

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Nixon  
Mr. & Mrs. Edson Arantes do Nascimento (Pele),  
Brazilian soccer star  
Major General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant  
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, May 8, 1973  
12:30 - 12:40 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: You are the greatest in the world.

Pele: [Gave the President a clipping from Sao Paolo.]

[The press entered at 12:33 for photos.]

The President: Do you speak any Spanish?

Pele: No, Portuguese. It is all the same.

The President: [With ball] He always wins.

Mrs. do Nascimento: Yes.

The President: The national champions of soccer in the United States are here in Washington, at Howard University.

Here is a clipping of my visit with Pele to Sao Paolo in 1967.

Pele: Soccer is very different from American football.

The President: Do I know that! The main thing is to use your head.

Pele: Here is a film of soccer which I would like to present. I know you are busy.



The President: Sports films I watch.

Pele: It shows world-wide soccer and the training that is required.

The President: You have no sons, but maybe your grandsons will want to learn from it.

[The President gave out pens.]

Pele: Soccer is played more and more around the world and in the United States. My aim is to send soccer technicians to the U.S. and have your basketball technicians come to Latin America.

The President: That is a great enterprise and I wish you well.



Pele 8 May

The New / Brazilian Journal  
Star Pele  
Sun. 8 May 1973

1230 P Present in world

N - soon bring a clipping from Sao Paulo

1233 P No in

P - you speak Spanish

N - & Portuguese - all - same

P - (w/Bell) he always wins

Mark - yes

P - with champions of soccer in US  
is in Wash - Howard U.

P - Here is a clipping from visit w Pele  
& Sao Paulo in '67

N - Soccer is very different from football

P - Do I know that. Winning is to make you  
bad

A - Here is a film of soccer which left  
to present - know you are busy

P - Sports films I watch

N - Shows world with soccer & training

N - You have no sons, but maybe your  
grandsons will want to learn from it

P - Game pins

N - Soccer is played over a wide area  
worldwide in US.

My aim is to send soccer technique  
& US & some basketball etc technique  
to L.A.

P - That is a great enterprise & I wish you well

1240  
Farewell  
Depart

