

Chile Accused of Torture

By O.A.S. Investigators

By DAVID BINDER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—The military Government of Chile has been charged with "extremely serious violations of human rights," including extensive torture of political prisoners, in a report by a five-nation investigating team of the Organization of American States.

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It was submitted last Friday to the Permanent Council, the governing body of the 24-nation hemispheric organization, along with a rebuttal of almost equal length from the Chilean Government that has governed in Santiago since the overthrow of President Salvador Allende Gossens in September, 1973.

The rebuttal contends that the report of the team, composed of investigators from Uruguay, Argentina, the United States, Brazil and Chile, contains "important and grave deficiencies" and "manifest errors."

Ex-Ambassador Is Member

Among the five team members were Robert F. Woodward, a former U.S. Ambassador to Chile and Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, and a Chilean, Prof. Manuel Bianchi, who had been Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as ambassador to numerous countries during a long diplomatic career. Professor Bianchi submitted a 15-page letter of reservations to the commission report that is to be released shortly, a Chilean official said.

When the commission report was submitted to the Organization of American States, the Chilean Ambassador to the organization, Manuel Trucco, commented, "Nobody is more interested than we in the establishment of human rights."

Mr. Trucco added that the Chilean authorities were preparing a more detailed response to the charges and expressed the hope that the documents taken together would help end any possible violations of human rights in Chile. "But you

understand it is difficult to answer anonymous charges," he said.

The Chilean rebuttal to the report does not contest the charges of individual torture cases. These are based on 576 "complaints or denunciations" filed with the team while it was in Chile.

The team avoided identifying the people except by number and by the sites of the alleged violations. Among them are the following:

¶"No. 5 at El Buen Pastor detention center—Arrested in September, 1973, and accused of having acted as a spy. Said she had not taken part in any political activity. Was tortured an entire night with beatings and electric shocks in the Chilean Air Force headquarters."

¶"No. 2 at Capuchinois detention center, Santiago—says that he was beaten so severely during interrogation that he suffered complete paralysis of his left side. No specific charge has been brought against him."

¶"No. 9 at Santiago public jail—suffered fracture of left rib, his coccyx and left arm. No political affiliation."

¶"No. 13, arrested late in July, 1974, and beaten. His left ear is visibly injured and there are blood stains on his clothing."

New Investigation Asked

The team registered charges of "every kind of sexual aggression," including rape, the use of electric current applied to the most sensitive areas of the body; and beatings and torture in the presence of the prisoners' husbands or companions.

"The commission could see that one of the prisoners had scars on his upper and lower limbs that were obviously caused by recent injuries," the report noted.

The report includes transcriptions of tape-recorded interviews with political prisoners and with others who have been released, some of them under the age of 18.

The team noted that the military leadership had helped it gain access to prisons, but said access to several installations reputedly notorious for torture had been denied.

These were listed as the basement of the Santiago Investigations Bureau, No. 38 Londres Street, called locally "The House of Terror," the Air Force War Academy, a restricted section of the military hospital, and the naval vessel Esmeralda.

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