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Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 99TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING
TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENTUnited Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of TortureReport of the Secretary-General

1. 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 by the Secretary-General, with the advice of the 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. In November 1982 the Secretary-General appointed four members of the Board and in August 1984 he appointed the fifth member, Mr. Ivan Tosevski (Yugoslavia). The membership of the Board of Trustees is as follows: Mr. Hans Danelius (Chairman), (Sweden); Ms. Elizabeth Odio-Benito (Costa Rica); Mr. Waleed Sadi (Jordan); Mr. Ivan Tosevski (Yugoslavia); and Mr. Amos Wako (Kenya).

2. The Board of Trustees has held three sessions: the first from 21 to 25 March 1983 at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the second from 24 to 28 October 1983 at United Nations Headquarters and the third from 27 to 29 August 1984 at Geneva.

3. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees has provided the following information concerning the Board's activities. At each session the Board of Trustees has had before it a growing number of applications for financial assistance to projects aimed at aiding torture victims. The Board has scrutinized carefully the various projects and has recommended to the Secretary-General that grants be given to 18 projects; at the second and third sessions follow-up grants were recommended for certain projects to support continuing activities. The total amount of the grants

recommended is \$518,700. The Board also decided to set aside a certain amount to enable recommendations to be made to the Secretary-General concerning urgent projects received between the sessions of the Board.

4. The projects which the Board of Trustees recommended for support, and which concern several regions of the world, can be described as follows:

(a) Assistance to the centres for the rehabilitation of torture victims established in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Toronto, Canada. With these grants the Board has tried to develop certain aspects of the activities of these centres which they would otherwise not be able to carry out.

(b) Financing of training courses or seminars on the treatment and rehabilitation of torture victims; such training courses or seminars have been or are being organized at the Centre in Copenhagen or elsewhere in the world.

(c) Support for projects in specific countries in different parts of the world; the Board has so far decided to support projects in eight different countries, and priority has been given to projects aimed at giving medical and psychological aid to the victims.

5. Since the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eight session (A/38/221), the following Governments have made or pledged contributions to the Voluntary Fund: Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. As at 31 October 1984 the pledges or contributions of Governments were as follows:

<u>Government</u>	<u>Pledge (Outstanding)</u>	<u>Contributions (received)</u> (United States dollars)
Australia	\$A 15 000	
Cameroon		1 113.77
Canada <u>a/</u>		8 130.00
Cyprus**		950.00
Denmark*		219 383.00
Finland**		210 241.81
France*		39 977.41
Germany, Federal Republic of	DM 200,000	54 106.70
Greece		5 000.00
Ireland		5 690.00
Jordan		1 000.00
Liechtenstein		2 286.00
Luxembourg**		4 601.20
Netherlands*		95 000.00
Norway*		236 000.00
San Marino		2 258.93
Sweden*		210 790.27
Switzerland		68 540.10
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		12 445.00

* In two contributions.

** In three contributions.

a/ By a letter dated 27 October 1983, the Government of Canada pledged \$Can 10,000 a year for four years; the contribution for the first year has been received.

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6. The Bahá'í International Community and the Lutheran World Federation, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, have each made a contribution of \$US 1,000. The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America has made a contribution of \$US 5,000, and a contribution of \$US 541.62 (f. 1,700) has been received from the Dutch section of the International Commission of Jurists. In addition, 25 private individuals have contributed some \$US 1,700 to the Voluntary Fund. Finally, the Fund has been credited with \$US 28,140 carried over from the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile and \$US 155,310 in interest income.
