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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

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.

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NSC MEMO, MAR 1980, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 3/11/04
BY [Signature], NARA, DATE 4/3/04



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 US 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.

✓ P/Ospital ^{Sec Gen} Marlband

9 Oct 75 4:00 p.m.

Person

Discussion of Ospital trips, transfer from
Crest to Sec Gen

Press out

O You are very busy person. I thank you very
much for taking time to see me & for a letter
you wrote me.

We are faced w/ a great opportunity as a great
friend. The computer could be big help to
your HA but which isn't used. It is
very brain-analyzed. What do we want to do w/
a computer? It is really up to you. You are not
only #1 contributor but a driving force behind it.
We have to show it is an important computer
for you. That is, use it for do. instructions,
~~etc~~ rather than going outside it.

If you could drop by a Pan Am Union it
would show your interest.

I don't mean to replace but to
complement it. Please don't give a sense of
importance to a computer we have no hope.

Optical aspects are important. Just 30 minutes
of your time for a visit to building would be
great.

P I will give it most careful consideration.

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

M They have ~~not~~ directed a computer to reform itself
a obviously nothing is going to happen.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES State Dev. rev 3/11/04

BY 441, NARA, DATE 6/3/04



There are 2000 people in a secretariat. And for what.

M We are in that fund as organ. I have there year + 1/2 + I still don't know what we want OAS to do.

Diplomacy is a dying function now - telephone, cable, etc is making it obsolete.

P What has OAS done useful in Latin Am?

O In recent years it has kept a small number from going to more vote big ones. It hasn't been useful there. But that doesn't take me + votes man stuff.

P How old is it?

O 1910. It oldest intergovernmental organization in a world.

We have some big issues in LA which will determine a future of Latin Am. We will either get together or drift apart. This is a moment of expectation - what is US going to do. One big issue is Panama. They willing to wait til 1977 but they need some optics to show that prog is being made. France field tomorrow helped for few months; sending Benker back also. We need more.

P Will take a look. There are 14-15 Latin Am issues will see what we can do

O But not all at once. Date them out so Turkey can show prog.

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I trying to get OS invited. They say unless US

~~can~~ ~~get~~ ~~some~~ can go down there in 1976 to a conf of central Am less, no way.

P Can't do that in election year.

O I agree but you should know it will be a unity of atheists.

Next is Bolivian crisis. It's irregular proposal for a corridor to be with. It would separate Peru & Chile.

Next is conflict but Honduras/Guatemala. No fighting but a dispute was settled.

P What about Echeverria successor

O Uspico usually follows a "rapid" process of a consultation stage. That has happened here. It is a many man.

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

Another is an OAS class in Chile. Two countries have said no. The others will not try to stay along & try not to take a position.

M Decision on it must be made in Washington. I think it would look bad for Sec State to go there. The Hill would be upset.

O The human rights pressure is very become

All these problems show you that OAS could be a very useful vehicle.

M Tell about health bill

O That caused a big fracas

P Justifiably

O The reaction was over shown. Some change there would be very helpful.

Another sign is an OAS w/o US. There was a



idea for an EC of LA (SAPA), I not worried
about it because I will work it will be useful to
get a form & discuss ^{the pro.} ~~the pro.~~

If a US doesn't work it causes I
worry about how LA is going to go. LA needs
a US, but US also needs LA

P Sayee

O So we must either get together or split apart.

M If we can't find answers of delayed - ~~the~~ hDC
problems w/c not most delayed of hDC - in our
own back yard, how can we world-wide

P I appreciate your thoughts & suggestion. I will
look seriously about your idea to visit
a partner. It is a distinct possibility

