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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
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STUDY OF REPORTED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE  
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL  
INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Annex II (continued)

F. World Federation of Trade Unions

Annex II (continued)

F. WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

[Original : Spanish]  
[4 February 1977]

Information on the activities carried out by WFTU in support of the Chilean workers and people and to ensure respect for human rights in Chile

From the outset, the World Federation of Trade Unions voiced its support for the cause of the Chilean workers and democrats and has made untiring efforts in that connexion. Its main activities are described below.

The Eighth World Trade Union Congress which met at Varna (Bulgaria) in October 1973 and was attended by representatives of some 200 million workers, held a special meeting in support of Chile in which Mrs. Hortensia Bussi de Allende, the widow of the assassinated President, a representative of the Chilean trade unions and other speakers took part. In a declaration adopted unanimously early in the session, the Eighth World Trade Union Congress reaffirmed its full support for the Chilean people, the workers of Chile and the Central Unica de Trabajadores (CUT).

Since that time, the situation in Chile has been a matter of constant concern at all meetings of WFTU's executive organs, which have adopted agreements and resolutions in support of Chile at each one of their sessions. We refer, inter alia, to the resolution adopted by WFTU's General Congress, which was held in October 1974 at Havana and which agreed to make 1975 the Year of Solidarity with Chile and the Peoples Fighting against Fascism. The Bureau of WFTU, meeting at Baghdad in April 1975, adopted a declaration calling on workers and trade unions in all countries to intensify their activities in support of the struggle of the Chilean workers and people. The WFTU General Council, which met in Paris in October 1975, adopted a declaration calling for the release of Luis Corvalán and all political prisoners in Chile. Similar resolutions were adopted by the Bureau of WFTU at meetings held at Tatranska Lomnica, Czechoslovakia, in April 1976 and at New Delhi in December 1976.

The WFTU secretariat also issued a public statement concerning the events in Chile in which it denounced the repressive activities of the Chilean military junta and called on workers and trade unions in all countries to carry out every possible type of action in support of the Chilean workers and people.

The declarations and documents issued by the WFTU secretariat include the following:

The Declaration of 19 February 1975 calling on the workers and trade unions of the countries members of the Club of Paris to request their Governments not to give any further assistance to the Chilean dictatorship;

the Declaration of 12 March 1975 expressing support for the decisions of the third session of the International Commission to Investigate the Crimes of the Chilean Military Junta, held in Mexico from 18 to 21 February 1975;

the Declaration of 15 December 1975 expressing WFTU's support for the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations relating to the violation of human rights in Chile; and

the Declaration of 15 January 1975 protesting against the proposal of the military junta to bring Corvalán and other Unidad Popular leaders to trial and calling for the release of all political prisoners and for respect for human rights in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

WFTU has constantly sought to mobilize the international trade union movement in support of the Chilean workers and people through every possible type of action, including demonstrations, protests, assemblies and a boycott of imports from and exports to Chile.

In 1974, 1975 and 1976, WFTU took an active part in the organization of days of solidarity on 12 February, the anniversary of the Chilean CUT, and on 11 September, the anniversary of the coup d'état.

During those three years, WFTU published a quarterly bulletin, entitled "WFTU-CHILE", in Spanish, French, English and Russian to disseminate to trade union organizations in various countries information concerning the situation in Chile and world-wide activities in support of Chile.

WFTU has also communicated regularly and frequently with the United Nations and its specialized agencies and working groups, and has provided information on repression and violations of human rights in Chile.

A WFTU delegation led by Mahendra Sen, the Secretary of WFTU, and composed of representatives of Chilean, French and Soviet trade unions was received, on 26 November 1975 in New York, by Mr. Morse, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, to whom they presented a petition in support of the release of Chilean political prisoners, including Luis Padilla and Mario Navarro, former secretaries of WFTU.

On 2 September 1976, Enrique Pastorino, the President of WFTU, wrote a letter to Mr. Kurt Waldheim urging the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of economic and other sanctions against the Chilean military junta because of its repeated violations of human rights.

WFTU has provided the Director-General of the ILO with many reports of persecution of Chilean trade union members and suppression of trade union freedoms. It is continuing to call for ILO intervention in view of the fact that, despite the resolutions of condemnation adopted by the International Labour Conference and the ILO's Governing Body, worker activists continue to be persecuted and trade union freedoms continue to be violated in Chile.

WFTU has also provided the Director-General of UNESCO with valuable information relating to the fascist military junta's persecution of teachers and its destruction of Chilean culture. The complaints it submitted on 20 August and 2 September 1975 were considered by the Executive Board of UNESCO.

The secretariat of WFTU has carried out its activities in support of Chile in close co-operation with the External Committee of the Chilean CUT, with which it has been in regular contact. During the meetings they held on 25 and 26 March 1975, 15 July 1975 and 8 January 1976 to exchange information and identify problems, the representatives of the External Committee of the Chilean CUT and the secretariat of WFTU adopted important decisions for the promotion of the international movement of support for the Chilean people.

WFTU has supported, and taken an active part in, the organization of various activities in support of the Chilean people:

The meeting of Latin American Universities in support of the Chilean Universities held from 14 to 16 March 1975 at Bogota, Colombia;

A special session of the Workers' Group of the sixtieth International Labour Conference, which was held at Geneva on 19 June 1975 and at which some 400 representatives of trade union organizations in 114 countries expressed their active support for the people and workers of Chile;

The World Conference of Solidarity with Chile, held at Athens from 13 to 16 November 1975 during which trade union representatives from 52 countries held an international meeting.

The second meeting of Latin American Universities to promote activities in support of Chile and action against fascism, held at Caracas from 18 to 22 February 1976. A trade union conference of solidarity with Chile attended by 22 trade union organizations and central offices, including WFTU, was held during that meeting.

Among other activities in support of Chile, we should like to mention the important contribution which WFTU and its affiliates made to the dispatch of the "Ship of Solidarity", which carried 162 tons of goods to Chile for Chilean children and families affected by the military junta's policy of repression and starvation.

Lastly, we believe it appropriate to draw attention to the fact that, on 12 February 1976, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with Chile, representatives of WFTU, the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, the Organization of African Trade Union Unity and the External Committee of the Chilean CUT decided to establish the International Trade Union Committee of Solidarity with the Chilean Workers and People, which has its headquarters in Prague and is presided over by Enrique Pastorino, the President of WFTU. This Committee's main objective is to encourage workers and trade unions in various countries and continents to support the Chilean people. At its constituent meeting, the Committee adopted a motion welcoming the documented report on violations of human rights in Chile submitted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.