

American Woman Tortured in Chile



— Jack Anderson

WITHOUT a murmur of formal protest from the U.S. government, an attractive, 31-year-old American art teacher was brutally tortured last month by Chilean air force officers in an insect-infested prison.

The young university instructor was threatened with death, forced to ride with breasts bared through the streets and thrown on a bed where she was menaced with rape. She was subjected to obscene questioning, catapulted down stairs while blindfolded, deprived of water, denied sleep and forced to stand until she almost collapsed.

When 13 days of this treatment failed to draw a false confession from her, the "officers and gentlemen" of Chile's air force told her she was being taken to an infamous torture center where prisoners were known to have been given electrode shocks on the most sensitive parts of their bodies, stretched on racks and immersed in human excrement.

Faced with a journey from which she might not return, she finally broke and signed a prepared pack of lies on October 24.

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CHILEAN junta leader General Augusto Pinochet has assured the world that torture no longer exists in Chile. Yet this incredible story of torture by a regime now seeking \$85 million a year in U.S. aid has been sworn to by Amy Conger, now in Chicago.

In long talks with my associate Les

Whitten and in extensive affidavits, she has spoken eloquently of her agony.

"I was brutally arrested October 11 about 7 p.m. by four men in street clothes with submachineguns," one affidavit states. She was told she might be killed, then was "tightly handcuffed and literally thrown in a car."

During the ride, one of the officers pulled her sweater over her head. "Needless to say I felt conspicuous passing through the city bare breasted," she said.

Her relentless questioner sought to wrench from her a confession that she knew "undesirable Chileans." This, she said, could refer to almost any of the 14 per cent of Chileans who had supported the late Chilean socialist president Salvador Allende.

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THEY THREATENED me with rape and to send me to the Direccion de Inteligencia Nacional, a military group specializing in brute physical torture.

"I stood for hours and hours against a wall," she attested. "They gave me two cups of water each day to drink, 900 calories of food, a perfect starvation diet."

Finally, she said, she "confessed" falsely to knowing "subversives." At about the same time, she said, word of her arrest reached the American consul in Santiago, Fred Purdy. He began working for her freedom right away.

Shortly thereafter, she left Chile. The United States has yet to make a formal protest.