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AK023

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 _____

6. Are the number of disappearances in a country taken into account when making recommendations on allocations of assistance? (Shestack testimony)

Legislative mandates as well as this Administration's commitment to human rights requires us to take into account a country's human rights record when making recommendations on allocations of assistance. Since, as I have already said, we consider disappearances to be a serious violation of human rights, they are taken into account in the decision-making process.

To assist in these efforts, the Interagency Group on Human Rights and Foreign Assistance was established in the early months of the Administration to provide a broad and open forum for discussion within the executive branch of human rights issues relating to foreign assistance programs. The Interagency Group generally considers a wide range of factors, including the following:

--the present human rights situation in the recipient country any any positive or negative trends;

--the political, economic, and cultural background of the country and the level of human rights performance that can reasonably be expected of the country in light of that background;

--the other fundamental U.S. interests with respect to that country;

--the extent to which a loan will directly benefit the needy; and

--the effectiveness of a decision to defer or oppose a loan in comparison or in combination with any of the available diplomat tools for indicating our concern about human rights violations.

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The Interagency group is by no means the only forum in which issues relating to human rights and foreign assistance are discussed. For example, human rights aspects of arms transfers are generally considered by the Arms Export Control Board, which is responsible for formulating our security assistance programs.