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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 1 May 1987 from the Permanent Representative
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the message of His Excellency
Mr. Abdul Wakil, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of
Afghanistan, addressed to you.

"Recently, through several letters, I have drawn your attention to the
fact that with the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation and
its continued implementation in practice, a considerable number of Afghan
refugees have returned to the country, and an increasing number wish to return
to their homeland pending the elimination of obstacles raised by the Pakistani
and Iranian authorities.

"In my previous letters addressed to you, I have conveyed to you a number
of proposals of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan,
explaining the moral and material possibilities that have been created in the

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light of the humane policy of national reconciliation for the return of the Afghan refugees to their country. I have also provided concrete information on the living conditions of the Afghan refugees and the manner in which they are treated by Pakistani and Iranian authorities.

"We have made these proposals with due consideration of their impact on the process of the Geneva talks for the speedy solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

"At the same time, on the basis of the principles of the peaceful foreign policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the principles of peaceful coexistence, we have taken, through diplomatic channels, necessary steps towards normalization of relations with the neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran, aimed at promoting understanding with the authorities of the said countries.

"Taking into consideration the fact that the Pakistani and Iranian authorities have not come forward with a reply based on goodwill to the steps taken by us but, to the contrary, have intensified the creation of obstacles to the return of our refugee compatriots to their homeland, I would like to propose not what the Pakistani and Iranian authorities might term as a propaganda effort, but a concrete and practical proposal.

"I would like to request you to contact Pakistani and Iranian authorities and, relying on our goodwill for having good-neighbourly relations with them, kindly inform them that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is interested that the said authorities should allow a delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to visit Pakistan and Iran.

"The delegation, composed of representatives of the Supreme High Commission of National Reconciliation and other social organizations, will visit Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran. Getting a true picture of the living conditions of the Afghan refugees and acquainting itself with their wishes and demands, the delegation will propose to the Pakistani and Iranian authorities concrete and constructive proposals based on facts and realities.

"We believe that such visits will facilitate differentiation between bona fide refugees and extremist opponents, creating at the same time the possibilities of direct contact - as an inalienable right of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan - with Afghan refugees detained in certain camps by Pakistani and Iranian authorities because of different factors. The delegation will explain to them the humane and realistic measures adopted, in pursuance of the policy of national reconciliation, for their return to their homeland.

"On the other hand, if it is assumed that the claim made by the Pakistani and Iranian authorities to the effect that the existence of Afghan refugees in their countries has created problems and difficulties for them is true, the visit of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will undoubtedly create the necessary conditions for Afghan refugees to express

freely their wishes to the said delegation. This will result in the adoption of further measures, through consultation with the Pakistani and Iranian authorities, towards creating objective conditions for the unimpeded return of Afghan refugees.

"No doubt, this will assist your efforts towards the speedy solution of the situation around Afghanistan and the re-establishment of good-neighbourly relations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran, as well as the ensuring of peace and stability in the region.

"I am confident that you will inform us of the result of your good offices in this regard."

I have further the honour to request the circulation of this message as an official 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
