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September 27, 1983

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To: Elliott Abrams

Subject: Yesterday's NGO Meeting

Although I was tied up with a specific human rights case, and thus had no opportunity to obtain feedback on yesterday's NGO meeting, I am certain it was a success and time well spent, for the following reasons among others.

1. It is useful for the Movement to see HA, warts and all, in action. Obviously you did not convince everyone on every issue, nor did HA "win" all the arguments - and I do not believe that would have been desirable. The main thing is there was an open, candid exchange of views, with participants really listening to each other.

2. It is very useful for the Movement activists to develop a "world view" (as the Marxists say). For example, it is very valuable, even though they may not be aware of it, for Eldridge to hear Lozansky, and vice versa. I am afraid there was no one present from the Cuban human rights movement. If so, that was a bad oversight on our part and should be corrected next time.

3. The meeting provides a good opportunity for information distribution. I gave everyone who spoke up on Chile (and who did not already have one) a copy of our recent exchange with the 70 House Members regarding our policy. And everyone who expressed an opinion on our Philippine policy got a copy of Moscow's recent broadcast concerning our efforts to overthrow Marcos. (I hope the Soviets do not uncover the current USG/Zionist plot, led by E. Abrams, to get Pinochet).

I vote we hold these two hour sessions four times a year.

George Lister