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LETTER DATED 20 MAY 1982 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As I informed the members of the Council yesterday, I felt the time for reaching agreement through negotiations that would restore peace in the South Atlantic was extremely short. It remains my view that substantial progress was achieved in the past two weeks toward a diplomatic solution, but I must now state that the necessary accommodations which were still needed to end the conflict have not been forthcoming.

In these circumstances, I feel it my duty to inform you that, in my judgement, the efforts in which I have been engaged, with the support of the Council, do not offer the present prospect of bringing about an end to the crisis nor, indeed, of preventing the intensification of the conflict. I have thought it essential to provide you with this appraisal on a most urgent basis in light of the responsibilities which the Security Council bears under the Charter. At the same time I would like to assure you of my continuing commitment to the search for a lasting resolution of this problem.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR

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