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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
**AIRGRAM**

Per Peaslee,  
Alexander L.  
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FROM : Amconsul, HALIFAX

RS/AN  
ANALYSIS BRANCH

DATE: July 21, 1972

SUBJECT : Dissent Message: U.S. Assistance to Essentially Totalitarian Regimes: Value of Old UNRRA and China Relief Mission Approach  
REF : State A-3559, April 8

DISSENT CHANNEL

This airgram transmits a dissenting view submitted by FSO-2 Alexander L. Peaslee, Principal Officer.

"As a retiring FSO with 29 years of Government service, I would like to suggest that the United States Government would in the long run ensure its security more effectively by reducing its assistance and close ties to essentially totalitarian governments. My comments are primarily directed at totalitarian governments of the right, such as Greece, Brazil, Argentina, Pakistan, and Paraguay, inasmuch as we already provide little assistance to most of the totalitarian governments of the left.

"Without going into any detail, it has been my impression that much of the aid has not been effectively used and has often gone to those individuals who already are well off. Even more unfortunately, our aid has been interpreted as approval of undemocratic regimes. We find Admiral Moorer, in his New Year's message of several years ago praising our fine ties with Brazil at the very time that the New York Times and other sources are documenting torture and methods used in preventing free expression of opinion.

"I recall that in the final days of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) assistance program and in the work of its U.S. supported successor, the China Relief Mission (CRM), those programs were quite successful in maintaining efficiency in their operations by simply cutting off aid to regions whenever corruption was noted.

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Drafted by: ALPeaslee:mt

Contents and Classification Approved by: ALPeaslee

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No public statement was made, but local officials knew why the aid had stopped. This produced good results, considering the chaos of the time on mainland China in the midst of a civil war.

"I believe that a similar approach might be usefully considered in our aid to those countries that are unrepresentative in their governments. In the long run we lose the goodwill of those who are oppressed by those governments and we gain none from the totalitarian regimes (which usually take the attitude, "What have you done for me lately?") We also lose the money.

"The people whose support we lose are usually the ones most influential in the longer run future of their country. They often turn to more extreme means of getting their way and the right wing regime leads to the later far left government. And we are seen as opportunists who do not really believe in representative government.

"One of the arguments used against such a policy is that the specific regime is vital to our national security. However, if this is true, then why encourage a swing from one extreme to the other? And, secondly, what totalitarian regime can we point to since World War II that really has been essential to our security?"



Declassify on August 1, 1972.

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RELEASE IN FULL

July 28, 1972

Mr. Alexander L. Peaslee  
1702 Burnley Avenue  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Dear Mr. Peaslee:

This will acknowledge receipt by the Department of State of the Dissent Channel messages you transmitted prior to your departure from Halifax. These messages have been brought to the attention of Principal Officers of the Department and the Assistant Secretaries for East Asian Affairs and European Affairs. As the Dissent Channel is intended for internal expression of views, the LOU classification of these messages will be maintained beyond August 1.

Sincerely yours,

Signed  
William I. Cargo

William I. Cargo  
Director  
Planning and Coordination Staff