

CAREF

Comisión Argentina para los Refugiados

IGLESIA EVANGELICA DEL RIO DE LA PLATA
IGLESIA EVANGELICA DISCIPULOS DE CRISTO
IGLESIA EVANGELICA METODISTA ARGENTINA

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

RESETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

MIAMI/ WASHINGTON 15-22 SEPTEMBER 1986

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

SYNTHESIS OF THE WORK DONE BY CAREF
1984-1985



Buenos Aires, Argentina
September 1986

September 1986

C.A.R.E.f. (Argentine Commission for Refugees) began to work in 1973 and was organized by the Argentine Protestant Churches to give an answer to the arrival of Chilean citizens who came from Pinochet government which caused Salvador Allende's fall.

This office has been constantly attending refugees in coordination with the UNHCR.

Refugees attended by this organization during these 13 years (1973-1986) were Chileans, Uruguayans and from Indochina (these last, during 2 years). This work had different stages according to the evolution of the Argentine political situation and the situation of the countries the refugees came from.

Although the population attended in the program are the refugees in Argentina, there have been periods of time like 1976-1982 where the main task was to guide refugees who came to Argentina to be resettled in third countries. The program of attention to people from Indochina (Laosians, Vietnamese and Hmong) was very short but of a big magnitude because it implied a complex political problem.

Considering that the main interest of this meeting lies on voluntary repatriation we will give a short synthesis of our experience. There are two aspects where CAREF developed different activities. The first one refers to Argentine returnees, it means voluntary repatriated who are our fellowmen exiled in different Latin American and European countries with whom the Office worked during '84 and '85, as soon as democracy returned.

In different programs were attended 422 cases (1227 people)

We attach detailed report on the work done and the analysis of the difficulties implied in resettlement which can be stated as:

- a) to get a job and a house
- b) adaptation to the country, which has had qualitative changes, with the resulting integration problems.

The greater difficulties are expressed by youngsters and children who grew up and developed in exile.

The work attached contains specific data about this.

With regards to the second aspect, refugees repatriation in Argentina to their homeland, CAREF has had a recent experience with Uruguayans who began their voluntary repatriation since March 1985, because of democracy arrival. Through 1984-1985 analysis of statistics show that for 1984 there were 17 cases including 50 people (50% were families). In 1985 this office worked with 169 cases of voluntary repatriations about 590 people, and 90% were families. The Uruguayans we worked with in Argentina lived here for political reasons, but were not refugees. The repatriation program in which they were included was coordinated with UNHCR.

The working experience shows us that Uruguayans really wanted to return in spite of the difficulties they found for resettlement.

The percentages that handle the reception organisms for Uruguayans returnees indicate that they are among the first countries of the world.

Our evaluation of the participation of this program is:

- a) It is essential in these circumstances to coordinate with the organisms of the country that receives their returnees;
- b) To support from the exile an overall resettlement project;
- c) To coordinate with political entities the direction of the meaning of voluntary repatriation;
- d) To systematize return experiences in order to give a resolution to the problems common for every country:
 - f. example: documentation.



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CONSEJO MUNDIAL DE IGLESIAS
CONSULTA SOBRE REASENTAMIENTO
MIAMI/WASHINGTON 15-22 de setiembre 1986

TEMA:

REPATRIACION VOLUNTARIA.SINTESIS DE DOS ASPECTOS
DEL TRABAJO DE C.A.R.E.F, AÑOS 1984-1985.



Buenos Aires, Argentina
Setiembre , 1986

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Septiembre 1986

C.A.R.E.F (Comisión Argentina para los Refugiados), comenzó en el año 1973 organizada por iglesias protestantes como respuesta a la llegada de los chilenos que venían del régimen de Pinochet, que provocó la caída de Salvador Allende. Desde esa fecha esta oficina atendió refugiados en forma constante a través de los programas del ACNUR, organismo con el cual se trabaja en forma coordinada.

Los refugiados que pasaron por este organismo durante estos 13 años (1973-1986), fueron chilenos, uruguayos e indochinos (estos últimos en un lapso de dos años). Este trabajo tuvo distintas etapas, de acuerdo a la evolución de la realidad política argentina y de los países emisores de refugiados. De tal modo, si bien la población que se atiende en el programa son los refugiados en Argentina, hubo períodos como el que va del 76 al 82, en los que la tarea fundamental fue orientar a los refugiados que llegaban a Argentina al reasentamiento a terceros países. El programa de atención a indochinos (laosianos, vietnamitas y hmong) fue breve aunque de mucha envergadura por la complejidad del problema político que esto implicaba.

Como en esta reunión interesa comentar y discutir el tema de la repatriación voluntaria, hacemos una breve síntesis sobre nuestra experiencia. En este sentido tomaremos dos aspectos con los cuales CAREF desarrolló acciones diversas. El primer aspecto se refiere a los argentinos retornados, o sea a la recepción de repatriados voluntarios, que son nuestros compatriotas, los que estuvieron exilados en diferentes países de América latina y de Europa. Con éstos la oficina trabajó durante los años '84 y '85, no bien sobrevino el régimen democrático. Se atendió a 422 casos que son 1.227 personas en diferentes programas. Adjuntamos un informe más detallado acerca de la labor realizada, así como el análisis de las dificultades que implica la reinserción al país, las que sintéticamente son:

- a) para obtener trabajo y vivienda;
 - b) adaptación al país, que ha tenido cambios cualitativos, con los consiguientes problemas de integración.
- Las mayores dificultades son expresadas por los jóvenes y niños que crecieron y se desarrollaron en el exilio. El trabajo que adjuntamos contiene datos específicos al respecto.

Con respecto al segundo aspecto; repatriación de refugiados en la Argentina a su país de origen, CAREF tiene una experiencia reciente

J. B. Alberdi 2240 Piso 1°

1406 Buenos Aires

Argentina

Tel. 613-6162

Miembro de la Coordinadora de Acción Social
auspiciada por el Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados
reconocida por el Ministerio del Interior (Resolución 2853/74).

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te con los uruguayos que a partir de marzo de 1985 iniciaron su repatriación voluntaria, por el advenimiento de la democracia!

Si analizamos los años 1984-85, nuestras estadísticas arrojan para 1984 un total de 17 casos que representan 50 personas, de las cuales el 50% fueron grupos familiares. En el año 1985 esta oficina trabajó con 169 casos de repatriaciones voluntarias que significaron 590 personas. De este total, casi el 90% fueron grupos familiares. Los uruguayos con los que trabajamos eran personas que residían en la Argentina por razones políticas, pero que no habían tenido la condición de refugiado. El programa de repatriación que los incluyó se hizo en coordinación con el ACNUR.

