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*Section Y—General Interest in Science and Engineering*

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## Reports Investigate Torture and Role of Health Professionals

As part of its project on the medical profession and human rights, the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility has produced a four-country study which describes the involvement of health professionals in efforts to promote human rights in the Philippines,

Uruguay, Chile, and South Africa. Each of the studies specifically examines the practice of torture in those countries and investigates reports of the participation or complicity of health professionals in the practice of torture. The reports also describe the efforts of health professionals to document cases of torture, treat and rehabilitate its victims, prevent professional complicity, and ultimately end the practice of torture in their countries. The project was funded by the Ford Foundation.

■ *Health Professionals and Human Rights in the Philippines* by Richard Claude, Eric Stover, and June P. Lopez (February 1987). The authors document the Marcos government-sponsored arrests and murders of physicians who attempted to provide adequate health care in strife-ridden areas. They examine the practice of torture in the Philippines under the Marcos regime and the efforts of health professionals to provide rehabilitative services for torture victims. The authors found no evidence of physicians systematically participating in torture, but suggested a review of the role of medical personnel who treat detainees and the status of health care in the prison system. The report also looks at forensic investigations into suspicious deaths, including the assassination of Senator Benigno Aquino and efforts of the Corazon Aquino government to institute a policy of human rights education in the country.

■ *Uruguay's Military Physicians: Cogs in a System of State Terror* by Maxwell Gregg Bloche (March 1987). An examination of the allegations that medical personnel collaborated in the torture and ill-treatment of persons held in Uruguayan secret detention centers and national security prisons. Bloche also reports on the medical community's attempts to investigate violations of medical ethics by health professionals during the years of military rule. The author concludes that Uruguayan physicians, through their routine clinical work and abdication of personal responsibility for the information obtained from their health care practice, played a systematic role in the Uruguayan military's apparatus of physical and psychological torture.

■ *The Open Secret: Torture and the Medical Profession in Chile* by Eric Stover (July 1987). Although Chilean law prohibits the use of torture, there are hundreds of complaints of torture in the Chilean courts. Among these complaints are numerous references to encounters between detainees and persons they believed to be health professionals who in some way assisted in torture. There also are reports of falsifications of medical records or death certificates. This report looks into such complaints and the efforts of the Chilean Medical Association to investigate alleged unethical behavior of physicians.

■ *Turning a Blind Eye? Medi-*

*cal Accountability and the Prevention of Torture in South Africa* by Mary Rayner (August 1987). The author examines the lack of adequate medical care and incidence of torture in detention in South Africa. Investigations conducted by South African medical societies into physician responsibility in the death of black activist Steve Biko revealed the clouding of medical ethics with political concerns. Finally, Rayner reviews the efforts of health professionals to document and publicize instances of torture, to bring such cases before the South African courts, and to provide rehabilitation services for former detainees who have been tortured.

Limited quantities of the reports are available at no charge from the Office on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility at AAAS, or call 202-326-6790.

## SWARM Plans Spring Meeting

The Southwestern and Rocky Mountain (SWARM) Division will hold its 64th annual meeting in Wichita, Kansas, 29 March to 2 April 1988, at Wichita State University. The theme of the meeting will be "Explorations in Science."

Symposia planned for the Wichita meeting include those on pattern recognition and machine intelligence, exploring social reality, problems of explanation and interpretation in the social sciences, the western Cre-

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