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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 1 June 1984 from the Permanent Representative
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 9 March 1984 concerning the preparation and convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

May I recall that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan participated in the International Conference on the Question of Palestine at Geneva from 29 August to 7 September 1983 and was actively involved with the drafting of the Declaration on Palestine adopted by that Conference.

The call for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East contained in that Declaration was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/58 C, which was co-sponsored by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

It has always been the approach of my Government to explore avenues for collective efforts towards establishing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Based on that approach, it has condemned all partial and collusive deals that did not take full account of the question of Palestine, which constitutes the core of the Middle East crisis.

An international peace conference on the Middle East, in our view, should provide for a forum where all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, participate on an equal basis and endeavour to achieve the objectives of the conference set out in the guidelines which were adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine at Geneva.

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It has become evident that the forces which have obstructed the achievement of a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem are once again trying to create artificial barriers for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. That negative attitude is vividly demonstrated in the letter of 13 January 1984 from the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations (A/39/130-S/16409, annex III, appendix) and the letter of 26 April 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations (A/39/214-S/16507).

It is our hope that these obstacles will be eliminated through Your Excellency's efforts, and that practical steps will be taken towards the convening of the conference at the earliest possible time.

I have the honour to request Your Excellency to arrange for the distribution of this letter as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. Farid ZARIF
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