La experiencia de trabajo nos mostró que el interés por el retorno voluntario de los uruguayos fue muy alto a pesar de las dificultades de reinserción que encontraban. Los porcentajes que manejan los organismos de recepción de retornados uruguayos indican que están entre los primeros países del mundo.

Nuestra evaluación de la participación en este programa es:

- a) coordinar, indispensablemente en estas circunstancias, con los organismos del país que recibe a sus retornados;
- b) apoyar desde el exilio un proyecto global de inserción;
- c) coordinar con entidades políticas la orientación acerca de lo que significa la repatriación voluntaria;
- d) sistematizar las experiencias de retorno para aportar a la resolución de lo que pueden ser problemas comunes en cualquier país: ejemplo, la documentación.

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DIAGNOSIS OF POPULATION RETURNED FROM EXILE

(According to investigation made
by OSEA, Oficina de Solidaridad para Exiliados Argentinos
(Office of Solidarity for the Argentine Exyls)
1st. Semester 1985).

DIAGNOSIS OF POPULATION RETURNED FROM EXILE

(According to investigation made by OSEA - 1st. Sem. 1985)

INTRODUCTION

Any experience of human rights, together with the decision to do so, implies the existence of objective conditions that will permit its development. Argentina during last years, due to the plans of people in power, has been very harsh for lots of countrymen who pretended to live in their country and be respected those rights. Everybody has suffered the impossibility of political participation or free expression of proper ideas, when they were against the ruling régime. The right to work, to form a family, and to give children a roof or enough food became a difficult and sometimes impossible task for a considerable amount of people.

Thus, this country so-called to receive in its extensive territory people from all parts of the world witnessed like hundreds of thousands of their inhabitants looked for in other countris the survival conditions they were denied here.

This was the situation particularly of those who because of their ideas or history suffered different forms of persecution: the "black lists" precisely made or implied included professionals, artists, teachers, workers, members of different political parties.

But there was something else: for thousands of people exile was the condition to go on living or to do so in freedom. ¿What could be done, but exile, when it was supposed or clear that an order of arrest laid on their backs due to their own past or present political activity, or simply because you were a relative or a friend of those who had gone into the world of those "arrested-missing"?

The recovery of democratic institutions has created the basic conditions for exiles to think to return.

Here it should be pointed out the important role played by countrymen living in other countries to take over this objective.

Their preaching let the world know the size of the tragedy supported by our country, to generate a universal claim to stop genocide and the isolation of military dictatorship. But reinsertion in society requires more than supression of legal obstacles to live in Argentina; more than the guarantee of no more kidnaps with impunity. It implies the creations of real

conditions to develop in the own country, a life that ~~may~~ truly say to be human.

Have the families who returned from exile reached this legitimate claim?. This inquiry intends to answer this question.

It is not of course the whole answer not even ~~the~~ only way to satisfy our worry. But we think it has given us some useful conclusions.

We claim that the conclusions of this inquiry give light over the sense and the ways with what should solidarity be expressed, essential to the attitude of a society to make possible the reinsercion of those who have decided to exercise their right to live in ~~their~~ own country.

It is not only let our countrymen come back but we must want them to come back. Because it is good for everybody to do so. We want them to be back because this is their country, that they had to leave forcedely and come back full of hope. We want them to come back because we need them to teach us all they learnt in other countries, to help us reconstruct ours.

OSEA understood the need to begin a psycho-socio-economical investigation, to take the first conclusions of the results.

Even though the population inquired was very limited, it represents a small part of the masive return, due to the fact that only those people registered in OSEA were considered, and among these only those who had received some material help, we can evaluate how representative the show is, due to the variety of people and socio-economical situations presented by the inquiries.

The team work proposed the following objectives with these elements:

- a) Precision of present situation of returnees and his experience of reinsercion in the country,
- b) Explore the impact of OSEA assistance program, in order to define lines of activity or future proposals.

Gather information about exile-return task to be incorporated and analyzed within Argentine society by international organisms. The report contains the methodology used by the team, a diagnosis of the present situation of returnees and last part for conclusions and recommendations.

METHODOLOGY

Determination of population to be investigated:

Exiles returned to the country between Dec. 1983 and Sept. 1984 who asked economical support to OSEA.

Residents in Federal Capital and Great Bs. As.

Sample selection

A sample of 90 cases out of 421 was taken. The selected population does not include cases within the country and all those returnees that didn't go to OSEA.

The following variables were taken into consideration: countries they came from, sex, age, profession, condition, familiar group (it is considered a familiar group the one existing at the moment of investigation).

The inquiry was used as an instrument for the investigation of data: to be performed at the inquired person's residence.

General characteristics of the inquiry

It includes the following aspects:

- 1) It is anonymous
- 2) It encloses closed questions with several answers
- 3) Open questions with the exact transcription of the answers
- 4) Questions refer to personal matters, opinions and objective data.
- 5) To perform the inquiry 4 people team was formed coordinated by a member of the main team who was in contact with returnees selected for the sample.

The collection of data stage developed during April, May, June July with approximately two hours for each inquiry.

Emptyness and data tabulation

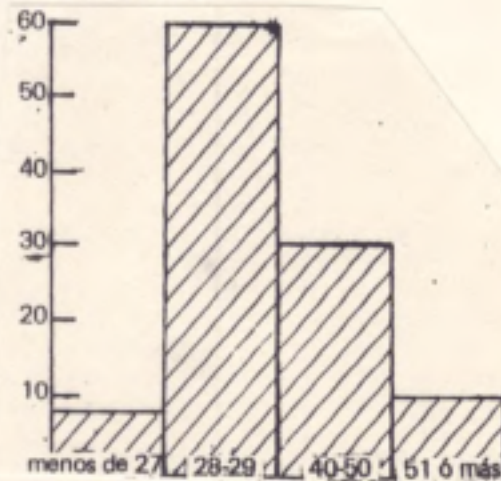
It was performed by the central team by hand as the last stage of the work on data analysis and interpretation. The job was performed by a team composed by: Violeta Correa, Lars Norman, Cristina Pluger, Virginia Franganillo, Isabel Eckert, Susana Malacalza, Silvia Pascual.

