

## Handling Dissidents: The 'Free-World Model'

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To the Editor:

The Soviets have much to learn from the Latin and Central American clients of the United States about the handling of dissidents.

The holding of any trials whatsoever is obviously a great mistake. Consider that Argentina was able to eliminate some 1,000 dissenters in 1975 alone, and Guatemala 15,000 between 1970 and 1975, by the simple use of quasi-official "death squads" ("The Amnesty International Report 1975-1976," page 84), with no trials at all and without suffering the negative front-page coverage the inept Soviets have generated by the trials of two individuals. The Communists would also be well advised to follow the new free-world pattern in its finer nuances and have the death squads always engage in their cleansing operations in "shoot-outs with suspected guerrillas," perhaps "attempting to flee" their captors in the Moscow suburbs. Since the Coalition for a Democratic Majority has never objected to the killing of thousands of alleged suspected and fleeing guerrillas, clearly the Soviets

would be off the hook by emulating this free-world model. NOAM CHOMSKY

EDWARD S. HERMAN

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