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SUGGESTED DRAFT REPLY

Dear Mr. Brodhead:

Thank you for your letter of April 17, concerning the human rights situation in Argentina.

We have been deeply concerned by the serious human rights abuses that have occurred in Argentina, and we are in frequent contact with officials of the Argentine Government on this issue. We have conveyed our concerns to the Argentine Government at the highest levels and have discussed the overall human rights situation as well as a large number of individual cases.

The United States has taken several measures to underscore our deep concern over the human rights situation. Argentina is barred by law from participating in the Foreign Military Sales program, and Munitions List-controlled items may not be exported to Argentina. We have opposed Argentine loan requests in the international financial institutions when the projects to be financed do not clearly meet basic human needs. We have submitted inquiries to the Argentine Foreign Office on hundreds of cases of disappeared and detained persons. We have repeatedly expressed our deep concern over the detention of Jacobo Timerman and have urged the Argentine authorities to release him from custody.

The Honorable  
William M. Brodhead,  
House of Representatives.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
 Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full  
( ) Classify as \_\_ ( ) Extend as \_\_ ( ) Downgrade to \_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

We have been encouraged by reports that the treatment of long-term political detainees has begun to improve and that the Argentine Government recently issued new uniform regulations governing prison administration throughout the country. We are also encouraged by recent indications that the Government of Argentina has intervened to terminate abductions, the "disappearances."

You may be aware that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will visit Argentina in the near future to study the human rights situation in depth. We hope there will be further improvements in human rights in connection with the visit.

We will continue to monitor closely the human rights situation in Argentina and to urge the Government of Argentina to take effective measures to restore protection of the integrity of the person and other fundamental human rights. We sincerely hope that improvements in the respect for basic human rights will permit an early return to the traditional pattern of cordial relations that both of our countries seek.

Sincerely,