

# Chile Says WXP Post Briton Lied On Torture

JAN 2 1976

From News Dispatches

LONDON, Jan. 1—Chilean Ambassador to Britain Kaare Olsen said last night that British physician Dr. Sheila Cassidy was lying about being tortured in a Chilean prison but that the Chilean government would investigate.

Olsen said Cassidy, whose report of her torture has led Britain to recall its ambassador from Santiago, signed a statement when released from prison saying she had not been tortured or mistreated.

But British Ambassador to Chile Reginald Seconde, who arrived here today, said he knew of Cassidy's torture two weeks after her arrest in November for alleged links to leftist guerrillas. He denied a statement by Olsen that he had thanked Chilean authorities for their treatment of Cassidy.

The British Foreign Ministry reiterated its "absolute belief" in Cassidy's story.

Cassidy, who arrived here from Chile Tuesday, said she was stripped naked, tied to a bed and given severe electric shocks by Chilean security men. Members of the ruling Labor Party here called for retaliation against Chile's military government and Foreign Secretary James Callaghan has demanded Chile investigate the "uncivilized, brutal" treatment.

A Labor member of Parliament, Neil Kinnock, demanded that Olsen be expelled. Other militant Labor

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Party members called for trade sanctions that could halt delivery of British-made submarines to Chile.

Robert Kilroy-Silk, another Labor member, said he would formally request that Defense Secretary Roy Mason withdraw British support from a program that trains Chilean military personnel.

At the center of the diplomatic storm is 37-year-old Cassidy, who said she plans to become a nun. She flew home from Chile after spending 59 days in jail after treating a wounded leftist guerrilla leader.

Cassidy charged yesterday that Chile is a "dictatorship with organized, widespread killing and torture."

"I hope the immense publicity this case has had will draw the attention of the world to the suffering of the people of Chile," she told a news conference.

"I felt compassion for the people who tortured me," she said. "They are sick."

Cassidy, a worker in a Roman Catholic mission hospital, said she was arrested and sent to Tres Alamos prison Nov. 1 after treating a guerrilla leader who had been wounded in a shootout with authorities in Santiago.

The Chilean junta, which toppled Marxist President Salvador Allende in 1973, has denied Cassidy was tortured or mistreated. Olsen, Chile's ambassador in London, said she was linked with the outlawed Revolutionary Left Movement opposed to the junta. But she denied she was politically active in Chile.

The recall of the British ambassador brought sharp criticism from newspapers in Chile. A red, front-page headline in the Santiago daily *La Segunda* read: "The Hypocrisy of the Government of England."

The paper said Britain had "magnified an isolated and absolutely false fact, based only on the testimony of the person allegedly affected and without even awaiting a reply from the Chilean government."

The Chilean government newspaper *El Cronista* said neither Cassidy nor her Chilean lawyer ever filed an official complaint of torture while the doctor was detained. Commenting on statements by her critics, Cassidy said, "The methods of torture are such that they leave no physical marks. If people don't believe me, I'm sorry."