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13 August 1976

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting at Department of State to  
Discuss "Operation CONDOR"

PARTICIPANTS: Hewson A. Ryan, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Inter-American Affairs  
James Gardner, Office of Deputy Director  
for Coordination, Bureau of Intelligence  
and Research  
Robert Zimmerman, ARA/LA/BR

3.5(c)

[redacted] Deputy Chief, Latin  
America Division

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1. At State Department request, DC/LAD and [redacted] met with Ryan, Zimmerman, and Gardner at the Department from 1000 to 1030 hours on 11 August to discuss "Operation CONDOR." Ryan opened the meeting by stating that the implications of "CONDOR" in the human rights field had reached the point where by some action was required by the U.S. Government. DC/LAD said that the Agency wished to be as helpful to the Department as possible in that regard;

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[redacted] Mr. Ryan said he understood our problem and believed our interests had been protected in their proposed representations to certain of the "CONDOR" countries regarding the assassination problem. Mr. Ryan then read the draft of a proposed EXDIS telegram to Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and Santiago. In essence, the telegram briefly outlined "CONDOR" objectives. It took no issue with "CONDOR" plans for collecting and coordinating information on terrorists and terrorist plans and activities in the Southern Cone countries. It did express the most serious concern regarding "CONDOR's" alleged assassination plans. It requested that this concern be taken up at the highest levels of the host governments, stressing that any assassinations would violate the norms of civilization and would, if they became known, generate profound adverse reactions around the world to the countries concerned.

3.3(b)(1)

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2. While DC/LAD approved the general thrust of the draft, certain changes were suggested and adopted. Among these were:

a. There should be separate instructions in the cable to the individual ambassadors keyed to the different situations in each of the three countries. For example, Ambassador Siracusa's demarche should be to General Vadora, rather than to the President, since the Ambassador had a recent conversation with Vadora along these general lines and information on "CONDOR" is reportedly not known above the level of Vadora in Montevideo.

b. The Charge in Buenos Aires should stress with President Videla directly, if possible; the adverse effect revelation of the assassination scheme will have on Argentine efforts to obtain loans and otherwise come up with solutions for improving its economy. (There was general agreement that Argentina is the country in which we should be able to exert the most leverage.)

c. Each ambassador should emphasize that overtures are being made in other "CONDOR" countries so that there will be no feeling on the part of any host government of being singled out for attention.

3.3(b)(1)

d. Embassies in Brasilia, Asuncion, and La Paz should be information addressees.

3.3(b)(1)

4. DC/LA asked that State provide us with a copy of the cable. They agreed to do so.

3.3(b)(1)

Mr. Ryan agreed to add that in the outgoing cable.

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Deputy Chief  
Latin America Division

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(13 Aug 76)

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