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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO SECURITY COUNCIL ON SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFLICT

Following is the text of a statement made to the Security Council today by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar:

I would like, first of all, to thank the members of the Council for their approbation and support of the steps which I took in pursuit of the objectives of the Council's resolution 502. I must express my sincere appreciation for the renewed confidence shown by the Council today.

The Council is surely conscious of the serious problems which this mission entails. For my part, I feel obliged to state that, while I recognize the difficulties encountered by the Council in reaching an agreement of this nature, I fear that the terms of reference may not provide a sufficiently clear and precise guidance either to the parties or to myself. When war is in full sway, as is now the case, the early achievement of a cease-fire and a return to negotiations is certain to be of extreme difficulty. The Council can be assured that I will, nevertheless, do all that is in my power to bring about peace. As a first step in this new effort, I would urge the parties to recognize that a durable solution of the crisis in the South Atlantic can only be achieved through negotiations. The first requirement for negotiations is a cessation of armed conflict. Herein lies the interest of both sides. I remain convinced that the restoration of peace can be accomplished in consonance with resolution 502 and the progress made in my earlier efforts.

I must hope that the force of reason and the tragic cost of continuing conflict will make the parties ever more aware of the weight of their responsibility and thereby facilitate the early end of this crisis.

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