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Reviewed by: J. B. Brown
Date: 29 Sept 70

STATE Duplicate of
LINDIS 820211
KUMAMOTO

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:
2. 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 victim who is being denied hospitalization. I am confident that in 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

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/AVU:IGT:agan:hsr DRAFTING DATE: 8/6/70 FILE NO: 29469 APPROVED BY: U. Alex Johnson

ARA - Mr. [unclear] O. M. McCombe
ARA - Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear]
S/S - Mr. Eliot W. - Mr. Kissinger

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3. In delivering message, emphasize our grave concern now that kidnapers have set deadline in fourth note and that time extremely short to open lines of communication with MLN to avert tragedy. USC has full confidence that GOU can find solution for safe return of Mitriane which will still be consonant with GOU basic policies and interests. If you deem it appropriate, you may draw on Crispine comments to Luisi as set forth Reftel (c) in paragraph 10 on humanitarian and democratic tradition of Uruguay and to draw 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.

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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 GOU power will be done to effect Mitriane's release. The Brazilian position undoubtedly results from internal pressures that the GOB insist that GOU 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 position as Brazilians could risk adverse effects on our relations with Brazil.

END FYI

(A)

(A)

END

J

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