A) POPULATION CHARACTERIZATION

Age of people interviewed

less than 27	4 6
27 to 39	59
40 to 50	28
51 or more	8

AGE OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

Age of children

0 to 6
7 to 12
13 to 17
more than 18



The 90 interviews which formed this sample study come up to 247 persons ; 103 are children and youngsters according to the preceding schedule.

Sex of people interviewed

Men 50%
Women 50%

Countries where they have been (where they returned from)

1. Mexico	34 cases	38%
2. Spain	10 cases	11%
3. Sweden	11 cases	12%
4. Europe, Israel	24 cases	27%
5. Central or Latin America + Canada	11 cases	12%

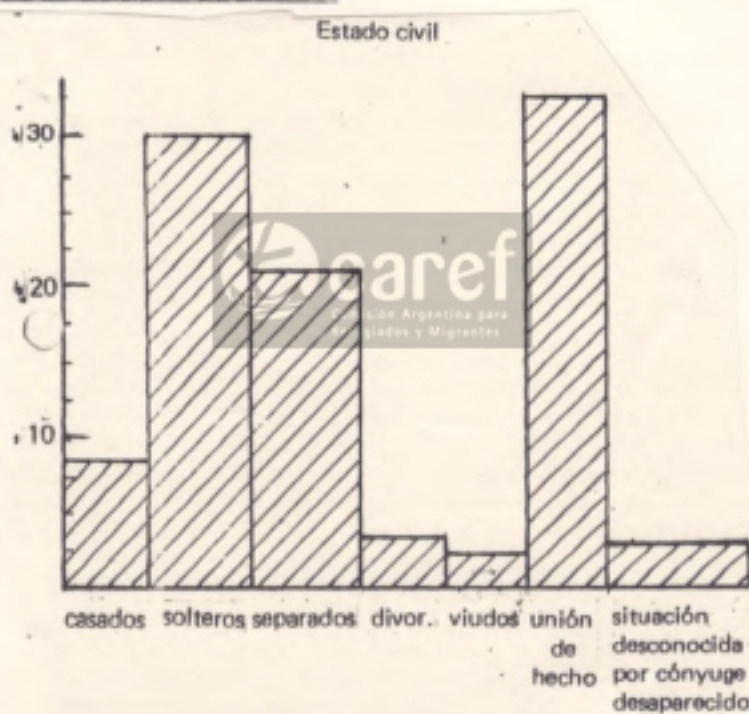
Characterization of population interviewed according to its condition

Persons alone	22%
Couples without children	9%
Persons alone with children	18%
Couples with children	51%

Residence of interviewed persons at present

Federal Capital	76
Great Buenos Aires	24

Civil condition of interviewed



Nationality of the children and or spouses of interviewed returnees

	% Other <u>nationalities</u>	% Double <u>nationality</u>	% <u>Stateless</u>
Spouses	11	6	0
Sons	27	6	6

B. Essential characteristics of Argentine returnees reinsertion
(those who came to CSEA)

I. Labour situation: We will refer here to the job, profession or work done by the interviewed before leaving the country; his principal job in his exile country and his situation at present.

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Exit</u>		<u>Exterior</u>		<u>At present</u>	
	E	C	E	C	E	C
1. House wife	4	6	0	3	1	4
2. Sporadic			1	3	6	6
3. Merchant	2	3	1	0	18	19
4. Unemployed	4	12	1	0	18	19
5. Teachers	3	9	9	13	6	9
6. Employees	38	30	28	33	30	19
7. Students	6	12	7	7	2	0
8. Workers	7	3	3	3	0	0
9. Spec. Worker	1	0	0	0	0	2
10. Unskilled workmen	1	0	0	0	0	2
11. Professional	12	12	12	8	14	11
12. Domestics	0	0	0	0	0	2
13. Technicians	8	6	8	3	4	6
14. Indiv. Work	11	6	30	31	17	19
15. Others	2	0	0	0	2	0

We will analyze data referred to unemployed, employees, workers, professionals, technicians and independent workers.

The behaviour of these data was done taking into account the situation at present, during exile and before.

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The occupation we take into consideration be the time he left the country is the last he developed firmly.

The higher percentage of occupation (the third part of the population) are employees. It refers to those who have a dependant relationship, not always a qualified job, generally related to public administration or sales staff activities; 38% of these interviewed persons belonged to this category when they left the country; 28% during exile and 30% at present. There is 8% decrease between the moment they left and occupation at present.

The 2nd. percentage is represented by professionals: 12% when they left the country which maintained during exile and became 14% at present.

The 3rd. percentage is represented by independent workers: 11% when they left the country, 30% in exile and 17 at present.

We define independent workers as craftsmen, people who work in small workshops or attend a kiosk.

The 4th percentage is represented by technicians, persons with qualified job, third level education (8% when they left the country) this percentage maintained during exile and decreased 4% at present.

7% were workers when they left the country; 33% during exile and 0% at present.

3% were teachers when they left, 9% during exile and 6% at present.

4% were unemployed when they left.; during exile 1% and 17% at present.

These data always refer to people who were interviewed (man or woman) but the situation of spouse has been considered also).

This schedule shows that spouse occupation is a reflection of interviewed person situation.

It should be noticed the percentage of independent workers during exile. And also the present unemployment is nearly the same for both spouses.

With regards to the labour situation we can say that :

This can be analysed as follows:

- 28% low incomes
- 13% labour insecurity
- 11% no professional prospects
- 9% no answer

Those unemployed at the moment of inquiry were:

- 38% have other labor worries
- 33% have none
- 29% no answer.

1.5 Interviewed population declared dispensable

- 19% were declared dispensable
- 67% were not.

All those declared dispensable proceeded to rejoin; only the third part had positive results. This is up to the moment of the inquiry.

2. Housing situation



Comparative schedule

	<u>At leaving</u>	<u>At present</u>
owner	27%	26%
Rent	49	42
Lent	15	11
Hotel or pension	1	0
Others	8	0
No house	0	21

It should be pointed out that nearly 50% of population who live in apartments or rented houses received institutional help, while those who bought their house had their own savings or received help from their families.

The contracts to rent were mostly done during the first months of 1984, with contracts for 18 months, so population will face a new housing problem between September and December 1985 which will be very difficult because of low salary ranges.

2.1 NUMBER OF ROOMS PER FAMILY GROUP

According to data and considering the population who have solved their housing problem, 35% occupy less than one room per person.

