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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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JK 10/16/12

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Carlos Menem of Argentina on December 1, 1992 (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Carlos Menem, President of Argentina
Interpreter: Patsy Arizu
Notetakers: Robert Morley//Roseanne Hill

DATE, TIME December 1, 1992, 1:17 - 1:31pm EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

President Bush: Carlos, como esta?, Carlos? (U)

President Menem: Hola, que tal? (U)

President Bush: I'm doing fine. How are you? You are so nice to call. Everything is fine. I'm getting ready to go back to private life. I will miss you very much. (U)

President Menem: Bueno. George, I'll miss you too. We are meeting as the Rio Group. There are eleven Presidents here, only two missing. The Venezuelan President is not here, for reasons that you can understand, but he is represented by his Foreign Minister. And the President of Peru is not here, for reasons you are also familiar with, because of the closing down of Congress in Peru. (Ø)

We want to thank you for all of your recognition and express our appreciation for the support that your Administration has given our Group during the past four years. For example, the launching of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, which we hope will continue with Mr. Clinton in the new Administration, and your support for the Mercosur negotiations. We were also very happy to see the NAFTA agreement go ahead and the promotion and support given to the GATT Round by you and your Administration. This of course is very important to all of us because it permits more liberalized trade. And everything that the U.S. stood for in the Gulf War and your participation in all conflicts in order to bring about peace, and in the Security Council and also within the OAS to bring a peaceful settlement of the conflicts in Haiti and Peru. (Ø)

Our meeting is the sixth meeting of Presidents of the Rio Group, which provides a permanent mechanism of consultation and political cooperation on action to promote peace and democracy in our countries. (Ø)

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George, there is a great appreciation of the United States by us here. All the Presidents send you a warm embrace, and we wish every happiness and success in your future private lives to you, your wife, and your family. I needed to make this contact with you, George, to wish you once again every happiness and also to invite you to come back to Argentina. (Ø)

President Bush: Carlos, first let me tell you how much I appreciate this call and your greeting. I think I'm the one who should be calling you to congratulate not only you as President of Argentina, but all the Presidents of the Rio group in terms of democracy and freedom, and opening up the world to more free trade. I don't know if the other Presidents are listening to this conversation. I hope they are. I remember when you came into office. You talked about a "birth of a new time". We certainly have seen a change in our country and countries south of the border, and I take great pride in working with everybody in that room. You should be very proud of your achievements. (U)

You mentioned Governor Clinton, my successor. I had an opportunity to talk with him about the relationship with all of your countries and their relationships with the United States. I feel that he will want to continue on the same path and promote democracy in South and Central America. And when I look at the list of your guests there, the list of people participating in the summit, I see the names of many friends, people whose friendship I value. So thank you for calling. (Ø)

President Menem: Bueno, George. (U)

President Bush: Bueno, Carlos. You better come to Houston, because I want a little more of you on the tennis court. (U)

President Menem: (Chuckles) Well George, I'd like to say goodbye to you now. The other Presidents have not been listening to this conversation. But when I get back to our meeting, I will transmit our conversation. I want to say goodbye to you. I'm sure we will talk again very often, and want to say how much I appreciate this very warm friendship which I hope will continue. (Ø)

President Bush: It will. I'm very grateful for those kind words. Let me know if I can help in any way. (U)

President Menem: What? I didn't hear all of that. Would you speak a little louder? (U)

President Bush: I just said, I'm very grateful to you. Let me know if there is anything I can do for you. I want to help you in any way I can in office or out of office. (U)

Hey, listen Carlos, one other thing. If you come to Houston, you can see those two horses you gave me. (U)

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President Menem: (Chuckles) Well, George, yes, maybe I'll take you up on that. I'd like to see the horses, maybe bring them something. I know they are well taken care of. Again I wish the very best for you, your wife, your children and grandchildren.
(U)

President Bush: Thank you very much. This call means a lot to me. Adios amigo. (U)

President Menem: Goodby and good luck. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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