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

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Mr. David H. Strassler

Dear David:

I want to thank you for your letter of January 15 concerning the human rights situation in Argentina.

We have been deeply concerned about human rights in Argentina. President Carter discussed this issue with President Videla in September 1977 and Secretary Vance raised this question when he visited Argentina in November of that year. In addition, both our Embassy in Buenos Aires and the Department of State are in frequent contact with officials of the Argentine Government on this issue. Inquiries on hundreds of cases of disappeared and detained people have been presented by our Embassy to the Argentine Foreign Ministry. The Department of State has forwarded the list of twelve persons included in your letter to the Embassy with the request that they inquire about these persons at the Foreign Ministry's Working Group on Human Rights. The Embassy will inform you directly if any further information becomes available.

To give substance to our concerns, Argentina has been prohibited from participating in the Foreign Military Sales Program and military equipment items on the munitions control list may not be exported to Argentina. We have

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opposed loans in the multilateral development banks

for Argentina that do not satisfy our criteria for meeting basic human needs and we have carefully reviewed exports to Argentina of items requiring a Commerce Department export license.

Be assured that we remain concerned about the human rights situation in Argentina and will continue to press for improvements at all appropriate levels of the Argentine Government. I am enclosing for your information a copy of the section on Argentina of the human rights report which the Department of State submitted to Congress on January 31, 1980.

Sincerely,

Anne Wexler

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