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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Fifty-sixth session  
Agenda items 5 and 9

THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS  
APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN  
DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 28 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations  
Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

We have seen a letter of 20 April 2000 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Qatar transmitting a statement made at the meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir on 13 April along with the Memorandum submitted to this Group by the self-styled “True Representatives of the Kashmiri people”.

The OIC Contact Group has no locus standi to circulate papers on the internal affairs of my country.

In a democracy, representatives of the people can only be elected by the people themselves; they can neither be self-appointed nor designated by foreign countries. It is highly ironical that an organization supported and sustained by the terrorist activities of its foreign mentors claims to represent the people in a state of India. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has a popularly elected government, which enjoys the mandate of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government of India totally rejects the baseless allegations contained in the statement and the memorandum referred to above.

I would like to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda items 5 and 9.

(Signed):      Savitri Kudani

Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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