

“ESTOY EN LARGA ESPERA”

While I am enduring the long wait
seated at a round table
my wife washes a tub
you can hear the sound of oil in the frying pan,
my wife washes the tub.

While I am enduring the long wait
my wife mops the floor and also washes clothes
and today is Sunday.

The president of the republic of Chile
was here yesterday on a visit to the city
while we looked at the budget
of the man who will put curtains in our house.

There were displays in the papers
and the crowd threw confetti
while the two presidents passed in a car;

and also, there on the flat roofs
a guard of soldiers armed to the teeth.

My wife washes clothes; and talks.
And she shapes the word with her mouth
that also talks about Hamlet and Horatio
and tells me that she didn't get Ernesto's address.

While this long wait lasts,
Sunday mornings
boys, little children, girls, in military training

and in every part of the city
in every car, at every hour,
soldiers, soldiers and machine guns.

*Translated from the Spanish
by Theresa and Albert Frank Moritz*