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16-Jul-2001

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12065: RDS-3 4-29-02 (BREMER, L.P.)
TAGS: AR, PA, UK
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER
COSTA MENDEZ

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. THE FOLLOWING LETTER FOR COSTA MENDEZ WAS DELIVERED TO THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY AT 10:30 P.M. APRIL 29 FOR TRANSMITTAL TO COSTA MENDEZ IN NEW YORK. THE EMBASSY WILL ALSO TRANSMIT TEXT DIRECTLY TO BUENOS AIRES. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR NICANOR:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 29. I DEEPLY REGRET THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS STILL NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FOR A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH YOURSELF AND PRESIDENT GALTIERI

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AND WITH BRITISH LEADERS.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONTINUING CONCERNS. I HAVE COME TO HAVE A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE ARGENTINE COMMITMENT TO THIS NATIONAL CAUSE, AND FOR THE FRUSTRATION YOU HAVE FELT IN THE LONG YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS. BUT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR THAT A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES COULD NOT SATISFY THE MOST BASIC DEMANDS OF EITHER, AT LEAST DURING THE INITIAL PERIOD DURING

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WHICH FORCES WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AND PEACE REESTABLISHED.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND SATISFACTION WITH THE EFFORT I HAVE UNDERTAKEN AT THE DIRECTION OF PRESIDENT REAGAN. WE DID SO NOT ONLY OUT OF OUR FRIENDSHIP FOR BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT BECAUSE OUR OWN NATIONAL INTEREST REQUIRED US TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT FURTHER CONFLICT. WE HAVE BEEN GUIDED IN THIS EFFY UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 502, BY OUR OWN FIRM PRINCIPLES REGARDING THE USE OF FORCE, AND BY THE IMPERATIVES OF THE RULE OF LAW.

IN CARRYING OUT THIS DIFFICULT TASK, WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO TREAT BOTH COUNTRIES ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS. THE PROPOSAL WE PRESENTED TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON TUESDAY MORNING IS A FAIR AND REASONABLE SOLUTION. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BROUGHT PEACE AND THAT ITS LONG TERM RESULTS WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

WHILE WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND, AND WILL DO EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN TO ASSIST SUCH A SOLUTION, WE HAVE NOW ENTERED A NEW PHASE IN THIS DIFFICULT AND TRAGIC CONFRONTATION. AS WE DISCUSSED [REDACTED]

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YESTERDAY, THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE SETTLEMENT OF SUCH DISPUTES BY THE USE OF FORCE. IN THIS RESPECT, IT WAS YOUR GOVERNMENT WHICH PRECIPITATED THE CRISIS BY ITS USE OF FORCE APRIL 2.

ACCORDINGLY, I WILL MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT APRIL 30 EXPLAINING OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND NOTING YOUR GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL WE PUT FORWARD. I WILL POINT OUT THAT WE HAD REASON TO HOPE THAT THE UK GOVERNMENT COULD CONSIDER A SETTLEMENT ALONG THE LINES WE PROPOSED. I WILL ALSO INDICATE THE STEPS THE U.S. BELIEVES IT MUST NOW TAKE IN THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY FIELDS.

IN ADDITION, BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTILITIES, WE ARE TODAY ADVISING AMERICAN CITIZENS NOT TO TRAVEL TO ARGENTINA. IN THAT REGARD, I AM CONCERNED THAT UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION MAY NOT BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD IN ARGENTINA AND THAT SOME ELEMENTS MAY TAKE ACTIONS THAT COULD ENDANGER THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF U.S. CITIZENS. IF THAT SHOULD HAPPEN, THE REACTION IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD BE SWIFT AND OVERWHELMING. PRESIDENT GALTIERI ASSME DURING MY MOST RECENT

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TRIP TO BUENOS AIRES THAT ALL PRECAUTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT ANY SUCH INCIDENTS AGAINST OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS. WE DEPEND ON THAT ASSURANCE AND ON THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.

I MUST TELL YOU FRANKLY THAT WE WILL BE CONSIDERING OTHER MEASURES IN THE COMING DAYS WHICH WOULD HAVE EVEN GREATER IMPACT ON YOUR COUNTRY AND OUR RELATIONS. I HOPE THAT IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO TAKE SUCH ADDITIONAL STEPS, BUT YOU MUST KNOW THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING THEM AND THAT IF THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE,

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THEY WILL BECOME A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY.

I PRAY THAT YOUR PEOPLE AND THOSE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM CAN BE SPARED THE HARDSHIP AND HUMAN TRAGEDY OF RENEWED CONFLICT. WE REMAIN PREPARED TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION AT ANY TIME YOUR GOVERNMENT BELIEVES WE COULD AGAIN SERVE THAT ROLE.

SINCERELY,
ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR.
END TEXT. HAIG

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