2.2 Housing Location according to necessities

We could gather the following information on this subject: 82% of the population with housing, have it placed according to necessities and 18% don't. When they answer that it isn't located according to necessities it is because it is far from work (more than 1 hour).

3. EDUCATION

3.1 LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF INQUIRED POPULATION BEFORE LEAVING THE COUNTRY

		<u>E</u> %	<u>C</u> %
1. Primary	Complete	9	7
	Incomplete	-	-
2. Secondary	Complete	11	13
	Incomplete	9	7
3. Technical	Complete	8	2
	Incomplete	2	-
	Complete	4	11
4. Third level	Incomplete	3	6
	Complete	17	15
5. University	Incomplete	34	20
6. Postgraduate		2	-
7. Others			

According to these data 49% had incomplete studies when they left the country.

3.2

COURSES OF STUDIES ATTENDED BY INTERVIEWED PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY

	<u>E</u>
1. Primary	Complete
	Incomplete
	Complete 2
2. Secondary	Incomplete 1
	Complete 1

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3. Technical	Incomplete	1
	Complete	
4. Third level	Incomplete	
	Complete	6
5. University	Incomplete	13
	Complete	2
6. Postgraduate	Incomplete	78
7. Others		4

Professionals and technicians who left the country in such a condition kept it in exile, lately there has been an increase in professionals occupation and a decrease of 50% in technicians which moved to other activities (essentially suboccupation).

It is important to point out that 30% of inquired people were independent workers during exile and nowadays it comes to 17% in Argentina, together with same percentage of unemployment it shows 34% of the population subemployed or unemployed.

The official figures until August 1st., 1985 give a 13% unemployment or subemployment for the whole country.

From the information given by the unemployed inquired (18%) it is important to point out that 20% of that percentage belongs to persons who are over 50 who did not have or have possibilities of getting a job.

With regards to workers, of inquired population there were 7% when they left the country. During exile only 3% were workers and today they have not recovered that condition, reflecting, hypothetically a decrease of employment for that condition (among other factors due to factories closed), and the change for other activity, like independent workers who are now assimilated or subemployed.

On the other side, no worker could recover his old work due to previous antecedents (this refers to factories workers) But not for dependent workers of state owned companies that were able to do so.

111 Employment characteristics

The following schedule shows the kind of dependency of employed population. We understand for employed population that who has a job at the moment of the interview.

This data refers to the interviewed person.

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<u>Form of employment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Regular	30
Temporary	25
Work contract	9
Independent	31
Others	4

1.2 Salary received by family group

This item has been analyzed according to the date of the interviews (that is April, May, June and July), so we will state the monthly report.

April

Salaries received :	Less than 40 up to 40 ₺ (less than 82 U\$S)	17
	From 40 up to 70 ₺ (82 to 143 U\$S)	22
	70 to 100 ₺ (143 to 204 U\$S)	22
	100 or more ₺ (204 U\$S or more)	39

May

Salaries received ;	Less than 40 up to 40 ₺ (less than 82 U\$S)	6
	40 to 70 ₺ (70 to 123 U\$S)	22
	70 to 100 ₺ (123 to 177 U\$S)	22
	100 or more (177 or more U\$S)	50

June

Salaries received:	Less than 40 up to 40 ₺ (59 U\$S)	3
	40 to 70 ₺ (59 to 103 U\$S)	3
	70 to 100 ₺ (103 to 148 U\$S)	23
	100 and more (148 plus U\$S)	71

July

Salaries received:	Less than 40 up to 40 ₺ (44 U\$S)	-
	40 to 70 ₺ (44 to 77 U\$S)	-
	70 to 100 ₺ (77 to 109 U\$S)	-
	100 or more ₺ (109 and more U\$S)	100

According to official figures for the months analyzed the minimum salary was:

April :	36,64 ₺	June: 59,36 ₺
May :	47,54 ₺	July: 59.36 ₺

There is a mistake with salaries received by familiar group because it didn't consider June 30% inflation so the numbers

are not accurate. We can say that the third part of the population who receives incomes gets less than \$200 minimum expenses at present (house renting, services, transport and basic food) according to Argentine CGT of 2954.

1.3 Other incomes

There are other contributions like scholarships or financial help. Sometimes people receive these benefits also have a job.

1.4 Satisfaction degree with a working situation

39 % feel satisfied with their job

42% feel dissatisfied.

38% of the interviewed studied abroad. According to schedule only 50% finished their studies abroad. The other 50%

(that is those who did not complete their studies abroad) were consulted about their intention to continue with their studies and these were the answers:

50% will not do it because they have no interest

Here we considerate that many of the studies done abroad have no utility in argentine society.

The other 50% is formed by those who said they had time problems, personal reasons or work.

With titles obtained abroad only 50% began ratification proceedings. Of those, only 6% got it and the rest has no answer.

We can see that there is another group of people who got titles and haven't done any ratification proceedings yet, it could be related to the cost of proceedings and its difficulties.

The sample studied included those cases with incomplete studies and require approval of subjects attended. According to information received 31% of population were not recognized subjects attended.

4. HEALTH

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4.1 Physical condition of interviewed population at present

We have divided population as follows:

1) family groups ; 2) couples alone ; 3) persons alone

Their physical condition was qualified as: good, regular or bad.

- 61% of family groups have a good health (this means there is nobody ill in the family) ; • 32% have a regular health (one or two members of the family suffer some kind of illness) and
- 6% have bad health, (this means that there is some kind of illness in more than two members of the family group or one of them is seriously ill.).

- 75% of couples alone have good health, 25% regular health.

- 50% of persons alone have good health, 30% regular and 20% bad.

These data show that the percentage of good health is smaller among persons alone and it is also higher in bad health.

We can see that persons alone are the most vulnerable.

This group consists of people over 50 or persons alone due to family desintegration (separates).

Unprecisely, the most common illnesses presented by population soon after their return were: gastritis, ulcers and infectious illnesses (bronchitis, influenza).

This information cannot be supported by statistics but they were obtained from returnees by social workers.

4.2 Places of attention

Our investigation went to all places where population came to be attended.

<u>Place</u>	<u>%</u>
• Public hospital	41
• Labor social security	27
• Private social security	7
• Others	10
• No answer	16

4.3. MEDICINES

51% bought medicines

14% were not able to do it

34% no answer because they did not need any medicines.

4.4 Psychological attention

We consider psychological attention as most important.

We investigated the real need to carry out this kind of attention.

