



Dr. Sheila Cassidy (center) was greeted in London by her brother Michael and sister Mrs. Margaret Stubbs. AP Wirephoto

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**Britain Protests** **DEC 31 1975** **CHILE**

## Woman Doctor Tells of Her Torture in Chile

### London

Sheila Cassidy, a British physician held by Chile's military junta for two months, arrived here yesterday and said she was stripped naked and tortured by interrogators in prison.

Britain immediately recalled its ambassador in Chile in protest.

Cassidy, wearing borrowed clothes, flew into London's Gatwick airport from Santiago. She told reporters, "I was stripped naked and tied down to a bed. I was tortured for up to an hour at a time."

The 38-year-old physician, who was accused of treating a wounded left-wing guerrilla, was released in Santiago on Monday after weeks of diplomatic pressure by Britain.

The Foreign Office in London said British Ambassador Reginald Seconde will be withdrawn "indefinitely" and that the government will submit evidence to the United Nations Human Rights Commission on Cassidy's torture allegations.

The government also lodged a strong protest to the Chilean government and demanded a full inquiry into the allegations.

The Chilean embassy in London denied that Cassidy was tortured while she was

held in Santiago's Tres Alamos prison.

Cassidy, who worked in a Roman Catholic mission hospital was arrested November 1.

She said she had responded to a plea from a missionary friend to treat a wounded man unable to seek ordinary medical attention because he was a fugitive.

"I was blindfolded and taken by car," she said.

"I found three people, one of whom was an important member of the Chilean revolutionary left movement. He had three bullet wounds in his leg and the leg was infected. I opened an abscess.

"Later, I went back to see him again and found he was greatly worse, unable to walk and his life was in danger," Cassidy continued.

"I was perfectly aware that helping him could lead to my being detained and expelled. But I thought it was impossible to refuse to treat someone in these circumstances and to inform police."

*Associated Press*

### 21,000 Homeless

#### Caracas

Floods in western Venezuela have caused \$60 million damage and have left about 21,000 people homeless, state authorities announced yesterday.

*Reuters*