustees: Mr. Hans DANELIUS (Sweden); Ms. Elizabeth ODIO-BENITO (Costa Rica); Mr. Waleed SADI (Jordan) and Mr. Amos WAKO (Kenya). Consideration is being given to the appointment of a fifth member to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees held two sessions; the first from 21 to 25 March 1983 at the United Nations Office at Geneva and the second from 24 to 28 October 1983 at the United Nations Headquarters.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees informed the Secretary-General of the following results of the Board's deliberations. The Board of Trustees noted that, in spite of United Nations efforts to eliminate torture which, in particular, had resulted in the adoption in 1975 by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, torture was still practised in various parts of the world. The Board of Trustees considered carefully the serious consequences of torture for the victim and the victim's family, the various needs of the victims

and the existing methods of helping them. Torture victims and their families need a wide range of assistance, including medical, psychological, social, economic and legal.

4. The Board of Trustees found that the needs of torture victims for assistance are considerable and that the requests to the Fund for assistance, which are already high, could be expected to increase as knowledge spread that something could be done for the victims and as the existence of the initial pilot projects become known. The Board was of the opinion that the Fund must provide for a significant growth in calls on it for help in the near future. The Board thus decided, as a priority matter, to solicit contributions to the Voluntary Fund from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private institutions and individuals

5. The Board of Trustees also considered its programme of activities and decided to concentrate its efforts initially on supporting programmes providing direct assistance for medical and psychological rehabilitation to victims. The Board recommended to the Secretary-General a number of grants in that regard. The Board also learned that special medical and psychological knowledge and experience are often required to deal effectively with torture victims, but that such knowledge and experience are not generally available to those in need. The Board thus decided to recommend support for training courses for medical personnel to enable them to treat and rehabilitate torture victims. The Board also decided to recommend support for humanitarian missions by trained and experienced medical personnel to bring assistance to torture victims.

6. During its first two sessions, the Board of Trustees reviewed many projects submitted to it for support. The total amount requested far exceeded the funds available. The Board recommended to the Secretary-General nine grants and in each case the recommended grant was less than the sum requested. These grants were considered as initial contributions which would enable some work to be carried out and would put the Board in a position to review the progress made and the effectiveness of the particular project at future sessions. The total amount of the grants recommended is \$268,200. The Secretary-General, acting upon the recommendations of the Board at its first session, has made the grants requested. The recommendations of the Board's second session are being considered by the Secretary-General.

. As at 15 November 1983, the following Governments made or pledged contributions to the Voluntary Fund:

	<u>Pledge (outstanding)</u>	<u>Contributions (received)</u> (United States dollars)
Canada	\$CN 10,000 a year for 4 years <u>a/</u>	
Cyprus		700.00
Denmark		114,600.00
Finland		134,305.26
France	FF 165,000 <u>b/</u>	19,480.52
Germany, Federal Republic of	DM 150,000 <u>c/</u>	
Greece		5,000.00
Luxembourg	Lfr. 100,000 <u>d/</u>	2,019.84
Netherlands		45,000.00
Norway		236,000.00
Sweden		<u>150,000.00</u>
		<u>707,105.62</u>

a/ Letter of 27 October 1983.

b/ Letter dated 8 November 1983.

c/ Letter of 14 September 1983.

d/ Letter of 30 September 1983.

3. Two individuals have made contributions of \$US 100 each (Mrs. Leonard S. Kandell, Mr. J. A. Walkate). In addition \$US 28,140 was carried over from the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile and \$68,459 in interest income has been earned.