NEED OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTENTION

	<u>Whole family</u>	<u>members of the group</u>	<u>Nobody</u>
Family groups	24	45	31
Couples alone	13	50	38
Persons alone	45	-	55

These figures of psychological attention need, do not explain if population could take it or not, but simply the objective need from what the person expresses or feels.

According to these data demand is very significant, because 63% need attention.

Just as in physical health, persons alone are the psychically most affected. and 3/4 parts are women.

50% of interviewed in need of psychological attention have received this kind of support during exile.

We have also investigated the time this need appears in people that is how long after they came to the country.

Immediately	17%
3 months later	12%
6 months later	23%

This shows that the conflicts get worst after 6 months

Experience shows that this is true because during first time they are not completely connected with reality. They are in contact with the family and society, as identification of values, memories, etc.; all this is mixed with the impact implied in the acknowledgement of a country completely different of the one they left.

During first times the returnee is constantly busy looking for a house, proceedings, looking for a job, etc. and psychological need is left behind.

5. IMPACT OF RETURNEES IN FAMILIAR AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

We wanted to know in this aspect the returnee family constitution and its relationship with surrounding environment.

5.1 Couples investigated showed that:

How is your couple formed at present?

Firm couple before exile	24%
Couple desintegrated during exile	17%
Couple desintegrated when they came back	7%
Formed a new couple in exile	20%
Formed a new couple when they came back	16%
Single	7%
Widow	2%
Others (missing)	8%



This shows that 70% of family groups have suffered changes and 24% keep the same.

5.2 We have investigated the case of desintegrated couples with children and the relationship to the absent adult.

Daily contact	7%
Weekly	38%
Monthly	5%
Others	36% (holidays)
Without	14%

These data show that more than 50% of children of separated parents have no direct contact with their parents: for example parents who live abroad or inside the country.

5.3 We will analyze here the acceptance or refusal of the returnee on the part of his family, friends and political friends when he left the country.

When they came back, how were they affectively received:

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	<u>Refusal</u>	<u>Acceptance</u>
1. Direct family	9	90
2. All life friends	12	78
3. Political friends	31	47

When they came back, how were they materially received:

	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
1. Direct family	70	23
2. All life friends	43	44
3. Political friends	31	47

Generally acceptance is higher than refusal. Economic support is reduced to the economic situation of the country.

31% of inquired population does not answer the questions:

We think that is because: 1) They don't live in the place where they left for exile; 2) They have friends who are missing and 3) desintegration of their political party.

We haven't included in this investigation the refusal of the returnee by his social and familiar environment.

New friends made by returnee: 76% made new friends, the rest is formed by persons who have not established new relationships due to the reasons mentioned above or fear or their need to be with other returnees, lack of time or a personality that adapts slowly.

To be jobless is another reason that contributes to this %.

We also investigated the relationship with bosses and work companions.

The questions made in this case intended to establish on the part of the bosses their knowledge of their being ex-exiles, solidarity or refusal they feel, for their work companions.

Data tell us that 76% bosses know the ex-exile condition of the person. 24% ignores it.

12

95% support returnees - no refusal. These data correspond to people who could get a dependant job.

84% of work companions know the ex-exile condition of persons and 100% support them.

5.4 The behaviour of school with returnees and their children is our guide for analysis.

Distribution according to different school levels

Day-care centers	5%
Kindergarden	9%
Primary	61%
Secondary	18%
University	2%
Others	5%

70% of school authorities know about the ex-exile condition of the family group.

5.5 Position of Educational authorities towards school population.

Understanding of the situation of returnees coming from exile	44
No special manifestation	16
Lack of understanding or hostility	14
No answer	26

This information covers school population as a whole, from day-care centers to university - but due to the interest of this study and the knowledge of the adolescents problems in high school, we have separated information referred to this group and it gives us a different prospect from that we had in primary school.

Hostility in primary school amounts to 25%, but in secondary it is 36% (no integration suffered by adolescent returnee).

5.6 Based on this we measured the integration problems of children or adolescents in their group of friends.

Integration problems of school population

Yes	40%
No	60%

This situation is different in primary or secondary school.

In primary school 50% of children of exile parents had problems but in secondary school the number is 63%.

We mentioned before 36% hostile attitude on the part of the school institution and if compared with 63% (secondary school) refusal is quite significant.

5.7 We wanted to analyze also the relationship with neighbours.

62% was in contact with them and 50% know about their exile.

5.8 Some aspects of socialization done by exiles when they came back.

Here we will analyze the possibilities of recreational life (clubs, holidays) or access to or use of communication media.

During the week the group does no recreative activity and during week ends they visit friends or relatives.

83% of interviewed people has not associated to any social or sports club. Mainly because of economical reasons. 62% have access to communication media: radio, TV, and papers. Magazines are more selectively distributed, only 30% buys them regularly. 1% of interviewed have no access to any media.

6. LEGAL SITUATION



These are fundamentally documents problems.

With regards to legal problems : 11% have order of arrest, unsolved.

Documents: in some cases they have problems with children establishment (50% of total of families whose children were born abroad). The causes are in some cases because they have not began the proceedings and in others because one of the parents stayed abroad. 8% have problems with couples separation (they have not been done legally).

20% express security problems. 2/3 are afraid of being captured or have received menaces and 1/3 due to the situation of the country.

This evaluation has been done in strict accordance with what the interviewed has said.

With regards to security we can mention the case of those who went to renew their passport : 5 cases received a marked passport, 2 were kept for a long time and 2 were denied. There is no precise number because many people did not continue with the proceedings due to fear.

7. INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS IMPACT (case OSEA, National Commission and other organisms) in guidance and resolution of ^{ex-}exile's problems.

Up to this point we want to analyze the impact that OSEA assistance program had on returnees.

66% of interviewed population were in contact with OSEA or other organisms like: ACNUR, CODEPE, MEDH, CELS, SUM and Return Commission and some Ministeries.

This percentage shows OSEA as the organism that mostly received and attended returnee who needed some kind of assistance. The investigation went through the kind of help required, received and the destiny it was given.

Possibilities of assistance were qualified as follows:

Economic help, guidance in working aspects, education, legal, health and others.

96% of interviewed asked for economic support in OSEA, 43% legal assistance and less frequently education and health.

With regards to OSEA help 89% out of 96% who asked for it, received it. The percentage difference is due to the fact that they asked for help but they could solve their needs by themselves before it was given.

