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LETTER DATED 9 JANUARY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and further to my notes of 15, 21 and 22 December 1978 (S/12970, S/12974 and S/12982), to bring to the attention of the Security Council the texts of an agreement and an undertaking signed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Argentina and Chile on 8 January 1979, at Montevideo, in connexion with the dispute concerning the delimitation of jurisdictions in the southern zone of the American continent.

1. Under the agreement (annex I), the Governments of Argentina and Chile decided to request the Holy See to act as mediator for the purpose of guiding them in the negotiations and assisting them in the search for a settlement of the dispute.

For that purpose, it was agreed that they would carefully take into account the positions maintained and expressed in bilateral negotiations held in connexion with the agreement signed by the Presidents of the two countries at Puerto Montt on 20 February 1978, and that the two Governments would inform the Holy See both of the terms of the dispute and of such background information and opinions as they deemed relevant, especially those which had been considered in the course of the various negotiations, the records, instruments and proposals of which will be placed at its disposal. The Governments of Argentina and Chile also declared that they would raise no objection to the expression of ideas by the Holy See with a view to contributing to a peaceful and acceptable settlement, and further declared their readiness to consider any such ideas.

Lastly, the parties reaffirmed through the agreement their will to settle the outstanding issue through mediation.

2. In the undertaking (annex II), the Governments of Argentina and Chile, at the request of Antonio Cardinal Samore, Special Envoy of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, agreed to accompany the request for mediation with an undertaking not to resort to the use of force in their mutual relations, to bring about a gradual return to the military situation existing at the beginning of 1977 and to refrain from adopting measures that might impair harmony in any sector.

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I would request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council, the organ primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security.

(Signed) Enrique J. ROS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I

Agreement signed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Argentina
and Chile on 8 January 1979 at Montevideo, Uruguay

1. At the invitation of His Eminence Antonio Cardinal Samore, Special Representative of His Holiness Pope John Paul II for a peace mission agreed to by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and of the Republic of Chile, a meeting was held at Montevideo between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two Republics, His Excellency Mr. Carlos W. Pastor, and His Excellency Mr. Hernán Cubillos Sallato, who, having analysed the dispute and taking into account:

2. That His Holiness Pope John Paul II, in his message to the Presidents of the two countries on 11 December 1978, expressed his conviction that a calm and responsible examination of the problem will make it possible to fulfil "the requirements of justice, equity and prudence as a sure and stable basis for the fraternal coexistence" of the two peoples;

3. That in his address to the College of Cardinals, on 22 December 1978, the Holy Father recalled the concerns and the hopes he had already expressed with regard to the search for a means of safeguarding peace, which is keenly desired by the peoples of both countries;

4. That His Holiness Pope John Paul II expressed the desire to send to the capitals of the two States a Special Representative to obtain more direct and concrete information on the positions of the two sides and to contribute to the achievement of a peaceful settlement of the dispute;

5. That that noble initiative was accepted by both Governments;

6. That since 26 December 1978 His Eminence Antonio Cardinal Samore, who was appointed to carry out this peace mission, has held talks with the highest authorities of the two countries and with their closest associates;

7. That on 1 January, which by pontifical order was celebrated as "World Peace Day", His Holiness Pope John Paul II referred to this delicate situation and expressed the hope that the authorities of the two countries, adopting a forward-looking, balanced and courageous approach, would take the path of peace and would be able to achieve, as soon as possible, the goal of a just and honourable settlement;

8. Declare that the two Governments, through this agreement, reiterate their appreciation to the Supreme Pontiff, John Paul II, for his dispatch of a Special Representative. They decide to avail themselves of the Holy See's offer to intervene and, with a view to deriving the greatest benefit from this gesture by the Holy See in making itself available, agree to request it to act as mediator

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for the purpose of guiding them in the negotiations and assisting them in the search for a settlement of the dispute, to which end the two Governments agreed to seek such method of peaceful settlement as they considered most appropriate. For that purpose, they will carefully take into account the positions maintained and expressed by the parties in the negotiations already held in connexion with the Act of Puerto Montt and the proceedings in pursuance of that Act.

9. The two Governments will inform the Holy See both of the terms of the dispute and of such background information and opinions as they deem relevant, especially those which were considered in the course of the various negotiations, the records, instruments and proposals of which will be placed at its disposal.

10. The two Governments declare that they will raise no objection to the expression by the Holy See, during these proceedings, of such ideas as its thorough studies on all disputed aspects of the problem of the southern zone may suggest to it, with a view to contributing to a peaceful settlement acceptable to both parties. They declare their readiness to consider such ideas as the Holy See may express.

11. Accordingly, by this agreement which is concluded in the spirit of the norms laid down in international instruments for the preservation of peace, the two Governments associate themselves with the concern of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and consequently reaffirm their will to settle the outstanding issue through mediation.

Done at Montevideo, on 8 January 1979, and signed in six identical copies.

For the Government of the
Argentine Republic:

Carlos W. PASTOR
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Worship

For the Government of the
Republic of Chile:

Hernán CUBILLOS SALLATO
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Annex II

Undertaking signed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Argentina
and Chile on 8 January 1979 at Montevideo, Uruguay

Antonio Cardinal Samore, Special Envoy of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, in accepting the request for mediation from the Governments of the Argentine Republic and of the Republic of Chile, asks that that request shall be accompanied by an undertaking that the two States will not resort to the use of force in their mutual relations, will bring about a gradual return to the military situation existing at the beginning of 1977 and will refrain from adopting measures that might impair harmony in any sector.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two Republics, His Excellency Mr. Carlos Washington Pastor and His Excellency Mr. Hernán Cubillos Sallato, signify their agreement on behalf of their respective Governments and join the Cardinal in signing six identical copies.

Done at Montevideo, on 8 January 1979.

(Signed) PASTOR, CUBILLOS, SAMORE
