



## The Holy See

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### **MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II TO THE PRESIDENTS OF ARGENTINA AND CHILE**

*Mr President,*

I wish to direct my attention to the imminent meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Argentina and Chile with the earnest hope of seeing the settlement of the controversy which divides your countries and causes such concern in my heart.

May the talk smooth the way for further reflection which, preventing steps that might lead to unforeseeable consequences, will make it possible to proceed with a serene and responsible examination of the disagreement. In this way there will be able to prevail the requirements of justice, fairness and prudence, as the certain and stable foundation of the brotherly coexistence of your peoples, corresponding to their deep aspiration to peace at home and abroad, on which they can build a better future.

Dialogue does not prejudice rights and widens the field of reasonable possibilities, doing honour to all those who have the courage and wisdom to continue it tirelessly against all obstacles.

It will be a concern blessed by God and sustained by the consent of your peoples and the approval of the international Community.

My appeal is inspired by the fatherly affection I feel for these two beloved Nations and the confidence that comes to me from the sense of responsibility which they have shown up to now and of which I am hoping for a further testimony.

With my best wishes and my Blessing.

*From the Vatican, 12 December 1978.*

**IOANNES PAULUS II**

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