



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Washington, D.C. 20520

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Larkin J. America*

September 5, 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Presidential Bilaterals: Proposed Discussion
of Visits by the Inter-American Human Rights
Commission

A central element in our human rights strategy is to convince countries with bad human rights records to receive a visit by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. A report by the IAHRRC based on an officially sanctioned visit would provide an authoritative basis on which to make future representations for improvements.

The problem is that only one of these countries -- Haiti during the recent visit by Ambassador Young -- has been willing so far to invite the IAHRRC. (There has been only one actual visit, several years ago to Chile.) The obvious reason is that they do not want a documented record of past or present abuses. Beyond that, however, is the stigma of the visit itself -- the psychology of singling out certain countries with the implication that the situation in those countries is so bad that a visit is required.

The way out of this dilemma is to have other countries with good human rights records agree to receive the IAHRRC also. We have already indicated a willingness to do so. Except for Haiti, others have not.

We recommend that the President make this proposal, and explain the reasons for doing so, to selected Latin American Chiefs of State during his bilateral meetings this week. We believe it important that three or four

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leaders agree to such visits and recommend that the President raise this matter with:

President Perez of Venezuela
President Oduber of Costa Rica
Prime Minister Manley of Jamaica

In addition, we believe President Morales Bermudez of Peru might also be receptive, but would only recommend raising this issue with him if it can be done in such a way so as not to complicate our important discussions with him on the proposed Bolivian corridor and other proposals for easing Andean tensions.

David Anderson
for
Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

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