

TERRORISM

Terrorism, organized ~~by~~ in cells, is a fact of life. ~~At what time~~
At one time it was more effectively and efficiently organized than
the government of Argentina. It had more cash than the government;
revenues came ^{from} ~~through~~ \$10 to \$60 million ransoms, robberies and
simple one to one extortion. It is widely believed by Argentines that
the forces of international communism also provided vast sums of
moeny, also.

Using the principle universities as bases/^{through} ~~and~~ recruitment of upper
and middle class students, the two ~~principles~~ terrorist organizations
infiltrated every institution of the society. Their strategy was ~~xxx~~
~~Their strategy was~~ use of geurrilla techniques of
murder, kidnapping, bombing coupled with the rhetoric of freedom
and help to the poor and underpaid. It manufactured its own weapons, hel
"trials" & widely publicized its ex
ecutions, their media system was very sophisticated.
The government reacted with the desired and predictable panic, thought
of it as war and made the first ~~real~~ and crucial wrong decision
to fight terrorism as a war, ~~using~~ ^{using} the techniques of the terrorists,
As soon as that happens, the terrorists are in control. ^{In reality} /It is a war
of ideas. Governments must not become the terrorists to defeat them.
It must, in spite of all difficulties, adhere to the rule of law in
order to win the support of the people . Its short term gains are
impressive, but in spite of wrecking ~~it~~ the visible operating mechanis.
it is simply not possible, even when the government is free to apprehen
without notice or any sort of due process any ~~individual~~ person withi
its borders, to torture, to hold persons detained "forever", to kill,
it is not possible to find them all and the system of lawlessness is
established. The government is then left in an nearly impossible predi

ament. In the first phase the government gets the tacit support of the people, but there is always an inherent time limit. No society will consent to an ~~and~~ unending state of emergency. ~~When the time~~
~~comes for the people~~ Argentina is at this point now; there is very little time for the government to produce normalcy and a sense of being in control.

THE GOVERNMENT

The three man junta has just marked its first anniversary. It has made some important strides in improving the perilous state of the economy, particularly in its ~~xxxxxxx~~ international image. It has done so through a variety of means, but ^{in part} at the expense of low wage employees. They are told to tighten their belts, they have had to adjust to concretely lower standards of living. And they have acquiesced in the light of the emergency. They are restive. Friday the price of gasoline doubled and there was an astounding disappearance ~~xxxx~~ of traffic in the streets.

The labor unions have been purged of those thought to be terrorists, ^{have} as ~~xxxx~~ the university student population, the ~~xxx~~ armed services, and all the arms of government- Terrorists publications and public announcements have changed markedly (though bombings and assassination continue.)

Vidella is considered to be a moderate by nearly everyone and ^{he} ~~his~~ is supported by the Army. The Navy and Air Force are thought to be hardly rightists and said to be pushing him very hard. It is widely believed that if they push to ^o hard, he will simply step aside and be replaced by someone who is a complete tyrant.

^{person with whom we spoke} Everyone ~~was~~ ~~spoke~~ ~~with~~ said, grudgingly, that there was simply nobody else on the scene ^{fit} ~~that~~ could run the country. They deplored military government but saw no alternative to it at this time. But uneasiness grows. The number of disappearance continues to increase. The government disclaims all knowledge of the whereabouts of these people. It looks a though they're going after the thinkers, professors, writers, political inclined people who dare, no matter how modestly, to dissent or

might dissent or are thought to disagree. As the numbers grown, as more and more parents begin to fear for the safety of their adolescent children, as increasing numbers of ordinary citizens are rounded up, detained for 24 to 48 hours and abused while in detention, the magic number approaches and suddenly the government will find itself without support. Then the game is over and Argentina has civil war. The junta is in a race with time. If it can solidify its financial position and begin to restore a feeling of prosperity and if it can gather its courage and institute the rule of law, there is hope. It is time for a bold gesture, it must begin to act like a confident government.

HUMAN RIGHTS

From the highest level the government knows what it is doing and it is deliberately and systematically violating human rights. It believes that it is doing this in the name of human rights. It believes there is no alternative. It is willing to lie and ~~xxxx~~ say that it is not policy; it concedes, plaintively, that of course one must expect excesses at lower levels...soldiers and policemen have seen their comrades killed and wounded by terrorists and it is only human that they will not deal gently with savage outlaws.

The government method is to pick people up and take them to military installations. There the detainees are tortured with water, electricity and psychological disintegration methods. Those thought to be salvageable are sent to regular jails and prisons where the psychological process is continued on a more subtle level. Those found to be incorrigible are murdered and dumped on garbage heaps or streetcorners, but more often are given arms with live ammunition, grenades, bombs and put into automobiles and sent out of the compound to be killed on the road in what is then reported publicly to be a shootout or response to an attack on some military installation.

The government has made a few weak gestures toward making things look better. The triple A, described as an organization of outraged citizens reacting on behalf of society to the actions of the terrorists, and itself a terrorist outfit has been disbanded. It is widely believed that these were members of the armed forces and police and not

ordinary citizens at all. The GOA "Human Rights" director told me that they head had been removed and it no longer functioned. When I asked what happened to the head, he replied that it had "disappeared."