If we analyze the destiny of that support we can see that it was used as follows:

For subsistence	:	47%
Clothing		3%
Travelling expenses		1%
Housing		28%
Working tools		11%
Others (health, debts, etc.)		7%

11% went to Comisión Nacional del Retorno de los Argentinos

31% went to CCAM, CAREF.

7.1 INSTITUTIONS : OSEA

69% of people came to OSEA because other friends who used the project recommended it.

8% derived from UNHCR

23% by human rights organizations in Argentina and abroad.

Most returnees took notice through informal ways.

81% knew the objectives of the institution and 19% did not have them very clear.

This knowledge did not grow with OSEA development and time because people after receiving support did not contact the institution again.

To prove this we asked the interviewed if they had attended the seminary on exile and return organized by OSEA in July. Only 28% answered affirmatively.

95% were derived to Social Assistance (CAREF)

80% could solve the problem stated with the support received, and 20% didn't. (this may have something to do with the time the help was asked because of lack of resources).

76% found the guidance they were looking for

24% did not (labor situation)

48% derived to PROCOP (to solve labor situation)

78% know PROCOP

7.2 Interviewed people were asked for suggestions for OSEA's functioning. 3% asked for new programs in this order:

- . Labour
- . Housing

- . Labor training

13% wished to improve and increase divulging, center of returnees, support groups, etc.

12% develop the political aspect of exile and return and government commitment in that sense,

21% thinks the organism should continue the same.

All of them consider OSEA should go on functioning because it is the only institution who consider returnees from their security to their subsistence.

83% answered affirmatively when they were asked about the need to develop returnees groups to help in the problems that may affect them.

7.3 Evaluation of interviewed with regards to his reinsercion in the country.

At this point we gather information about subjective situation of interviewed, objectives reached and their feelings towards their return to the country.

With regards to expectations they had before coming back, 63% answered that although they had not expected a very satisfactory reality, the press abroad had been more negative than expected.

34% found the country just as expected and only 2% think that the national situation is better than expected.

The interviewed people were asked about their objectives reached since their arrival in the country and they answered that:

- nearly half of them reached affective objectives like being back home.
- approximately the third part of them covered professional objectives (studies, work, etc.)
- a quarter part reached familiar objectives (meet sons, family, etc.)
- Political objectives were reached by a fifth part.
- Another fifth part have adequately solved their housing problem.

Some of these people have reached several of these objectives, while 23% could not reach any.

81% feel satisfaction for being back.
6% are indefinite
13% are in disagreement.



Those satisfied do not feel integrated to the country.:

21% is integrated
53% is in process of integration
26% is separated from society.

Children acceptance of the new situation is as follows:

46% acceptance
30% process of adaptation
23% disagree.

2/3 of people interviewed know two or more persons who returned to their exile country. These are: México, Spain, Sweden, Central America. Reasons are: 38% personal; 15% country socio-economical situation. Political problems 11%, 33% have no opinion.

Returnee population is in process of integration.

CHAPTER 3

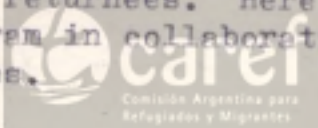
Diagnosis of population returned from exile who came to OSEA in 1st. semester 1984.

This diagnosis contains the following aspects:

- a) Population characteristics: Here we will refer to the data that permits us to identify the group interviewed according to (age, sex, residence, members of familiar group, children or husband nationality).
- b) Fundamental characteristics taken into consideration for the analysis of proposed objectives:

According to this we explain here his working situation and kind of employment mentioning the salaries they receive. There will also be analyzed here the building task, health, education, socio cultural aspects, legal and the opinion of the people inquired.

- c) Government institutions and non governmental institutions role in the programs for returnees. Here we will try to show the impact of OSEA program in collaboration to the resolution of basic needs of returnees.



CAREF

Comisión Argentina para los Refugiados

IGLESIA EVANGELICA DEL RIO DE LA PLATA
IGLESIA EVANGELICA DISCIPULOS DE CRISTO
IGLESIA EVANGELICA METODISTA ARGENTINA

CAREF: ARGENTINE COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES

PROGRAM OF ARGENTINE RETURNEES - 1983/4

Report on work done and CAREF prospects

CAREF

PROGRAM OF ARGENTINE RETURNEES -1983/4

Report on work done and CAREF prospects

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Participating team:

Responsible social worker: Mrs. Violeta Correa
 Auxiliary social worker: Mr. Fernando Rabenko
 Administrative assistant: Mrs. Mely de Tisera
 Technical coordinator : Mrs. María Amelia de Sosa

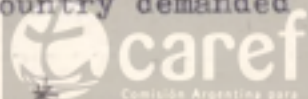
Report up to: September 30, 1984.

WORK WITH ARGENTINE EXILES WHO RETURN TO THE COUNTRYINTRODUCTION

Towards the end of September 1983, we received the worry from the Refugees Service of the WCC about CAREF possibility of participating in this matter. At the same time the local churches and the working teams felt inclined to do so.

The following report shows the work done during the first 8 months of 1984 and our prospects of work with refugees.

Once we had assumed the challenge from the WCC we studied the possibility of facing the work in such a way that it would not double the efforts already existing and be a complement to the action of the new constitutional government. Since the very beginning we were conscious of the situation of the exiles coming back to their country, although it had been a very important point in the platforms of the political parties, it would not be a priority for any of the presidential candidates, because the economic and social situation of the country demanded other urgent matters to be attended.



We joined the group of MEDH and prepared a strategy of work: how to work in the future on this task. It required a hard work to coordinate different criteria between the two institutions and even more the relationship with OSEA, Argentine Exiles who return to the country Solidarity Office, which since 1983 has had enough money to support exiles who returned to the country.

Up to now we can say that the effort was worth and this was the best way to share the job.

We hope to be able to support foreigners which worry CAREF a lot: refugees: We hope to be able to help those refugees who left Argentina in the past and those who left their own countries and live in Europe, Canada and other countries which received them at a certain time and others who are coming back to Argentina or expect our answer to come back. This population of Latin American brothers who need to be in the south cone waiting for their final return to their respective countries.

At the end of this report our program RECONTINENTALIZATION can be found.

* (Ecumenical Movement of the Human Rights
(Movimiento Ecueménico por los Derechos Humanos)

WORK WITH ARGENTINES WHO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY1. POPULATION ATTENDED

The following data correspond to population attended between January and August 1984.

