

EA

January 5, 1982

To: Elliott Abrams

Subject: New York January 6 Trip

With respect to your New York meeting with the ICJ and Helsinki Watch people, I am sure you know two main questions in the Movement at this time are: 1) does this Administration have a human rights policy; and, 2) do we intend to keep silent on human rights violations by friendly right-wing governments. I am confident you will take care of both of those concerns in your opening statement. I thought your performance at the December Georgetown reception (following Carliner's introduction) was quite good. The following are a few specific suggestions with which I assume you agree.

1. The Department is going to need all the help it can get. When you think we are wrong, or could be doing better, please let me, and/or my aides, know. But please be as specific and constructive as possible.

2. I strongly favor extensive dialogue/debate between the Movement and HA. And dialogue means listening as well as talking. I promise we will listen carefully as well as talk. We can give each other badly needed help and insights, even though obviously we are not always going to agree.

3. I agree absolutely with those who say quiet diplomacy should not be silent diplomacy. I assure you we have already expressed our human rights concerns quietly to some friendly governments, in Latin America, for example. And we are also going to speak out on some occasions.

4. In the real world of human rights performance, in contrast to rhetoric, it is not just what we bureaucrats do, or don't do, that counts. Movement performance also counts heavily. I agree with you that we should be accurate, objective, candid, even handed, etc. I trust you will apply the same standards to yourselves.

George Lister ✓

Mr. Lister

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 4, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: HA - Stephen Palmer
HA - Peter Sarros
HA - Terry Tull
HA - George Lister ✓

FROM: HA - Elliott Abrams *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Trip to New York January 6

I am meeting on Wednesday with the International Commission of Jurists and the Helsinki Watch Committee. I will explain to them my general approach to human rights policy, but I wonder if you have suggestions as to particular matters I might address or approaches I might wish to take.

EA:ks