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Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Mr. Gerard Collins T.D.

10 April 1982

The Government has one overriding concern in regard to the Falklands crisis: Ireland should do all it can to help avert a larger conflict and greater bloodshed. We want to see this historic and now very dangerous dispute between two countries whose friendship we value and whose interests we respect resolved peacefully.

This has been and will continue to be the aim of all our words and actions in the United Nations as a member of the Security Council and as a member of the European Communities. Ireland has carefully refrained in the present situation from pronouncing on the merits of the dispute between Argentina and Great Britain regarding sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. Nonetheless it is clear that Argentina by acting to resolve the issue of sovereignty by force did so in direct defiance of the Security Council.

Following the armed intervention by Argentina, the Security Council adopted on April 3 a Resolution No. 502 which made three clear demands. It called for an end to hostilities, an immediate withdrawal of all Argentine forces and a diplomatic solution. Ireland voted for that resolution because the Government believes that the full implementation of its terms is the best means by which further fighting can be avoided and the principles of the rule of law rather than the rule of force in international relations upheld.

It is for this reason and in defence of that principle also that we together with our Nine partners in the European Community in a spirit of mutual solidarity have decided to unite our political and economic efforts to press for and to promote full implementation of the terms of Security Council Resolution 502.

This is the sole aim of the measures decided on by the Ten in Brussels earlier today.

It is our earnest hope that they will help to create the conditions in which Argentina and Great Britain can resolve their differences peacefully and honourably.

For its part, Ireland will continue its own efforts and is ready to join with others in the search for diplomatic solutions.

The moment is fast approaching when the peace making and peace keeping machinery of the United Nations if they are resorted to may be able to provide as in the case of other conflicts a practical means by which to avert a major clash, greater bloodshed and further suffering.

I have instructed the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, Ambassador Noel Dorr, to explore every possibility in this regard.