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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 22 March 1976 from the Permanent Representative of Chile
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria has issued a declaration (A/31/64, annex) expressing, in slanderous terms, its "indignation" at the loss of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Chile and exhorting international public opinion to protest and to demand the immediate release of all political prisoners.

The Mission of Chile to the United Nations strongly rejects the accusations contained in this document. It does so with the authority conferred upon it by the open policy of dialogue and co-operation which the Government of Chile has adopted and which is without precedent in history.

Furthermore, the Mission of Chile considers that progress in the field of human rights is not encouraged by resort to slander and by the use of human rights as a weapon of political propaganda. It believes, on the contrary, that the promotion of human rights must be sought along a path leading to the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in a world of open frontiers.

The Government of Chile has given indisputable proof of having chosen this path. It has allowed many citizens from Chile and from abroad to leave the country even though many of them had taken up arms in order to establish a totalitarian dictatorship in Chile. It has set free thousands of persons who had been placed in preventive detention through the exercise of valid legal powers. It has commuted legally imposed prison sentences to exile. It has given full support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the point where all pending problems have been solved. It has admitted to Chilean territory, with complete freedom of movement, all organizations which have given guarantees of impartiality. They include the International Red Cross which has performed and continues to perform effective work. It has constantly co-operated with the United Nations, requiring only that Chile's national sovereignty should be respected and that Chile should be treated on a footing of legal equality with all Member States, as laid down in the Charter.

* A/31/50.

The Government of Chile has also expressed its desire to strive for the establishment in the field of human rights of a system which is practical in its application, universal in its scope, obligatory, automatic and non-discriminatory in its procedures, so that the United Nations may achieve fruitful results in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It hopes that all countries which in one way or another have expressed concern on this subject will support this specific initiative.

Considered in this light, the Bulgarian declaration is merely a new and vain manoeuvre to politicize a subject which is being exploited for the benefit of power groups and which the international community is determined to restore to a context of complete legal objectivity.

I have the honour to request you to circulate this note as an official document of the General Assembly at its thirty-first session under the item "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

Similarly, I would be grateful if you would circulate it to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session in connexion with the discussion of the report of the thirty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Ismael HUERTA DIAZ
Vice-Admiral
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
