

Human Rights Policy, 1977

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 3, 1977

Mr. President:

I agree with Zbig that we need to be more visible and active on the human rights issues.

Of our numerous foreign policy initiatives, it is the only one that has a broad base of support among the American people and is not considered "liberal". With Panama and SALT II ahead of us, we need the broad based, non-ideological support for our foreign policy that human rights provides.

Hamilton

MEMORANDUM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7901

Dec. 3,

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI *ZB.*

SUBJECT: Human Rights

Outlined below are several human rights initiatives for your consideration. This matter is especially timely because December 10-17 is Human Rights week (a specific proposal regarding that is made in item 4).

1. Creation of a Human Rights Foundation

This proposed foundation would be modeled on the Inter-American Foundation which is a quasi-governmental organization that receives its money through Congressional appropriation, but has very loose ties with the government and makes its own policies. This foundation would:

- funnel money to the international human rights organizations and to national human rights organizations operating in other countries (as well as those in the US) based on the value of their work;
- provide badly needed support for refugee resettlement efforts, including the retraining (language, professional standards, etc.) and placement of skilled and professional political refugees. In particular, the Foundation could finance the resettlement of such key individuals not in the US where their talents are wasted -- but in other Third World nations badly in need of these skills. Thus the classic "brain drain" would be redirected in the interest of promoting both human rights and economic development. The dimensions of this problem are formidably large. Reports are, for example, that 40 percent of the Argentine Physics Society has left Argentina as political refugees.
- support the work of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the multinational organizations, particularly in the UN, where they are a crucial source of impetus and of information on human rights violations;
- set up a data bank where the growing volume of information on alleged human rights violations (and improvements) can be collected, checked and analyzed.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

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