<u>Exile country</u>	<u>Nº of cases</u>	<u>Nº of people</u>
Sweden	40	134
Spain	57	178
Mexico	101	295
France	34	92
Swiss	2	5
Germany	1	1
Italy	11	24
Denmark	3	7
Austria	1	2
Holland	6	13
Belgium	1	4
Norway	1	4
Israel	3	6
Congo	1	1
Mozambique	4	9
Algeria	1	4
Brasil	14	37
Peru	5	14
Venezuela	2	5
Costa Rica	6	24
Panamá	3	7
Nicaragua	13	41
Ecuador	2	8
Bolivia	1	4
Cuba	1	4
Canada	2	4
United States	3	5
TOTAL 27 countries	321	911



These data belong to persons who were interviewed in CAREF to be considered within the assistance program. The data registered in OSEA at present come up to: --- This report does not include all cases attended by MEDH in other parts of the country. The figures stated belong to data registered up to August 15, 1984.

2. WORKING METHODOLOGY

Caref social workers worked with OSEA in preparing the attention and evaluation mechanisms according to each situation.

OSEA is in charge of all legal problems which may have Argentine returnees and exceptionally Uruguayans and Chileans. People who come to OSEA are sent to CAREF social service where they are attended within OSEA emergency program which contemplates emergency help for a period between 3 to 6 months.

This contribution to the families is given after a social evaluation and is different in each case according to necessities. The project includes in some cases a contribution for their house; there is also a fund to attend health emergencies and in some cases this help may solve a job project.

The social evaluation is presented to OSEA once a week by the social worker in charge of the program. This presentation is done in order to discuss the necessities and attention of other problems, as for example: legal problems, documents, title equivalents and diplomas among others.

3. SUMMARY OF THE BASIC PROBLEMS FACED BY RETURNEES

Work

This is one of the most difficult problems to solve in the case of returnees. During these months only 50 out of 300 families can see some slight possibility of concrete

work, may be because they tried to go back to their old functions in official institutions or because they had some temporary offer.

Just to mention the residence outside the country during these years may become an obstacle to get a job and in most cases the training acquired is not taken into account.

Health

The health problem of those who return is one of the most serious and we believe it is worst in the case of people over 50. The forced exile of old people who had to leave the country caused direct damage to their health.

We counted the return of 20 families out of 300 whose head of family was over 50. They lived during these years in different countries, Mexico, Sweden, Venezuela, Spain. There they received some insurance cover that allowed them to attend their problems; when they come back they are unprotected until they can have some medical coverage, with change of drugs in some cases and without the necessary money to do so, this situation has made them very vulnerable.

These families ask for different support requirements. In some cases the progress of illness developed when they came back like that citizen who returned from Sweden and a month later was discovered a tumour on his back which required medical attention and surgery in hospital delaying his resettlement in the country; or the case of an old man who had suffered imprisonment and torture before leaving and lived his exile in Mexico; when he came back his own son was still in prison; all this situation caused him to break his physical and mental problems suffered during all these years. These problems are very common among the old population.

Psychological problems of returnees are also very serious to attend by social workers. Adolescents and children require attention and meditation in first place.

Most exiles were out 6 to 7 years; like young couples who left the country and now come back with their children born in other countries. Those who return from Latin American countries have no language problems but those who return from European countries do.

Children have problems to get to school and teachers don't pay attention or support to solve the children adaptation problems. This has a negative influence on those children who don't want to go to school, not so much with children under 10 but among adolescents. Parents tell us about the emotional problems of these youngsters, which probably began when their parents left the country. They attend urgencies as for example the attempt of suicide of an adolescent and other deep depressive problems.

Adult's psychological problems are not better. They can be stated by their different characteristics but they are absolutely united to their exile and return situation.

Those who left the country under option and now return back can be mentioned here. In these cases they turned from prison to exile, some of them found outside an emotional structure that allowed them to strengthen and go ahead; others went to countries like Germany, for example, where the latin american population was not concentrated in one place. For these Argentines who left in these conditions exile became a new prison, which did not let them recover from all problems suffered. Today they arrive in the country; this meeting is highly positive but problems and conflicts appear soon and we are confronted with an increasing demand of psychological support to strengthen their return.

Another problem related to health is that of mother alone with children whose fathers are missing or dead.

Housing

This is perhaps the worst and most urgent problem, but both us and those who return it is clear that this is a problem which affects most Argentine population all together.

Figures are clear: 6 out every 100 families interviewed live in their own house; other 94 are distributed among their relatives, friends, temporarily lent houses and a very small part could rent one.

Here the problem is twice as big: a) on one side there are not enough houses to rent; and b) those who return have no guarantees to present to the building society, certificate of work that would prevent them from other guarantees all this making the situation critical.

Young argentines who left the country and formed their families outside cannot live today with retired parents who live in small houses. This is the worst problem, because they cannot determine where they will send their children to school and where they will receive first support.

Education

The main problem in this area is related to the insertion (primary or secondary) of returnee's children. This problem has different aspects, some of them can be solved by the government, specially diploma comparisons and certificates of studies.

But the basic problem is the real insertion of children and youngsters who had been rejected by teachers without any consideration may be because of their difficulty to speak Spanish or in most cases because of the exaggerated contrast in teaching methodologies.

Private education which could offer a different alternative, is expensive and does not contribute to solve the problem, and it is not a valid alternative for people who return.

All day long primary schools are not so easy to attend, so parents must take care of children. These are just some aspect we can mention in this field.

Legal

We believe OSEA can express exactly which are the legal problems to be necessarily solved. Anyway we can mention the main ones: pending prosecutions, problems with documents (cases of children who are unpatritotic, born of Argentine parents, such couples formed in exile in some cases with one of them of another nationality and are immigrants when they return).

In our opinion these are not the legal problems more difficult to solve. Anyway we want to point out a problem related to legality. There are returnees who left the country by expulsion and others who were urged only by circumstances; for example, of Italian origin, immigrant families of the 50's.

They arrived when they were very young, beared Italian nationality and permanent residence in the country. Their whole families lived here.

Due to their nationality they were forced to live in Italy. Today they come back without residence and become workers in the west part of Great Buenos Aires. They pretend to establish there again but they will have to solve the problems of an immigrant although little by little their problems will be solved. These are families of double exile but they feel they are Argentines without documents.

Social and Familiar

The social and familiar problems to be faced by returnees are different and have a lot to do with the lack of understanding and enough spreading of exile and return tasks in Argentine society as a whole.

