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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

TO: The Secretary May 21, 1980
FROM: HA - Patricia M. Derian

High Priority Items

Institutionalization of the human rights policy - Despite extensive legislation and the President's commitment, human rights issues are not yet adequately incorporated into decision-making. We need more systematically to apply human rights criteria to security assistance issues. HA has not been included at relevant PRCs when issues significant to human rights are raised, e.g., last week's PRC on Argentina. The regional bureaus continue to evince excessive "clientitis." Many posts overseas fail to do their part in implementing the policy.

Argentina - A PRC meeting May 14 recommended that U.S. policy be changed to seek warmer relations with Argentina in order to counteract alleged Soviet influence. Given the documented brutality of the Argentine regime-- up to 15,000 innocent persons tortured and killed--and the extremely low chance of significant Soviet influence with the right-wing military junta, I firmly believe that we must stick to our "cool and correct" policy.

Israel - We need to oppose unequivocally, in public as well as in private, the harsh measures of collective punishment applied by Israeli authorities against the population on the West Bank. Our human rights concerns so require; also, Israeli brutalities substantially increase alienation on the West Bank, thereby making more difficult an overall settlement.

Korea - The threat which the harsh martial law measures pose to political stability in South Korea requires firm action to influence the authorities to moderate their course. As they will be most sensitive to changes in the military relationship, we should identify arms transfers which can be deferred without significantly affecting joint U.S.-ROK military capabilities, e.g., F-16 aircraft. While denial would be symbolically important, it would not likely have a negative impact on ROK capabilities.

Liberia - I deem ill-advised the May 7 PRC decision to afford military assistance to the coup leaders who are responsible for gross human rights violations and whose political viability is highly questionable.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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(DTM)

May 21, 1980

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MAY 21 1980

11:30am

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Bureau Principals

SUBJECT: High Priority Items

This is to confirm the Secretary's request at the conclusion of his staff meeting this morning. Each bureau should prepare a list of its high priority items with a brief description of each. As the Secretary asked, the paper should not exceed one page.

Use Briefing Memorandum format. Please submit your paper by COB tonight, Wednesday, May 21. If a bureau fails to meet this deadline, its submission will not be included in the Secretary's book.

The S/S-S action officer is Robert Frasure, x28348.

for *P. Tarnoff*
Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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HA 1980 Human Rights Subject Files

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