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Institution:	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
File Number(s):	Case No. 1737
Session:	Thirty-First Session (15 - 25 October 1973)
Title/Style of Cause:	Political Prisoners v. Cuba
Doc. Type:	Decision
Decided by:	President: Dr. Justino Jimenez de Aréchaga (Uruguay) Vice-President: Dr. Carlos A. Dunshee de Abranches (Brazil) Members: Professor Manuel Bianchi (Chile); Dr. Gabino Fraga (Mexico); Dr. Robert Woodward (United States); Dr. Genaro R. Carrió (Argentina); Dr. Andrés Aguilar (Venezuela) For health reasons, Dr. Gabino Fraga was unable to attend the Thirty-First Session.
Dated:	15 - 25 October 1973
Citation:	Political Prisoners v. Cuba, Case 1737, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.32, doc. 3 rev. 2 (1973)
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[1] Case 1737, March 1, 1972, claiming that there are in Cuba more than 85000 political prisoners subjected to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, and that in many cases the system of arbitrarily prolonged arrest has been established by imposing an additional three-year sentence at the end of each preceding one, for failure to cooperate with the government in the so-called Rehabilitation Plan.

[2] At its Twenty-Ninth Session (October 1972), the Commission examined this communication and, because it did not meet all the requirements set forth in Article 38 of its Regulations, decided to request the claimant to complete it.

[3] In compliance with this decision, a note dated November 15, 1972, was sent to the claimant.

[4] In a communication dated May 5, 1973, the claimant informed the Commission that he was prepared to furnish evidence that would prove the denunciation.

[5] The Commission continued its examination of the case during the Thirtieth Session (April 1973). It decided to grant the claimant an interview so he might submit the aforementioned proof, without prejudice to the subsequent transmittal of such proof to the Government of Cuba with a request for information, in accordance with the procedure established by the Regulations of the Commission (articles 42 and 44.)

[6] In a note dated April 24, 1973, the claimant excused himself from attending the interview, sending several documents on the case. The Commission requested Dr. Genaro R. Carrió, as rapporteur, to examine the case and to formulate such recommendations as he deemed appropriate.

The rapporteur prepared a report (doc.42-30 RES. rev. 1) on the basis of which the Commission decided,

at that session, to commission the Executive Secretary of the CIDH to receive the claimant and to take that occasion to investigate the case, informing the Chairman of his findings, the Commission decided also to authorize the Chairman, on the basis of the information furnished him by the Executive Secretary and the information in the file or case 1737, to decide whether or not to request information from the Government of Cuba and, if so, along what lines and within what parameters.

[7] Pursuant to that decision, the Executive Secretary addressed the claimant by a letter dated May 21, 1973.

[8] Taking into account the fact that the claimant had been unable to meet with the Executive Secretary before the Thirty-First Session (October 1973) in order to furnish confidential proof of the events denounced, the Commission at that session decided to postpone its decision on the processing of the matter until its next session and to inform the claimant of that decision. To that end, a communication was sent to the claimant on November 26, 1973.