August 30, 1976

You raised a number of questions about Siracusa's reactions (Tab 2) to the instructions to him on Condor (Tab 3). My comments on his cable follow.

The CIA does not believe Siracusa's representations would unduly endanger him in light of widespread talk about Condor and the assassination aspect among officers of the security services of the southern cone.

Our approach as originally conceived is couched in terms of a continuing exchange of information on the ground in Montevideo. A proposal of that kind from Siracusa would offer the most constructive and effective method of handling the problem. Dealing only with the Ambassador here would foreclose establishing that kind of relationship.

We agree with Siracusa that, if he does it in Montevideo, he should talk both to the military and to Blanco.
A parallel approach here, as Siracusa suggests, is acceptable to me and would help to preserve his position with the government there. But it is not my sense that this démarche is being made for domestic U.S. political considerations. What we are trying to head off is a series of international murders that could do serious damage to the international status and reputation of the countries involved.

We agree with Siracusa that he should add that the Condor targets have their own lists of Uruguayan Government officials targeted for assassination. It is precisely for that reason we propose to engage the Government of Uruguay in an exchange of views on the security situation so that we can demonstrate our appreciation of the problems they face.

Options:

We have three options in the Uruguayan case. We could do it:

-- by Siracusa to General Vadorà and to Blanco, supported by a démarche to the Ambassador here and

-- by me to the Ambassador here only.

Recommendation:

That you authorize the attached telegram to Siracusa instructing him to talk to both Blanco and Vadorà, informing him of a parallel approach by me here and referring to a communication he will receive on additional protection for the (Tab 1) Phil Habib has concurred in the attached suggested telegram.

ALTERNATIVELY, that we ask Siracusa to have the message if in his judgment that can be done.

Approve Disapprove
ALTERNATIVELY, that I make the démarche here, with no action to be taken in Montevideo for the time being.

Approve_________________ Disapprove_________________

Attachments:
Tab 1 - Telegram to Siracusa
Tab 2 - Montevideo 3123
Tab 3 - State 209192

Drafted: AR: Hardware/WHLmex:jn
x29210 8-30-76

Clearance: P:DO'Donohue