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April 19, 1982

His Excellency
Dr. Nicanor Costa Mendez
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship
Buenos Aires

Dear Nicanor:

I was distressed to read the new paragraph eight in the draft text that you left with me at the airport. That paragraph would render the rest of the text — and the entire effort we have made — meaningless and in vain. I do not regard it as part of the ideas developed during our discussions, and I do not intend to treat it as part of the Argentine position. It is not included in the text I have sent to the British government.

I have asked Ambassador Shlaudeman to communicate this to you by letter so that there can be no uncertainty as to what the position is. Any effort to pursue this paragraph will have the consequences I have already described to you.

I was also disturbed to read the text relating to military disengagement. I had been given to believe that 1750 NM had been accepted. Neither I nor any member of my delegation received word that 1750 NM was not accepted. I will explain to the British government that the figure in the text I sent them was subsequently changed.

I also see that the paragraph (number three) specifying that the demilitarized zones last for the entire interim period was deleted after we had agreed upon it. Lest there be any doubt whatsoever, we regard the no-introduction commitment in paragraph two as covering the entire interim period pending definitive settlement. If agreement were reached with paragraph two included as it now reads, the United States would regard as a violation any introduction of forces into the specified zones.

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Finally, the language in paragraph two-two-one means that the British naval task force must be at the specified distance as of the seventh day from the date of the agreement. We could accept no other interpretation.

I will remain in touch with you concerning the British response to the ideas developed during my recent visit.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Al Haig