

BCC
per Lister

CENTRAL FILE COPY
Committee on Foreign Affairs

June 27, 1974

The Honorable Henry Kissinger
The Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Subcommittee on International Organizations and Movements
in its report on human rights recommended that:

"The Department of State should strengthen its organization
in the human rights field through:

- (a) Creation of an Office for Human Rights within
the Bureau of International Organization Affairs,
with an appropriate increase of staff for these
functions;
- (b) Assignment of an Officer for Human Rights
Affairs in each regional bureau of the Department
with responsibility for making policy recommendations
and comments based on observation and analysis of
human rights practices in the countries of the
region and their significance in U.S. foreign policy
relations with these countries; and
- (c) Appointment of an Assistant Legal Adviser on Human
Rights in the Legal Adviser's Office."

We have been pleased with the response of the Department thus
far in its assignment of human rights responsibilities to various
officers in the Department.

My understanding is that the status is as follows:

1. Bureau of International Organizations -- Warren Hewitt is now
serving as Deputy Director of the UN Political Affairs office (in
charge of human rights);
2. Office of the Legal Adviser -- Charles Runyon has been appointed
Assistant Legal Adviser for Human Rights;
3. Africa Bureau -- Julius Walker has been designated the Human
Rights Officer;

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4. East Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau -- Robert Walkinshaw has been designated the Human Rights Officer;
5. Bureau of Inter-American Affairs -- George Lister has been acting as Human Rights Officer.
6. So far as I know no designation has been made for the Bureau of Near Eastern and/or South Asian Affairs and the Bureau of European Affairs.

I hope that designations will be made for the remaining bureaus in the near future and that we can be advised of these designations.

I also understand that the continued service of George Lister as Human Rights Officer is uncertain. I spoke to Charles Runyon about this and I understand that it is possible that with appropriate action his services can be continued. Particularly in view of public and Congressional interest in the human rights situation in Latin America it would seem all the more important to have Mr. Lister's services available on a full-time basis. I hope this can be done. I have found him to be enormously able and informed as well as having a genuine interest in the subject of human rights.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely yours,

Donald M. Fraser
Chairman, Subcommittee on
International Organizations
and Movements

DMF:jgg

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