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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Protection of human rights in Chile

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 33/174 of 20 December 1978, established the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile as a voluntary fund to receive contributions and distribute, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to persons whose human rights have been violated by detention or imprisonment in Chile, to those forced to leave the country and to relatives of persons in the above-mentioned categories. The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations by the Secretary-General with the advise of a Board of Trustees, composed of a chairman and four members with wide experience of the situation in Chile. The chairman and members of the Board of Trustees are appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments, to serve for a three-year term. In the resolution the Assembly appealed to Member States to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund.

2. On 14 August 1979, the Secretary-General announced that he had appointed the following persons to serve for a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund: Mr. Ghulam Ali Allana (Pakistan) Chairman, Mr. Leopoldo Benites (Ecuador), Mr. Hans Danelius (Sweden), Mrs. Marian J. T. Kamara (Sierra Leone) and Mr. Adam Lopatka (Poland). Board members serve in their personal capacity. By a letter dated 12 September 1979, Mr. Benites submitted to the Secretary-General his resignation from the Board of Trustees. The Secretary-General expects to announce shortly the appointment of a new member of the Board of Trustees from Latin America.

3. The Board of Trustees held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 20 to 24 August 1979 during which it reviewed the situation of persons likely to fall within the Fund's area of competence and concluded that there was an urgent need to provide the assistance called for by the General Assembly. In this connexion, the Board indicated preliminary priority areas of future programmes of

assistance. The Board decided to appeal to all States, selected intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private organizations and individuals for contributions to the Fund. The Board requested the Secretary-General to appeal to Member States to respond favourably to its request for contributions, which the Secretary-General did in a letter dated 28 September 1979.

4. It may be noted that the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-fifth session adopted resolution 11 (XXXV) on 6 March 1979 in which it welcomed the decision by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/174 to establish a United Nations Trust Fund for Chile and decided to invite the Chairman of the Board of Trustees to submit a written report to the Commission on the operation of the Fund.

5. It may be noted that the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 107th session, held from 3 to 18 May 1979, adopted a decision (107 Ex/Decision 7.2) entitled "Protection of Human Rights in Chile: report by the Director-General on the possibilities of humanitarian assistance to exiles in the fields of education, science, culture and communication". That decision, inter alia, invited "the Director-General to consult the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the purpose of determining to what extent Chilean exiles belonging to the specific fields of competence of UNESCO might receive assistance from the Trust Fund established by resolution 33/174 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and to inform the Executive Board when he deems it necessary".

6. It may also be noted that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation at meetings held at Stockholm from 26 to 29 June 1979 in which the Assembly recommended to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to invite the Governments of Member States, inter alia, "to contribute to the voluntary fund for humanitarian, legal and financial aid to Chilean detainees and refugees and their families, set up by the General Assembly of the United Nations on recommendation of the Economic and Social Council".

7. As at 31 October 1979 no contributions or pledges of contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile have yet been received by the Secretary-General.
