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Draft Item for Night Reading

Christopher Meets with Exiled Argentine Leader

The Deputy Secretary met this afternoon with Argentine Senator Solari Yrigoyen, who was exiled to Caracas in May after being held in prison without charges for eight months. President Perez played a role in Solari's release. Solari is an internationally respected, courageous figure who suffered incarceration apparently because of his longstanding record on behalf of human rights and against government terrorism.

Solari said the Administration's policy fills him with encouragement. "We see this new policy reaching our peoples over the government... and the people know intuitively that this helps them." He expressed his joy to be received as a fellow democrat, noting it is important for the United States to recognize those who share democratic values just as the Communist states single out Communists. He also urged that we act cautiously, so as not to permit anyone to charge intervention. In this connection, he praised Mrs. Carter's omission of Argentina from her itinerary and said no one could charge this was intervention. Solari added

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- 2 -

that Argentina's armed forces do not want to be isolated from the United States and that if the present Argentine military rulers become isolated, they would be replaced by other generals with democratic policies. The Senator concluded by praising our new norms and moral sense, noting that our policy supports the extension of democratic frontiers.

cc: Ambassador Todman
ARA/ECA - Mr. Zimmermann
D/HA - Ms. Derian/Mr. Schneider

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