4. Considers that, without prejudice to the proper application of rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, when in exceptional cases an alternate is appointed temporarily in the place of an elected member, due attention must be paid to the necessity of choosing a person with the requisite expertise and qualifications and that it must be kept in mind that the appointment of a government official as an alternate may sometimes not be in keeping with the character of the Sub-Commission, as a body composed of experts.

1982/24. Question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment, in particular: question of missing and disappeared persons 90/1

The Commission on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978, which requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider the question of disappeared persons with a view to making appropriate recommendations, and all other United Nations resolutions concerning missing or disappeared persons,

Recalling its resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980, whereby it decided to establish for a period of one year a working group consisting of five of its members, to serve as experts in their individual capacities, to examine questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/163 of 16 December 1981, wherein the General Assembly welcomed the decision taken by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 10 (XXXVII) of 26 February 1981 to extend the mandate of this Working Group for one year,

Recalling resolution 15 (XXXIV) of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Considering the need to observe United Nations standards and practice regarding the receipt of communications, their transmittal to the Governments concerned and their evaluation,

Taking note of the report of the Working Group, 91/1

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Working Group for the work done;

20/ Adopted at the 56th meeting on 10 March 1982, without a vote. See chap. VIII.

2. Decides to extend for one year the term of the Working Group's mandate, as laid down in Commission resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980;

3. Requests the Working Group to submit to the Commission, at its thirty-ninth session, a report on its work, together with its conclusions and recommendations, and to bear in mind the obligation to discharge its mandate with discretion, so as, inter alia, to protect persons providing information, or to limit the dissemination of information provided by Governments;

4. Renews its request to the Secretary-General to appeal to all Governments to co-operate in a spirit of complete confidence with the Working Group;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all necessary assistance, in particular the staff and resources it requires to perform its functions in an effective and expeditious manner, and if necessary to make the necessary arrangements to ensure the continuity of the Secretariat's work;

6. Requests the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to continue studying the most effective means for eliminating enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons, with a view to making general recommendations to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session;

7. Decides to consider this question at its thirty-ninth session under a sub-item of the agenda entitled "Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances".


The Commission on Human Rights,

Conscious of its responsibility to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and determined to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur,

Recalling its resolutions 11 (XXXV) of 6 March 1979, 21 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980 and 9 (XXXVII) of 26 February 1981, General Assembly resolution 36/157 of 16 December 1981 and General Assembly resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1988 on disappeared persons, which resolutions bear witness to the concern of the United Nations at the human rights situation in Chile,

Realizing that the developments over the past year still warrant the attention of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights,

22/ Adopted at the 56th meeting on 10 March 1982, by a roll-call vote of 26 to 6, with 8 abstentions. See chap. III.