



Anexo I

UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release USUN-138(77)  
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On December 7, 1977, the Third Committee adopted the Resolution "On the Human Rights Situation in Chile," A/C.3/32/L.37. As a co-sponsor of the resolution, the United States did not have an opportunity to state its position on the resolution during the debate. As a matter of public record, therefore, the United States Mission to the United Nations wishes to make available the following statement concerning the position of the United States on this important resolution.

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The United States would like to state for the record the reasons that it is co-sponsoring L.37, the resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile. It is because we are deeply concerned over the welfare and freedom of the people of Chile, in the light of the persistent reports of gross violations of human rights in that nation. We hope, and we believe the great majority of the people of Chile also hope, for the early return to democratic government in that nation. We are pleased that the international community has continued to manifest its interest and concern about the situation of human rights in Chile, as evidenced by the strong backing for this resolution, but we hope that such continued concern will soon cease to be necessary, with the continued reduction in the violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons in Chile, and the re-establishment of democratic institutions.

We wish to acknowledge our appreciation for the continued efforts of the Chilean Government to respond to the concerns that have been expressed over the past few years, by submitting documents to the United Nations, and by continued participation in the debate before this body and other U.N. meetings, even though we regret very keenly the fact that the ad hoc working group has been unable to fulfill its mandate by visiting Chile. We urgently request both the Government of Chile and the Special Working Group to continue in consultation to discover if it might be possible to arrive at some agreement

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that would protect the integrity of the mandate of the General Assembly, contained in this resolution, and afford the Working Group, or a part of it, to visit Chile on terms that would also be consistent with the national dignity of the Chilean people, in their quest for full protection of human rights and democratic freedoms.

We further wish to acknowledge some of the specific steps that the Government of Chile has taken in recent months.

We note with satisfaction the evidence that the incidents of direct abuse of individual human rights in Chile have been reduced. We recognize that the Government of Chile has taken certain positive steps in response to the expressions of concern of its own people and the international community.

The United States wishes to state its strong hope and expectation that the only full and complete protection of human rights is afforded by free and democratic institutions, protected by the rule of law, and we believe that the Chilean nation, with its long and noble tradition of self-government, will soon find itself once again under responsible rule of the majority, and under a system of law and public accountability.

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