MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: 
President Ford
Alejandro Jose Luis Orfila, Secretary General of OAS
Amb. William Maillard, U.S. Representative to the OAS
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: 
Thursday, October 9, 1975
4:00 p.m.

PLACE: 
The Oval Office
The White House

[The press was admitted for photos. There was small talk about Orfila’s trips, and his transfer from Ambassador to Secretary General. The press was ushered out.]

Orfila: You are a very busy person. I thank you very much for taking the time to see me and for the letter you wrote me.

We are faced with a great opportunity or a great fiasco. The Organization is one that could be a big help to your foreign policy and Latin America, but which isn’t used. It is very bureaucratized. What do you want to do with the Organization? It is really up to you. You are not only the number one contributor, but also the driving force behind it. You have to show it is an important organization for you. That is, use it for initiatives, rather than going outside it.

If you could drop by the Pan American Union, it would show your interest.

I don’t mean to replace bilateralism, but to complement it.
If we don't give a sense of importance to the organization, we have no hope. The optical aspects are important. Just 30 minutes of your time for a visit to the building would be great.

President: I will give it the most careful consideration.

Orfila: I think the restructuring is not worthwhile. It is mostly cosmetics and not very useful.

Maillard: They have directed the organization to reform itself and obviously nothing is going to happen. There are 2,000 people in the secretariat. And for what?

We are as much at fault as anyone. I have been there a year and a half and I still don't know what we want the OAS to do. Diplomacy is a dying function now -- telephones, cables, etc., are making it obsolete.

President: What has the OAS done that is useful in the last twelve months?

Orfila: In recent years it has kept the small countries from going to war with the big ones. It hasn't been wasted there. But that doesn't take me and a 2,000 man staff.

President: How old is it?

Orfila: It was founded in 1910. It is the oldest operating international organization in the world. We have some big issues in Latin America which will determine the future of the Hemisphere. We will either get together or drift apart. This is a moment of expectation -- what is the United States going to do? One big issue is Panama. They are willing to wait until 1977, but they need some optics to show that progress is being made. The France Field turnover was helpful for a few months; sending Bunker back was also helpful. We need more.

President: We'll take a look. There are 14-15 land and water issues. We'll see what we can do.

Orfila: But not all at once. Dole them out so Torrijos can show progress.

In June 1977, there will be a big celebration in Panama. I am trying to get the United States invited. They say unless the United States can go down there in 1976, to the meeting of the Central American Presidents, no way.
President: I can't do that in an election year.

Orfila: I agree, but you should know it will be a meeting of activists.

Next is the Bolivian corridor. It is a Venezuelan proposal for a corridor 10-kilometers wide. It would separate Peru and Chile.

Next is the conflict between Honduras and El Salvador. There is no fighting but the dispute has never been settled.

President: What about Echeverria's successor?

Orfila: Mexico invariably follows a "rapid" President with a consolidating one. That has happened here. He is a money man.

The only real leader in Latin America is Perez. Otherwise it is a vacuum.

Another issue is holding an OAS Assembly in Chile. Two countries have said no. The others will probably try to stay aloof and try not to take a position.

Maillard: A decision on it must be made in November. I think it will look bad for the Secretary of State to go there. The Hill would be upset.

Orfila: The human rights pressure is very severe. All these problems show you that OAS could be a very useful vehicle.

Maillard: Tell about the Trade Bill.

Orfila: That caused a big fracas.

President: Justifiably.

Orfila: The reaction was overdrawn. Some change there would be very helpful.

Another issue is having an OAS without the U.S. There now are ideas for an Economic Community of Latin American (the SELA). I am not worried about it because I think it will be useful to get a forum to discuss these problems.

If the U.S. doesn't demonstrate that it cares, I worry about how Latin America is going to go. Latin America needs the United States, but the United States also needs Latin America.
President: I agree.

Orfila: So we must either get together or drift apart.

Maillard: If we can't find answers to the problems of developed and developing with the most developed of the developing in our own back yard, how can we do it worldwide?

President: I appreciate your thoughts and suggestions. I will look seriously about your idea to visit the organization. It is a distinct possibility.
Dear Sir,

I am very pleased to hear that you have decided to conduct the transfer of the Senate's papers. This is an important task and deserves your utmost attention. It is crucial that the transfer be handled with care and precision.

The Senate papers represent a wealth of historical and political information. They are not only valuable for research purposes but also serve as a reminder of our democratic heritage. It is important that they be preserved and made accessible to future generations.

I hope you will find the transfer process to be both challenging and rewarding. If you need any assistance or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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DEClassified
E.O. 12065, SEC. 3.6
NSC Memo, NSC Memo, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES: 19641204
By: [Signature], Date: [Date]
There were people in - present - and in what
We weren't that small - anyone - I have seen that + 13 & I still don't know what we went OK to do.
Diplomacy - a dying profession now & diplomacy
Costs, etc. so making it harder.
What was Okeh's role in that now?
In recent years it has kept several nations from going 3 more, etc. to a 47
But that doesn't tell me - some more
stuff.
How did it?
1910. 509th infantry regiment go into - a crowd.
We balled up ourjuan into - 195, which will determine a future of forever. We will either get
Together on beef every 9% of a month. This is a memory of
African - what is US going to do. And they want to
Focus. They really want to wait till 1972 and they will convince us that we just
out of course. I know that Japp is being
much. Forever fail. Extension helped for four
months, ending before back. Also, we will have
will take a look. Time and 11-7, lend every man
will see what new people
But not at one. O1, don't cut us too Trump
some that year.
In June 72, big celebration in Summer.
They just get OS involved. They say under US
Armament program some come down there, in 1976
To a point of limited arms, lives, the army.
I can't do that in election year.

I agree but you should turn it will the unit of actors...

What is British cattle. It's great for under $20 in the world. It would surprise from Chile.

What is enough but Hammond/Can't do the fighting

but I'd just been settled.

What about Ecuadorian wars?

That means really means a great part of the running.

Then means that in a country.

Another is an OAS etc. in Chile. You want in.

They will see the other will just try. But they... allegedly not to take a position.

Your decision in it must be made in Paraguay. I think it and the end for the State to go to Chile.

That will sound me in.

The human rights problem is very serious.

At those parties the year that OAS could be very useful weeks.

We feel around this bill

Three raised big fractions

Footnote

The situation was dark. Some change them

would have been helpful.

Another name is OAS etc. US. There was on
But if on Ev, I've not
awed. It's because it will work. It will be the same.

I'm not sure what it means to worry about being or being in the US with HA and US. With US with HA.

P: I agree.

O: So we must act on our plan or doit again.

W: I'm not sure what this plan is about or what we should do. We need to get more information. How can we come to agree? How can we come to assess?

P: I appreciate your thoughts on suggestions. I will adapt them. I'm not sure what we should do or what is a possible possibility.