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GEARHART EXECUTION

Q. What did the President and this government do to try to spare Gearhart's life?

A. As we have said before, the United States has appealed to over ten countries and various international organizations like the International Red Cross. Furthermore, the President sent a message to President Neto on the sentences.

Q. Why didn't we do more? Why didn't we take military action?

A. I understand Secretary Kissinger addressed this issue in his press conference on Saturday, and I would have nothing to add to his remarks.

Q. Who are we dealing with directly on the return of the body?

A. We are dealing through our Lisbon Embassy, and with an Angolan national employed as a consular official of the U. S. in Luanda, Mr. Julio Cor^oq^uia, to secure the release of the body.

Q. Do you have any details on how the body will be repatriated? Who will pay for the return?

A. I suggest you check with State on the details of the return of the body. I understand that the estimated cost of

repatriation (embalming, flight, handling across national lines, etc.) is in the neighborhood of \$5,000 and that friends of the Gearharts are seeking contributions to defray costs but beyond that you should check with State, since this is essentially a consular matter.