

Diane La Voy on Lister's work as a State Department Officer

He made himself available. He walked; he went to demonstrations. He followed-up with people; he'd call people. He'd introduce himself when he understood that people were in town. He'd follow the cable traffic carefully. As a State Department officer, he knew what was going on; he had access to information. But, instead of viewing someone who would be coming to town from an opposition—a democratic opposition party for example, opposition to maybe the military government that we were supporting—instead of viewing them as a threat or an enemy, from his point of view they were an interesting person who he really ought to talk with. And he'd talk with them, and he was tough. I always got a sense that when he talked with them he was interested in influencing them too, to make sure they were straight as far as human rights went, and so on. So he didn't let them off the hook either, when he was talking with people from the democratic left.