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Kommissie Rechtvaardigheid
en Vrede v.z.w.

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S.E. Patricio Aylwin
Presidente de la República
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Chili

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Brussels, 8 August 1990

Mister President,

The Flemish Justice and Peace Commission, an advisory body to the Catholic Bishops' Conference composed of some thirty organisations and movements in favour of justice, peace and the promotion of human rights in the world and in our own society, has been following the democratic developments in Chili with interest. Particularly the installation of a Commission on Truth and Reconciliation bears hope with it for finding a quick and satisfactory solution to the urgent issues of human rights, which your government has inherited from the dictatorial regime.

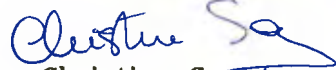
Whereas on the one hand, we are closely monitoring the evolution of the processes which will eventually lead to the liberation of all political prisoners which are still languishing in Chilean jails, we are on the other hand dismayed to have learned that practices from the time of the dictatorship are still surviving. We are referring here to a number of incidents, such as the torturing of two recent detainees, Jorge Espinola Robles and Fernando Moreno Vega, which in a truly democratic society, even if they are reportedly belonging to the Frente Patriotico Manuel Rodriguez, should not be subjected to degrading and inhumane treatment.

Worse even are the reports of a shooting incident on June 27, which resulted in the death of the young Osman Yeoman Osorio. The police has reportedly shot at a group of five persons which were involved in painting a mural honoring former president Allende. As to our information, such activities are no longer illegal in Chile, so that one wonders why those who are engaged in them are to be shot, as in former times.

In view of these, and other, disturbing reports we would like to address ourselves to You, Mister President, with our urgent request to take all necessary measures, difficult as it may be, to prevent further violations of human rights in Chile, a country which badly needs to recover from its past wounds in order to be able to offer a better prospect of life to its people who so deserve it.

Wishing You success in all Your endeavours for the people of Chile, I remain,

Respectfully Yours,


Christine Savat
Secretary-General

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