

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



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

I have the honour to address myself to you in order to inform the Security Council of the press release issued by the Argentine Government in Buenos Aires this morning, 22 December 1978, which reads as follows:

"The National Government announces to the public that the Secretary of Public Affairs of the Vatican, Monsignor Agostino Casaroli, yesterday invited the Argentine Ambassador to the Holy See to visit him at his office in the Apostolic Palace.

On that occasion, Monsignor Casaroli expressed to the representative of our country the concern of His Holiness John Paul II regarding the existing situation of tension between Argentina and Chile and the desire of the Holy Father that an early and peaceful solution to the conflict should be found.

As an indication of his personal concern and goodwill, His Holiness offered to dispatch a high-ranking representative immediately.

The mission of the Pontiff's delegate will be public and urgent owing to the acuteness of the situation prevailing between the two countries.

The papal envoy, on special mission, will contact the Governments of Argentina and Chile to channel the negotiations towards a peaceful solution.

Monsignor Casaroli transmitted an identical offer to the Chilean Ambassador to the Holy See.

The papal decision was accepted by the Argentine Government with approval and gratitude, since the wishes of His Holiness coincide with Argentina's consistent willingness to solve the pending question, as already expressed in the message addressed by the President of the nation to the Holy Father on 16 December 1978.

It was also learned that Monsignor Casaroli had transmitted an identical offer to the Chilean Ambassador to the Holy See even though the Government of Chile had not yet replied at the time - 2110 hours - when the Argentine acceptance was transmitted to the Vatican.

In accepting this offer, the Argentine Government trusts that the profound wisdom of the Holy Father will make it possible to find the definitive solution which, while preserving the essential rights of both peoples, will secure peace."

The initiative of His Holiness referred to in the above press release has also been accepted by the Chilean Government. Therefore, the special mission of the papal envoy is now under way.

The Argentine Republic continues to believe that the Security Council, which bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, must be kept fully informed of the developments in this situation. It is with this conviction that my Government has instructed me to send this note to the organ of which you are President.

I request that this letter be urgently circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Enrique J. ROS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
