



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S

~~SECRET~~

~~EXDTS~~

To: The Secretary
 Thru: P - Mr. Habib
 From: ARA - Terence A. Todman
 Subject: Argentina: The Timerman Case

ISSUE FOR DECISION:

Whether to ask President Videla to release Timerman and let him leave Argentina on your plane.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS:

Jacobo Timerman smuggled out a letter to you (see Buenos Aires 8639 attached) asking that you propose to President Videla that Timerman be allowed to leave the country on your plane.

I have discussed this matter with Phil Habib. We agree that you should raise the Timerman case with Videla as already recommended in the briefing papers and offer to be helpful in any way that you can. However, you should not flatly ask Videla to be allowed to take out Timerman as this is likely to create a serious embarrassment and unlikely to produce the result we desire.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you raise the Timerman case with Videla but not request outright that Timerman be allowed to leave Argentina with you.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachment:
Buenos Aires 8639

ARA:TATodman:jn
x29210 11-17-77

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
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