Gertrud Björkborn, Sweden

Participants, members of the 5th Session of the Committee,

As most of you know now, I have just arrived from within Chile and therefore I bring with me greetings from the Chileans who I have met during my short stay in Santiago, greetings to the Session in particular and greetings in general to people, who abroad, in different ways are working for a free and democratic Chile. However, there is one person, who in particular, whose message I am very happy to be able to bring to you. That is from Mr. Clotario Blest (?), the founding father of the CUT. A man who is now 78 years old and who had dedicated 60 of them in the struggle for improving the life of the poor people and whose name to me and to others are very well known.

My picture will, of course, by very superficial, but still I think I have caught a general idea of how it is to live in Chile today. Before I go on I will give you a story about those pictures that you saw on the film just before I came here or just before I entered here. The film made by the English TV.

You saw the women who were making these pictures of hunger or poverty or waiting for their husbands outside jail. It could be seen in next position in the Vicariat and when the American saw them they wanted to buy them at high prices. So Pinochet forced women to make other pictures, but with different motives, true k junta motives.

As you understand, my situation was very much different after passing the customs. They asked me about my name. They asked me where I was supposed to stay. So, of course, I had to give them

name and place where to stay. I had the opportunity of being able to meet many people whose name I can't give out because of the dangers they are living under. Anyhow, I had meetings with people from the Vicariat, with many lawyers, with families of the disappeared, with trade unionists, with press men, with O.C. men, and I had finally a visit to the Penitenceria, one of the jails in Santiago, where the political prisoners are held. I want to give you some short points of use from the different places I have met. The Vicariat is now working under a very different situation. It is very hard for them and when I were there I received a notice that I should not have any further meetings there, because it was very sure, they had very strong reasons to believe, that I was under surveillance and therefore not could be allowed to arrange to meet people because of their security and because of mine. My security was not so dangerous because I was protected anyhow and I could be thrown out of the country as well as Mr. Frank was. I met many lawyers, laweyers who pointed out things to me that I have to give to people and the things that have to be done in order to be to help them. I also had the opportunity to meet the three women who recently came back from the United States. They were allowed to enter after signing a paper where they said they should not work any longer with political things, but they told me later on they don't consider looking for disappeared as a political thing, is a totally human right and they are prepared to continue to do it. I also met trade unionists, people who had recently been in jail, who had been liberated. They told me about their particular

families are also followed 24 hours a day. Anyone who has any connection with us are followed and are threatened by thelephone calls and other things. So it is not easy for us to work." And you can also see from the film that it is very dangerous even to talk. A man from the trade union told me that they say it is very difficult to organize meetings, as you know the regime has organized so-called free party commissions. That is a special way of ... It existed before, but now it is more directed by the junta. But they said, "When we arrange a meeting, people are afraid to come because we have been in jail and who dares to go to a meeting where people have in jail it is much easier to go to a meeting organized by the so-called free party commission.

During my visit I also could see part of the repression.

Every day appeared in the newspapers pictures, articles about the members of the MIR party that was eliminated. And it was shown because of the effectit should have on the people. The repression, the repression today, we must remember, it is very strong and it is an institution. That's why it is so easy to pick out different groups to make it more selected. The groups today that are picked out by the government are the MIR, the so-called League of Communists, the Christian-Democrats and the Independent Trade Unions. So we should remember that the repression is still going on and I was met at Madrid by a person who said to me when she got to know that I've arrived from Chile, "Well, the situation has improved, I think." I told her, it has not improved, but on the surface, as the tourist may be, you don't see so much. But if you have the experience that I have

and this Mr. Britishman who was talking before that you are under surveillance and that you can't move freely and that people can't even meet, then, of course, you know, there is no liberty and it is not existing aslong as this government is going on.

However, my main impression from my visit in Santiago:
Although the state of siege is still continuing, the junta still is a very repressive regime. I had the opportunity to meet the resistance that exists. And I think that this commission is a very important organ for the opposition, for solidarity with people. And I tell you at my meeting with the prisoners in La penitenceria they were very happy to know that the solidarity is going on. And they told us that without this solidarity it is very hard to work. And I left chile with an impression. Even though the situation is very hard there is some hope, because as Mr. Corvalan pointed out yesterday, the junta can't repress the Chilean people so much longer, because of their democratic tradition. And with help from us outside, may be, we should remain hopeful. Thank you.

oscopo feudori pracono