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BI039

PRESS GUIDANCE ARA - February 22, 1978

US Position on IBRD Loans for Argentina

Q: What position did the US take with respect to the two loans for Argentina which were approved by the IBRD yesterday? (Loan facts: $109 million for grain sales; $9 million for a cement plant.)

A: The US representative abstained on these loans. Our position reflects our continuing concern over the human rights situation in Argentina, particularly as reports of disappearances continue.

Q: But doesn't abstention represent a change? Hasn't the US been voting "no" previously?

A: The US decision to abstain was taken in view of recent indications that the Argentine Government may be taking steps to correct its human rights practices.

Q: What recent indications are you referring to?

A: Recent actions by the Government of Argentina include publication of prisoner lists, action to speed up the request of option whereby political prisoners may opt for voluntary exile, and recent prisoner releases.

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

ARA/P:KLMarshall:mms Clearances: ARA/ECA:JBumpus
ARA:JBushnell
HA:MBova