

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIAL - GDS

May 4, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
FROM: ROBERT PASTOR *BP*
SUBJECT: Alert Item: Brazil - Human Rights Reports

Representative Clarence Long has written a letter to Secretary Vance requesting that the State Department send to the Congress human rights reports on those countries, including Brazil, and perhaps another 30 or so which were not the subject of human rights reports required by the Security Assistance Act. Similarly, Congress is considering amendments to the Export-Import Bank Act which would require the State Department to file human rights reports on all those countries which receive Export-Import Bank credits. Brazil is one of the major recipients of such credits. Finally, a new OPIC act has passed Congress which also requires human rights reports. It is unclear whether such reports are required for countries which receive new OPIC insurance, or for those which have received OPIC insurance in the past.

All three instances suggest that US-Brazilian relations are entering a potential minefield. There is no question in my mind that Brazil would be so incensed about the prospect of the US issuing a human rights report, it would cancel OPIC insurance or even export-import credits, and in the process, US-Brazilian relations would be set back dramatically and US trade with Brazil would be injured considerably.

There are many in State -- particularly in the Human Rights Office -- who don't believe that the impact of such reports on US-Brazilian relations would be that serious, and I am concerned that they might seriously consider doing it or not opposing the Congressional attempts to insert amendments in the Export-Import Bank Act. You should probably speak to Secretary Vance or Deputy Secretary Christopher about this.

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