

**Maritime boundary - Modus vivendi effected by exchange of letters between the  
United States of America and the Republic of Cuba  
27 April 1977**

**I**

The Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs to the Cuban Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CITY OF HAVANA, CUBA, April 27, 1977

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to negotiations which have taken place between our two delegations regarding the need to establish a maritime boundary between the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba as a result of the enactment by the Government of the United States of Public Law 94-265 on April 13, 1976, and by the Government of Cuba of Decree-Law No. 2 of February 24, 1977.

Both sides are in agreement that more technical work is needed before a provisional line can be established, and both have agreed to exchange nautical charts and other appropriate technical data at the earliest practicable time to assist in developing it. Further meetings are contemplated to fix the coordinates of the line with the objective of concluding this work during the course of 1977. In the meantime, I propose as a modus vivendi for 1977 that the simplified line described by the coordinates set out below be accepted as our maritime boundary:

1. 23° 56' 24" N  
81° 13' 27" W
2. 23° 50' 00" N  
81° 50' 00" W
3. 23° 50' 00" N  
83° 12' 10" W
4. 23° 51' 11" N  
83° 20' 13" W
5. 23° 52' 49" N  
83° 31' 09" W
6. 23° 54' 12" N  
83° 39' 45" W
7. 23° 56' 09" N  
83° 48' 16" W
8. 23° 56' 11" N  
83° 48' 23" W
9. 23° 58' 20" N  
83° 55' 52" W
10. 24° 03' 18" N  
84° 11' 20" W
11. 24° 10' 22" N

84° 29' 19" W

12. 24° 12' 56" N  
84° 35' 44" W
13. 24° 14' 17" N  
84° 38' 37" W
14. 24° 40' 23" N  
85° 31' 20" W
15. 24° 51' 56" N  
85° 53' 45" W
16. 25° 10' 29" N  
86° 27' 25" W
17. 25° 13' 03" N  
86° 32' 08" W

It shall be understood by the two Governments that on the north side of the line Cuba would not, and on the south side of the line the United States would not, for any purpose, claim or exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction over the waters or sea-bed and subsoil.

Except for the understanding in the preceeding paragraph each side reserves its position with respect to the law of the sea.

If the above-mentioned points are acceptable to your side, I have the honor to propose that this letter and your reply constitute an agreement between the two Governments.

## II

The Cuban Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF CUBA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

LA HABANA, April 27, 1977

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's letter of this date concerning the maritime boundary between Cuba and the United States of America which, translated into Spanish, reads as follows:

[See Note I]

In reply, I have the honor to inform you that the proposal contained in Your Excellency's letter is acceptable to the Government of the Republic of Cuba. Consequently, I agree that Your Excellency's letter and this reply shall constitute a modus vivendi between our two Governments for 1977.