No person in Argentina is safe. The government might pluck anyone from day to day life and ^{into} an uncertain future . The terrorists might begin a shootout on any street, or bomb any place.

The Catholic Church is torn with dissent among its bishops. The Papal Nuncio verges on despair. The Permanent Assembly on Human Rights gathers more and more courage as the situation worsens.

The human rights situation in Argentina is ghastly.

THE PRESS

There are many newspapers. They operate under a system of "self censorship." They too, support the government as the only possible way to get the country back to some state of normalcy. But the continuing disappearances chafe. Journalists disappear. Papers are sometimes siezed and penalized with a few days suspension of publication. The B.A. Herald (an English language newspaper) is the boldest supporter of human rights, though not too bold. L' Opinion is consistant in its support of human rights by has paid the price of loss of advertising revenue, suspension of publication, disappearance of its journalists. Its editor and published believes that he and the paper are on the brink of government istigated bad troubles.

WHAT I TOLD THEM

That the commitment of the President was the commitment of the American people and its Congress and the policy of the Government of the United States. That it springs from the President's personal and professional principles and the feelings and wishes of the American people. I acknowledge our own imperfections, speak of the beginnings of the U.S., the UN Declaration of Human Rights., the force of law through international treaties and the mandates of the Congress.

I ~~acknowledged~~ acknowledge the lack of grace in some of our announcements. Explain the feeling of American citizens who work hard for their money pay high taxes and feel as sense of revulsion when it seems that their money is going to governments which violate the rights of human beings. Then how the Congress works, so that they understand how human rights laws come into being. Sometimes talk about pending legislation.

Acknowledge the serious nature of their problems, am sympathetic to their problems ~~which are~~. Say that we do not want to tell them what to do. Deplore that so little is known about terrorism and that we must quickly learn more. Tell them they're strong enough to institute the rule of law, explain the advantages of uniformed agents of the government arresting people with a paper stating the charges, writing the name in a book at the police station which is open to all, etc, etc. And say that is a possibility. That they have 2 serious problems, one internal and the other with world opinion. Wish that more people would come so that there could indeed be a wider understanding of their problems, promote continued dialouge at all levels. Never concede that they are ~~not~~ violating human rights. Impress the serious nature of our concern and the fact that it is here to stay. *I spoke of terrorism*

THE U.S MILITARY & OUR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES

Through these agencies the United States government is sending a dangerous and double message. If this continues, it will subvert our entire human rights policy.

It is widely believed by our military and intelligence services that the human rights policy emanates only from the Department of State, is a political device and one with a short life due to its wide impracticality, ~~and~~ the naivete and ignorance of individuals in the Administration and to the irresponsible headline grabbing of members of Congress.

This is the ~~single~~ signal problem ~~of~~ our government has in human rights. The only hope we have to gain support for our ~~initiatives~~ initiatives and to advance the cause of human rights is to make sure that governments understand that we are serious, and committed to our human rights policies.

If they believe and are told by U.S. government officials that we are not serious and committed, they are going to wait ^{try to} us out ~~and~~ feel betrayed when we press on.

The intelligence services of the Southern Cone have met and have a clear program of helping each other. ~~Secret~~ Secret police roam the world with great freedom, rounding up the people they want within the buddy system of co-operation with brother professionals. In Latin America the system works with near perfection.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS

After an evening with the Canadian Ambassador and two of his junior staff members, the Ambassador said that all of the Canadian Ambassadors of Latin America would be meeting this week. As a consequence of our talk he ~~was~~ had changed his mind about our policy and their policy of private representations only and would carry that message to the meeting where he expected it to have results.

At a dinner party for middle level officers of several countries, ~~the~~ I explained our motives, the seriousness of the policy and the hopes we had for growing co-operation with other nations. The English-officer present called the next day to say that he had completely rewritten his report to London because he now believed that it was human rights for the sake of human rights rather than a gimmick to gain advantage over the Soviets.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1- That the President as Commander in Chief ~~of the Armed Forces~~ send a message to ~~the~~ all branches of the armed forces stating unequivocally the human rights policy of the U.S. government. which outlines the duty of the military in this regard.
- 2- That the President instruct the C.I.A., the F.B.I. and all other intelligence agencies on the human rights policy of the U.S. government.
- 3- That courses in HUMAN Rights be designed and implemented at once in all service academies, military training institutes and intelligence schools, including all ^{purely domestic as well as} ~~which~~ those with international participants.
- 4- That those members of the armed forces and intelligence services who cannot comply with U.S. government policies on human rights be immediately separated from their services.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FRO ARGENTINA

1- The next Ambassador should be fully briefed on the human rights problems of the country and a staunch supporter of U.S. policy regarding human rights. This person must be exceptionally strong and completely versed in the politics and history of Argentina.

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2- We must keep a constant flow of visits between the two countries particularly of administration officials who will incorporate our human rights concerns into all phases of relations.

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