

ARGENTINE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

ACTION ALERT

To: All Human Rights Supporters

Re: Amendments on Argentina and the Philippines in the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee

On Monday, May 23rd, two human rights amendments will be introduced in the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. One by Rep. Yvonne Burke of California, will reduce the overall program to the Philippines. The second, by Rep. Edward Roybal, also of California, would eliminate the military training program for Argentina.

The existence of these amendments is the product of the hard work of the human rights lobby here in Washington. However, both are deeply endangered by an all-out counter-lobby conducted by the State Department, the Defense Department and President Carter himself, all of whom are advancing the well-known "flexibility" argument and are seeking to stop any further human rights initiative by Congress.

We have learned that President Carter himself is contacting members of this subcommittee to urge them not to vote for these two amendments. His meeting with Reps. Stokes (D-Ohio) and Yates (D-Ill.) have apparently already had the effect of weakening their willingness to go on record in these key human rights votes. Yates abstained during the vote Friday to cut aid to Nicaragua and Stokes absented himself.

We urge you to call or telegram the following members of the subcommittee on Friday or over the weekend to urge them to support the Burke amendment on the Philippines and the Roybal amendment on Argentina:

Silvio Conte (R-Mass.)	225-5335	443-0946 (district office)
David Obey (D-Wisc.)	225-3365	842-5606
Louis Stokes (D-Ohio)	225-7032	522-4900
Sidney Yates (D-Ill.)	225-2111	353-4596
Edward Roybal (D-Calif.)*	255-6234	688-4870

*needs further pressure on the Philippines

We also urge you to contact other friends or organizations on this matter. Thank you for your efforts at this critical moment. Please call if you need further information.

FFP-543-1517 (day) or 462-3836 (evening)
 ACHR-296-8340

19 May 1977