

CHRONO

26 November 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Representative Robert Torricelli

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1. ALA/SAD/E analyst [redacted] and I, accompanied by [redacted] of the Office of Legislative Liaison, briefed Representative Torricelli in his Capitol Hill office at 1400 hours on 21 November. Mr. Torricelli, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was preparing to travel to Uruguay to observe the national elections there on 25 November. He was the lone Congressional member of an observer team sponsored by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), a private human rights organization. [redacted]

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2. At the outset of the briefing, a member of Mr. Torricelli's staff sought to join us. We gently informed him that under the ground rules for classified briefings, no one other than the Congressman could be present. Mr. Torricelli supported us on this point and the staffer departed. [redacted]

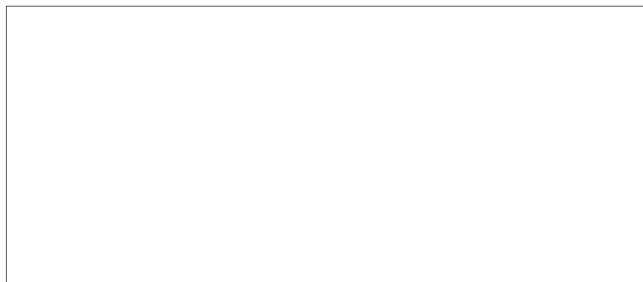
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3. Our briefing and our responses to Mr. Torricelli's questions ranged over Uruguayan political and economic history, the background behind the military regime's decision to restore democratic civilian rule, the election process, the parties, the candidates, prospects for the future, and implications for United States interests. Among other things, we indicated that the apparent front-runner in the presidential race was Julio Sanguinetti of the centrist Colorado Party, and that Sanguinetti appeared to be friendly to the West. The discussion did not touch on any particularly sensitive issues. [redacted]

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4. Just as we were winding up, a WOLA official, Joe Eldridge, entered the room and proceeded to give Mr. Torricelli a briefing of his own on Uruguay. It did not seem either necessary or diplomatic for us to depart at that point--Mr. Torricelli clearly wanted us to remain--so we sat through Mr. Eldridge's briefing. We said nothing during this portion of the meeting other

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than to give innocuous (and unclassified) responses to a couple of questions that were directed at us. [redacted]

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5. Mr. Torricelli seemed sincerely pleased with and grateful for our briefing

[redacted]

Chief, South America East Branch
Office of African and Latin American Analysis

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