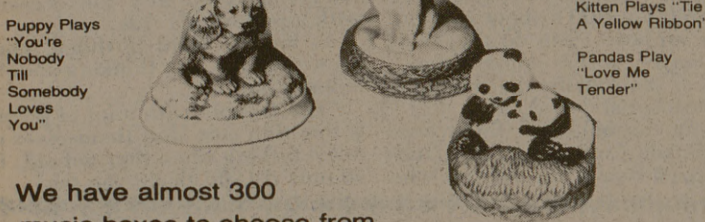


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Report says some U.S. Allies violated human rights, but expects improvement

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The State Department said Saturday U.S. allies and clients improved their human rights records in 1978 despite abuses in such democracies as Israel and Mexico and "credible reports of torture" from the Philippines, Nicaragua and elsewhere.

Overall, the report said, there was "an increased awareness of human rights conditions around the world."

While the U.S. government does not claim credit for gains in any particular country, it said, "we believe we have helped create an atmosphere in which improvements are more likely to occur."

Nonetheless, the report concludes: "There are countries where the human rights situation has not improved or has worsened in the past year. The distance covered is still small in comparison to the distance that remains to be traveled."

Congress requires the rights assessment for its annual deliberations on foreign aid requests.

Highlights of the new report: — The Middle East: Egypt is credited with curbing some of its secret police activities and increasing freedom of expression last year. But Israel is accused of allowing some mistreatment of Palestinian Arabs in occupied areas.

The Israeli report, leaked to the press last week, does not endorse claims the abuses are widespread and condoned by the government. But it concludes, "the accumulation of reports, some from credible sources, makes it appear that in-

stances of mistreatment have occurred."

Lebanon, torn by civil war and occupied by Syrian peacekeeping forces, is described as a jungle in which civilians are routinely murdered and robbed by the armed factions.

"Credible accusations have been made that some elements of the Syrian army were involved" in one instance where 30 Lebanese Christian villagers were abducted and murdered, the report said. It also accuses Syria of holding political prisoners at home, many without trial.

where there have been credible reports of torture, ranked the most serious human rights violators among the 20 Western Hemisphere nations reviewed.

The report said Mexico, which President Carter visits this week, has a generally good record. It adds, "the number of accusations individual human rights advocates connected with anti-terrorism political opposition, is substantial."

It lauds Mexico's government "devoting increased attention to solving serious human rights problems."

— Asia: The Philippines, South Korea and Indonesia are accused of large scale abuses.

— Africa: The report said that internal upheavals have worsened the human rights climate in such nations as Zaire, Ethiopia and Somalia.

The situation was rated generally acceptable in Niger, Mozambique, Zambia and especially Kenya.

But socialist Tanzania, under leader generally rated one of Africa's most enlightened statesmen, President Julius Nyerere — is accused of ignoring "most documented violations of human rights."

Carter says U.S. could fight for Taiwan, if necessary

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The United States could go to war to defend Taiwan despite America's new diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China, President Carter said in remarks released Saturday by the White House.

It was the first time since the about-face in America's China policy two months ago that the president has publicly discussed the possibility of the United States fighting for Taiwan.

Carter said the new U.S. policy "does nothing to prohibit a future president or a future Congress, if we feel that Taiwan is unnecessarily

endangered, from interposing the American Pacific fleet between the island and the mainland.

"And there is certainly nothing to prevent a future president or Congress from even going to war, if they choose, to protect the people of Taiwan, or to protect any other people in the world that we look on with favor," he said.

Reminded of congressional warnings against putting "too much faith" in the survival of Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, Carter said he believes China's leadership supports Teng's views on modernization and reaching out to the West.

The Carter administration has opposed strong Taiwan security resolutions proposed in the Senate, but concedes it may have to go along with a softer version offered by Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Alan Cranston, D-Calif.

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