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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

LIST OF COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
GRANTED CATEGORY (B) OR (C) CONSULTATIVE STATUS

The following communication is listed in accordance  
with the provisions of paragraph 1 of rule 81 of  
the rules of procedure of the Council

THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER THE REGIME OF  
GENERAL PERON

International League for the Rights of Man  
(Ligue internationale des droits de l'Homme)

A 53 page communication on the above subject was submitted by the League  
on 25 November 1949 for the information of the Commission on Human Rights. A  
summary, prepared by the League, reads as follows:

"This document was submitted to the International League for  
the Rights of Man by Mr. Walter Beveraggi, formerly Vice President  
of the Argentine Laborista Party, and a delegate to the House of  
Deputies, on behalf of himself and other prisoners whose arrest,  
detention and torture by the police, constitute violations of the  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which Argentina is a  
signatory.

"In his appeal, Mr. Beveraggi tells of his sudden arrest on  
September 23, 1948, together with nineteen other persons, among  
them two women and three priests, by order of the Federal Judge of  
Buenos Aires.

When they asked to be informed of the reasons for their  
detention, they received no replies and some of them were struck  
violently. First placed in the National Penitentiary for two days,  
/they were  
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they were then blind-folded and transported elsewhere. In the new local of detention, they were systematically subjected to beatings as torture.

"Mr. Beveraggi, in his document, described the treatment accorded him, which was paralleled in the case of the other prisoners. He was placed on a long table to which he was tied, so that he was unable to move. For an hour at the time, electric wires were applied to all parts of his body. While this was done, music was played through a loudspeaker to drown out his cries of pain and protest. During this torture, the police attempted to oblige him to confess to a "plot" aimed at assassinating President Peron -- a plot of which Mr. Beveraggi had never heard up to that moment. He categorically denied and continued to deny even knowledge of such a plot.

"To quote Mr. Beveraggi, "When I had nearly lost consciousness from the pain of the electric shocks, they stopped torturing me, removed my bandages and ordered me to sit up. When I endeavored to do so, I fell, later they began the torture again. They insisted that I acknowledge my part in the plot and that I accuse a former American diplomat and other American citizens of having fomented and directed it."

"Refusal to accede to their demands was followed by continued abuse. The same type of treatment was meted out to the other prisoners, including the women and the priests. While the prisoners were held incommunicado, their homes were occupied and their families refused entrance. One woman, who was held eleven months in prison, was obliged to leave an eight-year-old daughter, and not even permitted to call her mother to look after the child. Still another of the prisoners, who is still held in prison in Buenos Aires, is totally blind.

"No possibility was given to the prisoners to accord them the rights of trial and legal aid regarded as essential. Not until five days after their arrest and after the most severe torture was applied, did they even have an interrogation by a judge. No prisoners were allowed to enlist the help of attorneys. They were then held for 13 days incommunicado, when they were told that the judge -- who had not  
/even allowed

even allowed them to respond to his questions -- had ordered them held for plotting to assassinate Peron, under the order of alleged agents of 'North American imperialism'. Acting under an obsolete decree, which had been passed during the military dictatorship of 1945, the judge refused them bail and they were held for seven months in prison. At the end of that time, the judge decided the decree did not apply and changed the charge to 'conspiring to revolt'. They were then set free on parole.

"This parole proved a brief one, for the district attorney immediately requested that they be rearrested. Even before this, one prisoner, Cipriano Reys, was arrested again on the pretext that he had violated the 'anti-gambling laws in his home' -- despite the fact that a 24 hour custody was imposed on him from the time of his arrest. Mr. Beveraggi was also placed under a 24 hour custody. Learning, however, that he was about to be rearrested, he managed to escape the country. He learned that one hour after he left his home, the police had attempted to take him again to prison for the alleged 'plot'. Other prisoners were less fortunate -- they were rearrested and remain incommunicado until now with no legal rights or guarantees of any protection.

"A denouncement of the tortures of these prisoners and others was made to the House of Deputies by Rodriguez Araya, one of the members of the House, who sent telegrams to the President demanding an investigation of the criminal procedures against these unlawfully arrested prisoners. As a result the Peronistas expelled him from the Congress.

"Another prisoner, Garcia Velloso, a man totally blind appealed to the Parliamentary Committee charged with investigating such matters. He received no reply and remains in detention.

"Mr. Beveraggi asserts that the cases cited, concerning himself and the other 19 prisoners, are by no means isolated cases in Argentina, of torture and unwarranted arrest and detention of political opponents of Peron. He cites among other cases that of three women employees of the state telephone company who were tortured for refusing to reveal

/the names

the names of labor leaders, who were leading a campaign for increase in wages. One of these women, who was pregnant, lost her child, as a result. Law students from the University of Buenos Aires were taken by the police, and their families to this day have not the slightest knowledge of their whereabouts. Clothing of one student, returned to his family, was found to be blood stained.

"The Radical Party of Argentina, which constitutes the entire opposition to the Government Party in Congress has published a minority report on 'Tortures in Peron's Argentina', which is appended to the original of this petition. The accusations have brought no reply from any officials in the Peron regime, and the perpetrators of these acts continue to arrest their political opponents, on some pretext or other, and to hold them in captivity and torture, without any hope of legal assistance or appeal.

"(The original petition is appended with various reports, clippings and documents, available on request)"

The International League also requested that "a United Nations Commission investigate the situation in the prisons of Argentina and the treatment being accorded political prisoners who are now without redress."

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