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Department of State

TELEGRAPH

INFORMATION

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SOGI 8200

LINDIS

SUBJECT: Mitrione Kidnapping

REF: (a) State 124329; (b) Montevideo 1586; (c) State 1262

1. Department requests that you immediately deliver to
   President Pacheco the following message from President Nixon:

   QUOTE Your assurances in your cable of August 2 to employ
   every means available to you to secure the most rapid release
   of Dan Antony Mitrione are sincerely appreciated. The
   Government and people of the United States of America are
   deeply concerned by the kidnapping and the continued detention
   of the wounded victim. I am confident that consistent with the
   spirit of your cable you will not foreclose any actions which
   could bring about the safe return of Mr. Mitrione to his
   family at the earliest possible moment. END QUOTE

   ARA/SCOT/1998 29469
   6/9/70

   ARA - M. Crenn
   ARA - M. Combe
   5/5 - N. Eliot

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   Reviewed by:
   William A. Bloom
   8/31/70
3. In delivering message, emphasize our grave concern now that kidnappers have set deadline in fourth note and that time extremely short to open lines of communication with MLN to avert tragedy. USG has full confidence that GOI can find a solution for safe return of Mitriome which will still be consonant with GOI basic policies and interests. If you deem it appropriate, you may draw on criticism contents to Luisi as set forth Ruffo (c) in paragraph 22 on humanitarian and democratic tradition of Uruguay and to pay attention to actions by Brazilian Government in similar circumstances which found itself able to respond on humanitarian grounds to terrorism against accredited diplomats and to gain widespread public support within Brazil for its action.
4. FYI You will note that the message from President Nixon parallels that of Brazilian President Medici in firmness of tone and in the expectation that everything in the GOB power will be done to effect Mitrione's release. The Brazilian position undoubtedly results from internal pressures that the GOB insist that GOB be as forthcoming, i.e., meet kidnappers' demands as GOB has been in similar cases. Since US officials were victims of kidnapping in Brazil when GOB first met kidnappers' demands, failure on our part now to take a definite a position as Brazilians could risk adverse effects on our relations with Brazil.

END FYI