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NYTimes Ford ad

# U.S. Blocks Rights Data On Nations Getting Arms

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 — The Ford Administration has refused to comply with a mandate of Congress that it specify which nations receiving American military assistance engage in repeated "gross violations" of human rights.

So many nations around the world engage in such violations, the State Department said in an unpublicized report to Congress, that there was "no adequate objective way" to distinguish which countries were more reprehensible than others. Thus, no nations were cited.

Last year's Foreign Assistance Act included a "Sense of Congress" amendment that

called on the President, "except in extraordinary circumstances" to reduce significantly, or terminate, security assistance to "any government which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights."

The amendment further stated that whenever military assistance was proposed for any government in "gross violation," the President "shall advise the Congress of the extraordinary circumstance necessitating the assistance."

Apparently recognizing that

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the policies of such regular military aid recipients as South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia and Brazil had been sharply criticized as repressive, the State Department had originally planned to meet the requirements of the amendment by submitting a country-by-country analysis of how would-be aid recipients handled human-rights problems, and why security requirements dictated continued aid.

State Department officials said today that a digest of one to two pages had been drafted for Congress at the time earlier this month that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger began his defense of the \$4.7 billion request. But according to several aides, Mr. Kissinger rejected the country-by-country draft on the ground that since all but a relative handful of countries committed human-rights violations it served no useful purpose to specify for criticism American allies and friends.

One aide said that Mr. Kissinger, in ordering a more general report, had argued that there was a kind of international "original sin" in which the United States should not try to pass judgment on others.

#### Revised Report Sent

Last weekend, the revised report was sent to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Relations Committee. It produced some critical comments from liberals most concerned with the human-rights issues.

"I found the report to be primarily a defense of the State Department's apparent intention not to comply with the law," said Representative Donald W. Fraser, Democrat of Minnesota, who is chairman of the international organizations subcommittee.

Senator Alan Cranston, Democrat of California, said the report "amounts to a cover-up of information that American taxpayers and legislators are entitled to."

Mr. Cranston said that he

and Mr. Fraser planned to introduce amendments that would toughen the human-rights provisions to give Congress a voice in declaring which countries were in "gross violation" of human rights and make it mandatory for the President to reduce or end aid to such countries unless he justified the continuance.

The State Department report was made available to The New York Times today by a member of Congress.

#### Many in Violation

Its main conclusions were that when the State Department asked its embassies to report on the human-rights situation in each country, it was found that "many states appear to be in violation of various rights and freedoms."

"Some countries, of course, present more serious evidence than others," it said.

"Repressive laws and actions, arbitrary arrest and prolonged detention, torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, unfair trials or other flagrant denials of the rights of life, liberty and the security of the person are not extraordinary events in the world community," the report said.

"These are all too common, occurring within both those countries receiving United States security assistance and those that do not," it continued.

"Human-rights abuses follow no pattern" the report said. "They are not limited to types of political regimes or political philosophies. Abuses take place in both the Western and Eastern Hemispheres. They are carried out by and against persons of virtually all races and major religions of the world."

#### Distinctions Difficult

"In view of the widespread nature of human-rights violations in the world, we have found no adequately objective way to make distinctions of degree between nations. This fact leads us, therefore, to the conclusion that neither the United States security interest nor the human-rights cause would be properly served by the public obloquy and impaired relations with security-assistance recipient countries that would follow the making of inherently subjective United States Government determina-

tions that "gross" violations do or do not exist or that a 'consistent' pattern of such violations does or does not exist in such countries."

It concluded by asserting that "quiet but forceful diplomacy" continued to be the best way to improve security and human-rights matters.

Administration officials insisted today that the refusal to cite particular countries for human-rights violations in the report did not mean the Administration was not interested in human rights.

#### Behind-the-Scenes Steps

They mentioned that the United States had taken steps behind the scenes to press Chile for compliance on the question and that because of Chile's activities in restraint of human rights, Chile was not listed as a country for which military aid was being sought.

When Mr. Kissinger appeared in defense of the \$4.7 billion aid request, of which \$3.3 billion is for the Middle East, he was not asked in either of the two appearances before House committees anything about human rights.

But Carlyle E. Maw, the Under Secretary for Security Assistance, was asked, and he said that it was difficult and perhaps wrong for any country to accuse another of "gross violations" of human rights, and none of the would-be aid recipients had been so declared by President Ford.

The Administration has asked security assistance for 35 nations. Of these, Senator Cranston had previously cited the following as illustrative as committing human-rights violations: Zaire, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, Taiwan, Indonesia, South Korea, the Philippines and Morocco.

#### Ivory Coast Chief Re-elected

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Nov. 18 (Agence France-Presse) — President Félix Houphouët-Boigny was re-elected Sunday for another five-year term with more than 99 per cent of the votes, the Interior Ministry announced today. He was the only candidate.