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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of TortureReport of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, the General Assembly decided to redesignate the former United Nations Trust Fund for Chile as the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and to extend its mandate in order to make it capable of receiving voluntary contributions for distribution, through established channels of assistance, as humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights had been severely violated as a result of torture and to relatives of such victims. In accordance with resolution 36/151, priority was to be given to aid to victims of violations by States in which the human rights situation had been the subject of resolutions or decisions adopted by either the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or the Commission on Human Rights.

2. General Assembly resolution 36/151 also provided that the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture should be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees of the Fund, composed of a chairman and four members with wide experience in the field of human rights, acting in their personal capacity, to be appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments. The Assembly also appealed to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund.

3. On 11 November 1982, the Secretary-General announced that, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 36/151, he had appointed the following persons to serve for a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture:

Mr. Hans DANELIUS (Sweden)
 Ms. Elizabeth ODIO-BENITO (Costa Rica)
 Mr. Waleed SADI (Jordan)
 Mr. Amos WAKO (Kenya)

Consideration is being given to the appointment of a fifth member on the Board of Trustees.

4. Consultations are under way with the members of the Board of Trustees in order to determine a suitable date for the first session of the Board. In preparation for the first session of the Board of Trustees, the Secretariat has been collecting background information that might assist the Board in carrying out its mandate.

5. In its resolution 1982/43 of 11 March 1982, the Commission on Human Rights recognized the need to provide assistance to victims of torture in a purely humanitarian spirit and called upon all Governments in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the fund and requested the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the Commission's appeal for contributions to the fund. By a note verbale dated 7 May 1982, the Secretary-General transmitted the Commission's appeal to all Governments.

6. As at 15 November 1982, the following contributions had been received by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture during 1982:

	<u>US dollars</u>
Cyprus	500.00
Denmark	114,600.05
Netherlands	45,000.00
Norway	100,000.00
Sweden	150,000.00
	<u>410,100.05</u>

7. By a note verbale dated 19 October 1982, the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations Office at Geneva informed the Centre for Human Rights that the Government of Finland had decided to contribute 450,000 Finnish marks (approximately \$US 81 000) to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.