



USOAS

U/11/11/11

7718209

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S *A*

cc: WS
FD
RA

Original to O/FADRC:

JUL 11 1977

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

USOAS

COPIES TO:

ARA
F:WEB
ISOAS

TO:
THROUGH:
FROM:
SUBJECT:

Deputy
The Secretary
ARA - Terence A. Todman
USOAS - Robert E. White

EXPEDITE
R2W

7/11

Strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights Commission

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Based on the joint resolution passed at Grenada, we intend to press for greatly increased resources for the IAHRC in OAS budget hearings that begin in September. Venezuela, Costa Rica and Panama can be counted on to lead the campaign, with strong backing from our delegation and demarches by our ambassadors in most OAS capitals. The IAHRC has prepared a budget request for FY 1978 of \$629,000, nearly double the current year figure, and will use the increased funds for five new positions, three commission meetings in Washington and special travel by the Chairman.

We expect quiet opposition from the Southern Cone countries plus several Central American states most criticized for human rights offenses. The "politicization" of the Commission will be their primary criticism. Opposition on budget grounds will be difficult to sustain in light of Carlos Andres Perez' speech to the OAS last week in which he promised Venezuela would cover any added costs of IAHRC operations from its own contribution.

With your approval, we intend to announce that the US will invite the IAHRC to make an on-site investigation in this country at any time; we also plan to encourage like-minded states to make similar announcements. Costa Rica and Venezuela will be prepared to do so and others, especially the Caribbean countries, are likely to follow suit.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GDS

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

Change to
 Release Excise Deny Declassify
Exemptions b () () E.O. 13526 25x () ()
Declassify after _____
With concurrence of: _____ obtained _____ not obt.
Date 10-24-16
IPS by *AW*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

Recommendation:

That you approve this course of action, including demarches to a number of OAS capitals to elicit support for a sizable increase in the IAHRC budget and announcement of an invitation to the Commission to visit. .

Approve

WC

Disapprove _____

JUL 14 1977

MD

USOAS:MDion:jd
ext.29445:7/8/77

Concurrences: L/ARA:Ms. Armstrong MD
D/HA:Mr. Schneider MD
L/HR:Mr. Runyon MD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

85D427

USOAS Files 1971-85

Inter-American Commission on Human
Rights, 1977-79