MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford

Amb. Aja Espil, Ambassador of Argentina Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President

for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday, January 13, 1977

2:26 - 2:58 p.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

SUBJECT:

Presentation of Credentials

[The press enters for photographs. There is a discussion of weather and small talk with the press.]

The President: I understand there is skiing in some parts of your country. [The press leaves.]

Aja Espil: That is true, in the mountains.

I would like to express the admiration of the Argentine people for your country and I would like to extend to you and Mrs. Ford the best wishes of my President.

I want to express my admiration for your wonderful speech last night. Your brilliant words about peace and patriotism are the views of the Argentine people and Government. I hope you will visit Argentina both as a private citizen and a representative of America.

The President: Please express my best wishes to your President, whom I regret I have not had the chance to meet. I have hopes to visit Latin America -- I have been to a couple of countries but not yet to yours -- and if so I would very much hope to visit Argentina. The American people have special feelings for Latin America and I would like very much to visit.

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Aja Espil: We would welcome you at any time.

<u>The President:</u> We appreciate your support in a number of international issues. Actually Argentina and the United States have much in common. Have you ever served here before?

Aja Espil: No, this is my first experience in the United States but I have been to many international conferences.



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