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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 5, 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Warren Christopher, Acting *WC*

Argentina: I met yesterday with Deputy Foreign Minister of Argentina Allara, and underscored our hope that President Videla would be able to carry through on the human rights initiatives he outlined during your talk with him in September. Allara stressed the recurring terrorism problem, but his explanations were not defiant or petulant.

Be forceful on this

On non-proliferation, I was encouraged, given the advanced stage of Argentina's nuclear reprocessing facility, by Allara's statement that he could "see virtually no impediment to Argentina's ratifying the Treaty of Tlatelolco." Such a decision would require considerable courage on Videla's part in view of the pressure against ratification from important military elements. Allara said he hoped this matter could be resolved during Cy's visit to Argentina on November 21.

Romania: When he called on me this week, Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Patan made a strong pitch in favor of extending MFN to Romania on a multi-year basis. Patan argued that the annual renewal procedure under the Trade Act creates business uncertainty and provides a field day for critics of Romania. Patan had found a sympathetic ear in Senators Stevenson and Williams, and Congressmen Vanik and Bingham, among others. I told Patan that we

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understand the difficulty and the irritation caused by the annual review, that we are prepared to consider favorably a longer review period, but that this will require study within the administration, including careful attention to the question of emigration from Romania to Israel. Patan was also planning to see Senator Jackson, and I emphasized that his reaction would be important.

South African Pass Laws: As you noted, the South African Government announced that it intends to propose measures to do away with the present system of issuing pass books to regulate the movement of blacks into urban areas. However, it appears that movement of blacks will continue to be controlled by requiring them to carry documents issued by the homelands which will be the functional equivalent of pass books. The Government's proposal is evidently intended to reinforce "separate development" by emphasizing homeland citizenship in lieu of South African citizenship.

Reportedly, the Government will also allow black workers who now have housing in white areas to be joined by their families. On the face of it, this seems to be a positive step but we will need to have more information to evaluate it. It is unlikely that many blacks will benefit from the change because there is little housing available to blacks in white areas. The change will not apply at all, for example, to the large group of migrant mine laborers who are required to live in bachelor hostels.

Human Rights: The Interagency Group on Human Rights and Foreign Assistance has recently considered upcoming IFI loans to several countries:

-- Indonesia: It was the consensus of the Group that we should recommend a yes vote on four Asian Development Bank (ADB) loans to Indonesia, while indicating to the Indonesians that we are doing so on the assumption that they will keep their commitment to release some 10,000 political prisoners in December.

-- Bangladesh: The Group also agreed to recommend approval of three ADB and two World Bank loans to Bangladesh.

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*Has seen
Jackson, I
believe. He
won't help.
Maybe 2
years next*

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Three of the loans would clearly serve basic human needs; the other two would serve important developmental purposes in this very poor country. We have previously expressed to the Bangladeshis our concern about possible human rights violations flowing from the reaction to the October 2 coup attempt.

Maybe too easy on them - Congress. Secretary's purpose

-- Korea: Pursuant to the Group's recommendation, we abstained on one Asian Development Bank loan to Korea and voted in favor of another, larger loan which would tend to serve basic human needs in certain respects. We have explained to the Koreans that the abstention reflects our serious concern about the lack of progress in improving human rights conditions in Korea.

-- Chile: The Group recommended voting against four upcoming Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) loans to Chile in view of its extremely poor human rights record.

-- Bolivia: The Group agreed to recommend approval of an IDB loan to Bolivia where there have been some encouraging signs of progress on human rights issues, including some movement in Bolivia's position concerning Americans imprisoned on drug charges.

-- Uruguay: The Group agreed to recommend that we oppose an upcoming IDB highway project loan to Uruguay because of its very poor human rights record.

Rhodesia: Lord Carver and General Chand met on November 2 with Rhodesian military commanders and on November 3 with civilian officials. The military expressed predictably strong opposition to basing the new army on the liberation forces, but conceded that since only the Patriotic Front can deliver a ceasefire, there is no alternative to dealing with it. Interestingly, despite their earlier scorn for the UN Force concept, the military pressed for assurance that the UN would be authorized to use force in support of the civil power. The civilian officials voiced concern about the "dictatorial powers" the Resident Commissioner would exercise and brought up the possibility of a modified internal settlement involving an alliance of Muzorewa, Sithole and "even Nkomo" backed by Kaunda and Machel.

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