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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Carlos Saul Menem of Argentina on January 16, 1992 (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Carlos Saul Menem of Argentina
Interpreter: Stephanie Van Reigersberg
Notetakers: Robert B. Morley/James Waurishuk

DATE, TIME January 16, 1992, 4:08 - 4:14pm EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Carlos, como esta? (U)

President Menem: I'm fine. (U)

The President: What is going on? Is there a problem? (U)

President Menem: I called because I was worried about your health. I wanted to talk to you to be sure everything was all right. I saw the pictures of you getting sick. Barbara was magnificent. She handled the situation beautifully. (U)

The President: When I throw up, I do it in a spectacular way, you have to admit. I do it with flair. (U)

President Menem: It certainly was a sight. I hope it doesn't happen again. You scared us to death. (Ø)

The President: Let me say a serious word about that. Because of the dramatic way it hit me, it got the attention of the whole world, but it was strictly the 24 hour flu. When that time was over, and even sooner, I picked up my schedule. I went to a State Dinner given by the Emperor. I didn't feel like eating very much, but I felt strong and steady. Since then, I have had a series of tests, including the EKG, blood tests, blood pressure, and so on, and they all turned out fine. I am a very, very lucky guy. (Ø)

President Menem: This is wonderful news. We have to continue to travel down the same path together for the sake of the region, and I know that you will continue with the same courage and resolve you have shown until now. You know I will do anything you ask, just let me know how I can help. Let me know what attitude you would like me to assume. (Ø)

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The President: Thanks. That is very generous of you. I agree we are on the same path. We have economic problems up here we have to deal with. But don't worry, I am not going to deviate from the path. I am going to stay with the EAI and free trade. I'll tell Barbara about your kind words, but please don't worry, I am fine. I'm feeling good. (Ø)

President Menem: Thanks so much. An abbraccio for you, a kiss for Barbara, and a huge one for the grandchildren. Don't forget, if there is anything I can do, I will do it. You have only to ask me. (Ø)

The President: An abbraccio to you. Thanks for the call. Good bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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