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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Letter dated 24 March 1980 from the Permanent Representative
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan on the so-called Afghan refugees problem and to request Your Excellency to have the enclosed statement and this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 78 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Bismellah SAHAK
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

* A/35/50.

ANNEX

S T A T E M E N T

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
ON THE SO-CALLED AFGHAN REFUGEES PROBLEM

(10-th March, 1980)

On December 27th, 1979, as the April Revolution entered its new phase, Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, outlined the State and Government policy guidelines heralding the end of the atrocities of the oppressive era of Amini criminals. He then invited soldiers, the oppressed toiling people of Afghanistan, the workers, the farmers, the students, intelligentsia and civil servants to defend the interests of Afghanistan wherever they are through self-sacrifice and unity. He also invited patriotic clergy, the nationalists, the democrats, the liberals, the reformists, progressive elements, patriots, the youth intelligentsia, all the vanguards of the working class and toilers of Afghanistan to come forward for the service of the country in cohesion and solidarity.

Ever since a number of patriotic elements have returned to their country from abroad and have resumed normal life coupled with devoted service to their country.

Unfortunately, due to misleading and false propaganda campaign waged by the enemies of the Afghan revolution, a number of Afghans still remain abroad while it is the earnest desire of the Afghan Government to see all these Afghans return to their country.

In reference to the seasonal migration, it is to be mentioned that throughout history Afghans have traditionally travelled up to

the banks of Indus River in Pashtoon and Baluch territories, as their own land, they have recognized no border whatsoever. Millions of Afghan nomads (Kuchis) go to those areas each year in winter time and return to their original places in spring, thus continuing their nomadic style of life. These nomads cannot be counted among refugees, as the enemies are attempting to do so.

With regard to those called as "Afghan Refugees", the Government of Afghanistan has drawn a clear distinction between the real refugees and those who are engaged in provocations, subversive activities and armed aggressions against the national democratic revolution of Afghanistan and the legal Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

1) With regard to the enemies of the Afghan Revolution, it is obvious that their stay abroad cannot be qualified whatsoever as humanitarian. Their main objective is to create panic and fear among people, to carry out armed attacks, arsons and subversive activities and killing of innocent people. The Government of Pakistan informedly calls these enemies and anti-revolutionary elements of Afghanistan as "refugees".

The Government of Afghanistan follows with concern the measures being taken by the United States of America, People's Republic of China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and certain other countries which have recognized a number of mercenaries as the leaders of so-called freedom fighters in Afghanistan, giving them financial and military backing. These groups of purchased fugitives are being trained in various camps with the help of Pakistani reaction, imperialism, international reaction and forces of expansionism for subversive activities against Afghanistan; they are causing human and material losses of peace-loving people including women, children and the elderly in the Eastern, Southern and Western parts of the country.

The Government of Afghanistan has at its disposal evidences and documents confirming the support of these elements by the above mentioned countries, it has also captured weapons from these elements. Furthermore the mass media of these circles, including that of Pakistan, have spoken of the training of these elements in Special Camps for subversive activities and for attacks against Afghanistan. The spokesmen of these subversive elements also have clearly stated on many occasions about their destructive activities and attacks on Afghan territories.

In addition it is evident that some centers have been set up in certain reactionary Arab and imperialistic countries, aimed at helping these groups of mercenaries. This action, which is primarily of a political nature, is a provocative move and an attempt aimed at deteriorating and escalating tensions in the region.

It is regrettable that a number of international organizations, contrary to the established and usual practice, have been influenced by these countries. All kinds of assistance to these destructive

elements, however, would be tantamount to agreeing with their subversive activities. Such assistance may be utilized for the purchase of arms and other destructive means, while the ever-increasing interventions by Pakistani Government would further deteriorate the situation, thus adding to tension in the region, against the aims and goals of the United Nations and the principles of the U.N. Charter.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is sure that such an assistance and provocations of subversive elements, instead of helping to stabilize the situation and to consolidate the peace in the region, cause the dissemination of enmity and bloodsheds, and therefore create an alarming atmosphere of continuous confrontation and dangerous tension which may have a perilous impact on the general international situation.

2) The genuine refugees with bona-fide are those who left the country because of the atmosphere of oppression and fear, created by the fascist Government of Amin on the instigation of the enemies of Afghanistan before December 27th, 1979. The Revolutionary Council and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan have cleared their position on the matter. On January 26th, 1980 Babrak Karmal, the Secretary General of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party, the President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister, declared:

"It is announced that those clergymen, hazrats, mullahs, religious scholars and tribal leaders, who have left Afghanistan, shall be respected here following their return; their full freedom and immunity will be guaranteed if they do not take any action against national or State interests, territorial integrity, national independence, sovereignty, and their usurped properties and freedom of work and activities shall be restored."

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan expects all those Afghans, once deceived by the propaganda of the enemies of Revolution, to realize the changes of the situation, as well as the efforts of the Government in this new phase of the Revolution on the basis of the declared General Amnesty to return to their homes.

International assistance may be provided for the rehabilitation of the refugees and for helping them in their occupations, professions and other vital fields. It is hoped that such an international assistance be channelized through the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The official Departments concerned of the Afghan Government are fully ready to help in putting into operation such an international co-operation.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is sure that such an action will not only serve the solution of refugees problem, but also the consolidation of peace in this region and the removal of the dangers threatening the Afghan borders. This will be in favour of détente and will have a healthy impact on the atmosphere of international relations.

The declaration dated February 18th, 1980 of the Government of Afghanistan states:

" Those countrymen, whose properties have been seized against the revolutionary standards, or their legal inheritors, are requested to apply to the Department of the Organization of Nationalized Properties in the Ministry of Finance in Kabul and to the Revenue Collector Depts in the Provinces."

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is therefore ready to sincerely co-operate in helping the refugees to return to their homes.

The Afghan Government welcomes the co-operation of aid teams from Moslem friendly and fraternal countries (the composition of which may be agreed-upon by the interested sides), in order to help the repatriation of these refugees with their families and children. Afghanistan expects all peace-loving countries to co-operate with good intention and sincerity in this field. The Afghan Government hopes that the Government of Pakistan, instead of creating obstacles for the return of Afghan refugees to their townships and villages, reciprocates the sincere desires of the Afghan Government, which in this new phase of the Revolution aims at co-operating for the consolidation of the unbreakable brotherly ties between the Afghan and the Pakistani peoples.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan hopes that every effort will be made to help the return of the Afghan refugees to their country. It further would like to once again bring to the attention of all concerned the General Amnesty proclaimed by the Afghan Government.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan hopes that all the Afghans, deceived by the propaganda of the enemies of the Revolution, would return to their country on the basis of the General Amnesty and taking into account the developments of the situation and the sincere efforts of the Government at the new phase of the Saur (April) Revolution in this regard.

The international aid, aimed at helping the repatriation of the refugees and their rehabilitation in their occupations, professions and other vital fields, are expected to be channelized through the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The concerned Departments of the Afghan Government are quite willing and ready to fully participate in such an international co-operation.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is sure that such a procedure and action will not only serve the consolidation of peace in this region and de-fuse the dangerous situation, brought about and prevailing in Afghanistan frontier area, but also will have a positive and definite impact on the process of détente and the improvement of the international relations' atmosphere.