We have done our best to solve these problems. WE estimate that labour problems are following the same course of the general situation in the country with difficulties being the returnees the very actors looking for solutions.

To be able to get into this problem the only project directed in that sense is PROCOOP (Cooperative Projects) sponsored by OSEA which has received money directed to perform cooperative projects. Up to now those who came out of prison, exile returnees and unemployed have been treated in that way.

Within this project we have also received individual working proposals. These are studied together with CAREF social workers and the help was given to those whose amount did not exceed (project total cost) the sum of six emergency helps.

The housing problem slowly stabilizes. Here, also returnees look for their solutions after the first months of adjustments.

The emergency help has been used in many cases to solve the renting problem.

Health problems are attended in municipal or national centers. Severe pathological cases were derived to specialized centers.

Psychological attention has been treated individually in coordination with professional teams under OSEA service, like MEDH and CELS teams.

We have the approval of a project of Complete Health presented to RADA BARNEN FOUNDATION, by MEDH and CAREF.

Problems with documents are attended by OSEA juridical buffet. Educational problems like the acknowledgment of studies outside the country, is the result of the work done by a comission of returnees with very positive results.

4. Relationship with other organisms involved in the return tasks

These 8 MONTHS work have lead us to be in contact with organisms created to such effect, such as OSEA, for example and renew the contact with our congregations through its conductors.

The following are considered the most important meetings:

15/6/84

Meeting at the Human rights department of the Foreign Affairs office with Ambassador Horacio Ravena. The meeting was expressly asked by this department to know about our job, reasons and suggestions. A similar request was made to UNHCR, OSEA and MEDH.

In this way CAREF board took notice about government plans about the return problem. We received a copy of the decree which ruled the National Commission for the return of Argentines outside the country. (copy attached). Dr. Ravenna is a member of such comission.

22/6/84

Board meeting with Bishop Federico Pagura, Pastor R. Reinich and Pastor L. Parrilla.

3/7/84

Meeting with representatives of MEDH and Consultive Council (group of leaders of the 8 churches in ISEDET).

21/7/84

Meeting at Disciples Church with a group of 40 returnees who were invited by OSEA and CAREF social service to bring impressions and analyze their experiences in their resettlement in Argentina.

It was a very beneficial meeting that fulfilled its objective: meeting and interchange of experiences.

A provisional commission was formed (to which we were invited to take part) to work during following days.

25/7/84

Meeting of the provisional commission attended by people who had not been present at the previous one. The subject and the convenience of this kind of commissions were analyzed.

27/28/29/7

National working days on exiles return. The opening day took place at the main hall of the School of Law of Buenos Aires University on the 27th.

On the 28th and 29th Commissions and plenaries worked in ISEDET.

Other meetings

The social work teams of CAREF and MEDH have met periodically to coordinate activities and psychologists teams of these institutions with its similar from CELS (Legal and Social Studies Center), in order to study the possibility of coordinating work on mental health. There are still difficulties to perform and coordinate work together.

We have advanced, strengthened and improved coordinating activities with MEDH.

At present CAREF DEALS WITH CASES IN Buenos Aires and MEDH with those inside the country.

Every week CAREF social worker meets with OSEA board to discuss new cases and problems. We interchange opinions with UNHCR functionaries periodically.

Contacts outside the country

The most relevant have been: visit and correspondence from: CIMADE from France; AES from Sweden (a social worker in charge of Argentine repatriation program). Several consults by correspondence from non Argentine refugees who wish to come to the country.

5. General Prospects about the work with returnees

The national government who is the principal protagonist in this task of facilitating and helping the exiles resettlement to national life, gave his answer by creating the National Commission for Return. UNHCR offered its support to the government through the gathering of money from international communities to facilitate the resettlement.

Up to September the government had not given an operative answer as how to score the offered help through the National commission.

The exiles have only counted with OSEA and CAREF help, according to what was mentioned before.

By September the National commission asks UNHCR, Buenos Aires office to be responsible for the distribution of help offered by the international community.

So there is a new commission formed by UNHCR in Buenos Aires, OSEA, CAREF and Migration Catholic Commission representatives who have been formally invited to participate, UNHCR and a representative of the National Commission.

They are working at present on the methodology of work in order to include all points of view and criteria.

Since October 1st. the funds offered by international community are distributed through the three volunteer agencies in coordination with UNHCR office and supervision of National Commission representative.

We believe we will be able to get more money next year, because the amount we have today (US\$ 350.000) will be enough to attend 160 cases at the most. We expect this sum will be enough to solve building problems or work problems and must be given to beneficiaries all at the same time.

Both UNHCR and the government are responsible for the follow up of the situations and their retinue for a proper resettlement. Non of the two instances previously mentioned take this aspect under their responsibility.

CAREF is

6. CAREF ROLE WITHIN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES SCHEME

We consider to have finished the first part of this job that we visualize as: inquiry about the problematic to be attended, institutional resources coordination and national government answer;

Now we will point out what we consider our role from now on:

We must focus our work in three lines:

- 1) Political activity
- 2) Pastoral activity
- 3) Social and Humanitarian

6.1. Political activity

Churches members of CAREF have increased their participation by coordinating efforts with MEDH. Today 8 institutional Christian groups work together at this problem.

The MEDH has developed their action in different parts of the country. The political activity is understood as the force of the churches to be the voice of brothers in need before the authorities and exert its influence where it would be suitable to point out injustice.

6.2 Pastoral activity

Related to churches is the consolation and spiritual accompaniment needed by exiles who want to return. Pastoral activity in this field is a challenge for local congregations and priests body. This task aimed to different parts of the country by different pastoral teams in contact with MEDH.

6.3 Social and Humanitarian activity

It is the concrete manifestation of what we have mentioned above. There cannot be accusation of injustice or spiritual consolation without a solidary action to calm hunger and protect the roof.

The job already done and what we intend to perform from now on through the organized working teams show that there are objective needs to attend and solve .

6.3.1 CAREF PARTICIPATION

Together with MEDH we are the active presence of the churches in this problematic.

During this first stage we have tried to give a coherent answer according to our possibilities and criteria.

We intend to assume a second stage in repatriation of exiles: to give rise to the RECONTINENTALIZATION of

Chilean, Uruguayan and Paraguayan refugees who continue to be living in this country and wish to be back or come to Argentina, as a bridge for future return to their respective countries.

