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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 20 December 1976 from the Permanent Representative of  
Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your notice the official statement issued by the Government of Chile on 18 December in connexion with the release of Mr. Luis CORVALÁN Lepe.

I shall be grateful if you would have this official statement distributed as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Ismael Huerta Díaz  
Rear-Admiral  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Official statement dated 18 December 1976 by the  
Government of Chile

1. On repeated occasions during the execution of the programme of release of detainees under the Act on the state of siege, the Government of Chile has called upon the USSR and Cuba to release an equal number of detainees, but a favourable reply has not been received.
2. On 16 November 1976 the Government of Chile decreed the release of all persons held under the Act on the stage of siege. This measure was made effective immediately, but excluded the former Secretary-General of the Communist Party, Luis Corvalán Lepe, and party leader Jorge Montes, in anticipation of the release by the USSR of the writer, Vladimir Bukovsky, and by Cuba of Major Huber Matos.
3. The USSR agreed to release Mr. Bukovsky, as proposed by the Government of Chile. The details of the procedure were agreed upon by Ambassadors of the two countries accredited to Washington, with the co-operation and in the presence of representatives of the Government of the United States.
4. The simultaneous release took place at the airport at Zurich, Switzerland, on today, 18 December 1976 at 1.45 p.m. Zurich time (9.45 a.m. Chilean time), in the presence of the Chilean Ambassador-Co-ordinator for Europe, Mr. Abelardo Silva.
5. Mr. Corvalán travelled to Zurich with his wife and later continued on to the USSR, while Mr. Bukovsky arrived in Zurich accompanied by his mother.
6. The Government of Chile feels bound to express its appreciation to the Governments of the United States and Switzerland and to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migrations and the Sakharov Committee of Copenhagen for their collaboration in securing the release of Mr. Bukovsky.
7. The humanitarian and Christian principle inspiring the people of Chile and embodied pragmatically in the decisions of their Government are fairly, deservedly and faithfully reflected in this step. Consequently, at this moment of special significance for the civilized nations of the world, only one person is still detained in Chile under the state of siege: Mr. Jorge Montes, who awaits a similar response from the Government of Cuba through the release of Major Huber Matos.
8. As in its statement of 16 November, the Government of Chile, invoking the sacred right of man to live in freedom, reiterates its call to all international bodies and to the highest religious and governing authorities of the major nations of the free world to mediate with the Government of Cuba for the release of Major Huber Matos, within the basic concept of legitimate reciprocity for the laudable attitude taken by our country.