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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT ON HIS EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND UNITED KINGDOM

The following press statement was made tonight by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar:

I must state that we are at a very dangerous point in the efforts for an agreement between Argentina and the United Kingdom. The time left for negotiations must now be measured in hours. In my judgement, substantial progress has been made over the past two weeks. This will be lost if the present opportunity for negotiations disappears.

I have suggested certain ideas which I believe might be of assistance in overcoming the remaining points of difference. This afternoon, I have spoken to both President Galtieri and Prime Minister Thatcher to express my views and my very great concern. The cost of failure in terms of human life and suffering is too high to permit us to give up our efforts.

At this decisive moment, a last urgent effort is needed to reach the accommodation necessary for a reasonable settlement. I am persuaded that this can be done without prejudice to the rights, claims or position of either party. We must continue to work for peace without jeopardy to principle.

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