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Dear friends,

Chile has signed and ratified the International Covenant on Human Rights. It may be surprising to many of you to know that the country with a government as is governing Chile has signed and ratified this Covenant. But, of course, that took place when Chile had a democratic government. At that time the country of Chile undertook as a natural thing to follow and apply the human rights and the fundamental freedoms. But because of the general rules of international law the present government of Chile is obliged as well to follow these rules. To implement and control the implementation of the Covenant, a Committee of 18 members have been elected and I am happy to be one of those 18 members. According to the Covenant it is an obligation of each member country to submit a report which describes the manner in which the country implements the Covenant on Human Rights. And this obligation, of course, is an obligation of Chile as well. And the Committee received some months ago a report from the junta of Chile. It was supposed to be dealt with during the session which is now on in Geneva. But it was decided by the Committee to have a new report from Chile because according to the opinion of many members the present report is not satisfying. And, at the same time, we wrote a letter to the Chilean regime telling them that we wanted a substantial report, that we wanted it to be sent to us within a specified time in order that we can deal with it during a next session. But nevertheless I think it could be of interest to many of you to hear what the Chilean government writes as an introduction to its report ~~which it has~~

which it has sent to the Committee. The government writes the following:

"The legal and historical tradition of Chile embodies the principle that human rights antedate the state and that human society is the *raison d'être* of its entire legal order." This is written by the Chilean junta.

"Motivated" it continues, "Motivated by the need to strengthen and enhance the rights recognized in the political constitution of 1925 and ⁽ⁿ⁾, the junta continues, "to incorporate new guarantees consistent with contemporary constitutional doctrine and its embodiment in the Constitution the government of Chile promulgated constitutional act No 3 on constitutional rights and duties on 11 September 1976."

Now what the government of Chile is telling us is that it has not only implemented the ordinary human rights but that it has also incorporated new guarantees consistent with contemporary constitutional doctrine. Of course we have to ask ourselves what new contemporary constitutional doctrine is the military regime speaking about. Is it a new Prof. Freedman who has appeared in the legal field? Is it a doctrine of Strauss from Munich which the junta has decided to follow? Is it the doctrine elaborated by the former dictator of Greece, Papadopoulos, which is guiding the military junta? Well, we do not know, but we have asked for a new report and we hope to find out when we are going to deal with this report in our November session, in our July session this year.

This is the first time that Chile is legally bound to follow a procedure within the field of human rights. We all know that the Commission, an ad hoc commission, has been working on the problems of Chile. But this is done within the more political sphere of the United Nations. According to this Covenant, Chile is legally bound to comply with the rights and it is going to be controlled by this Committee. The problem is what we can do. It is the 5th time we meet, and I think we have to admit that we have no reason to believe that Chile, the government of Chile, the present government of Chile is going to be very much impressed by what is happening in this Commission. I am afraid so. Nevertheless, the work is important. It is important for two reasons. It is important continuously to follow the development. It is important to let the world at large know what goes on. It is important to tell those politicians, lawyers, economists and others who might wish to close their eyes that they just can't close their eyes. It is important to let them know that no good conscience can be had by those who close their eyes. That is why we cannot forget about the factual development in Chile and that is why we have to take any occasion and occasions like this to reveal what is going on and to tell it to the world. And we are certainly grateful that we have got this opportunity here in this year to do it. But that is neither enough. More has to be done. I think that all of us present who has the possibility of so doing has the obligation of trying to convince the politicians in as many countries as possible to isolate the junta. I am afraid that I have to admit that there is no reason to be very proud of

the development which we have so far witnessed. There is no reason to be very proud. I am not at all satisfied with the development in the relationship between for instance Denmark and Chile. I am not satisfied with the relationship between Sweden and Chile, or between the Federal Republic of Germany or France. I am afraid that we have to admit that the technical relationship, trade relationship and so on has not been going down, on the contrary, it may even have increased. This is, of course, tragic. It is tragic because those who in any way, even in a passive manner, do not take any opportunity to weaken the military regime of Chile, at the same time undertake some responsibility for what is going on in Chile. It is unhappy because we represent so many countries, we come from so many countries. Let me at random mention that here present at this conference are people from Algeria, the GDR, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Spain, the United States of America, Finland, France, Greece, the United Kingdom, Japan, Holland, Mexico, Switzerland, Poland, USSR.

Of course all of us do not have a great influence in our country. Some have more than others. But all of us have the opportunity to tell our politicians, to tell those responsible for the trade in our countries and so on what is going on in Chile. And I certainly do hope that the result of this conference is going to be an inspiration to do exactly that. But we also have other strong economic forces which are not only related to a specific land or country. For instance, we have the

European Community. This community has a tremendous economic force behind. This community could do a lot of good things, e.g. with regard to South Africa. We must admit that the results so far are very, very small if you can at all measure them, because strong economic interests prompt certain countries to forget or at least hide the problems of human rights. With regard to Chile, I must admit that the result is not very optimistic either. Denmark is now during this half year in the chair of the EC and I have reason to believe that it shall be possible to take some steps during that period which are of that kind which everybody here wishes shall be taken. I am glad that the Community is soon going to be joined by for instance Spain from where Philippe Gonzales is coming. I am sure that when Spain and also Greece and Portugal have become members, when Phillippe Gonzales has reached even more influence that this shall be a good tradition for the democratic forces in the Common Market, and that the new members as well as I hope also the old ones shall understand to use this tremendous economic influence which it has it certainly is necessary, because if we don't reach a result in Chile, if the outcome of our efforts is going to be that Pinochet won the victory, then we know very well that this contagious disease which is called fascism is going to spread rapidly. We know that. And we even are able, just looking back one or two years, to see traces also in Western Europe and in other countries. I am speaking about Western Europe because I come from that part of the world myself, but I certainly could mention other countries, too. We are witnessing traces of that disease already. Therefore

it is impossible for many of us to take up the great problems of Argentina, Uruguay and you could mention other countries in Latin America. But if we do not use all our political force, if we do not try to influence all the politicians whom we can influence then we have a responsibility for the spread of this disease. And Chile is the country where the example should be given. And if this example cannot be given with regard to Chile, if it is not going to be given, I am afraid that so many people will lose confidence that we shall have no shield against that terrible disease. Therefore I think that we are at a very important point on our road that is even more important to continue than it was to start this fight. Of course there are reasons for optimism, too. It's wonderful to know that people who were incarcerated in Chile when we had our last meetings are now free and can be here. It is wonderful to know, that, not forgetting all the troubles, not forgetting all the difficulties, most of our countries have given refuge to many refugees from Chile. They have shown humanity to a great extent. And it is optimistic to witness that this Commission is continuing its very important work. But anyway, the important thing to us is to know that I believe, and I think that we all have reason to believe, that what is happening now within the next few months or one year or one and a half year is very, very important to the outcome of our fight and to the outcome of a democratic development in our own countries as well. Thank you very much.