



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/12981  
22 December 1978  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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LETTER DATED 22 DECEMBER 1978 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF CHILE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information and that of the members of the Security Council the note which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, on 21 December 1978, addressed to the Chairman of the Council of the Organization of American States, reading as follows:

"Sir,

"In a note of today's date I informed you and, through you the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, of the main elements of the background to the controversy which has arisen between the Argentine Republic and Chile in the southern part of the continent. In paragraph 21 of that note I referred to the note dated 20 December 1978 which I addressed to the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs inviting him to continue his efforts to secure the mediation of His Holiness.

"On today's date the Government of the Argentine Republic replied rejecting Chile's invitation.

"In addition to this, it is a matter of public knowledge that the Argentine Government has taken military measures to increase pressure along the frontier with Chile.

"My Government is seriously concerned over this state of affairs, which may unleash an armed conflict. That this concern is justified is confirmed by the fact that many Governments, realizing that the peace of America is endangered, have issued statements to this same effect.

"Therefore, invoking article 28 of the Charter of the Organization of American States and article 6 of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, I urgently request the meeting for consultations provided for in that Treaty, so that the necessary measures can be taken for the maintenance of peace and security on the continent.

"For your information I am attaching copies of the notes exchanged with Argentina dated 20 and 21 December 1978.

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"I take this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

"(Signed) Hernan CUBILLOS SALLATO  
Minister for Foreign Affairs"

I should like also to inform you that His Holiness John Paul II has informed my Government, through the Ambassador of Chile to the Holy See, of his willingness to send a mission of peace to Chile and Argentina. The Government of Chile immediately accepted, again without any reservation, this noble gesture on the part of His Holiness, for which it is profoundly grateful.

Despite the foregoing, and as long as the situation referred to in the note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile transcribed above continues, my Government will have recourse to the procedures for the maintenance of peace which it is authorized to apply by virtue of the international undertakings to which it is a party.

I should be most grateful if you would have this note circulated to the representatives of the States members of the Security Council as an official document of the Council.

(Signed) Sergio DIEZ  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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