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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Items 73, 131, 136 and 140 of the  
preliminary list\*

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SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-second year

Letter dated 23 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative  
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 26 March 1987 (A/42/187-S/18763), I have the honour to draw your attention to the letter dated 8 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (A/42/215-S/18789), in which, evading the realities with regard to the return of the Afghans residing in Pakistan, he tried instead to make some baseless allegations against the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. To set the record straight, I felt constrained to address this letter to you.

Condemning the attempt of the Pakistan authorities by different illegal and inhuman means not to allow the return of the Afghans from Pakistan and rejecting the unfounded allegations against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to make it clear that the Pakistan authorities cannot escape the responsibility

\* A/42/50.

for the Afghans' leaving or being displaced inside the country. This is a fact manifested by the terrorist and subversive activities of the armed extremist bands trained and equipped in Pakistan and sent to Afghanistan to destroy homes and towns, killing and terrorizing innocent people. The hostile propaganda of imperialist and reactionary Governments and circles and various allurements and pressures are in excess to the said aggressive acts coming from Pakistan.

By now, it is an open secret that the "refugees" in Pakistan have been used by the Pakistan authorities as a lucrative source of income, which in addition to its misuse in different ways, also fills some pockets there. Not only this, the "refugees" have always been used as a means of wild propaganda against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and its great friend, the Soviet Union. For the pilgrims of imperialist quarters visiting Pakistan, a selected camp has been turned into a show-case, while other places have been used as a bargaining chip. It is not out of place that the United States authorities, while considering the \$US 4.02 billion aid package to Pakistan, referred so often to the "refugees" in Pakistan. It is also a well-known fact that the camps are being used as a reserve place for recruiting the extremists to perpetrate bloodshed inside Afghanistan. Nor does the question of so-called humanitarian help for keeping the Afghans in Pakistan hold water because had it been so, the best place for such help would have been to the thousands of Pakistanis residing in Bangladesh.

Pakistan, of course, cannot be a safe haven for the Afghans there, while the people of Pakistan themselves are living under widespread political and communal strife and increasing oppression. The incidents of explosions and other violent acts near the Afghan frontiers are the direct result of such a policy and the outcome of interference in the tribal areas.

Cynically enough, the Pakistan authorities seem to be acting as a spokesman for the "refugees", attempting to determine if and when they should return to their homes. Realistically speaking, the Pakistan authorities have no right to pose as spokesman for the "refugees".

The Afghans residing in Pakistan have welcomed the call of the popular democratic Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for national reconciliation, general amnesty and provision of further facilities to them on their return. As a result of this and other positive developments in the country, 53,000 Afghans so far have returned home. Having witnessed the cruel treatment meted out to them by the Pakistan authorities, including the threat of being jailed, they tell stories of their miserable and humiliating life in the detention camps in which they were put, of how they managed to escape and of the desire of their remaining fellow countrymen still to return.

Instead of resorting to unwarranted rhetoric, it would have been more appropriate for the Pakistan authorities to desist from erecting obstacles in the way of the Afghans who want to return home. This, we are sure, would have had a positive impact on the talks at Geneva and on normalizing the situation in the region.

I have further the honour to request the circulation of this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under items 73, 131, 136 and 140 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Shah Mohammad DOST  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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