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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Forty-second session

Items 31, 73, 131, 136 and 140 of the
preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
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DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-second year

Letter dated 21 May 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Kabul representative (A/42/271-S/18845) in which baseless allegations have again been repeated that Pakistan is preventing the return of Afghan refugees. The falsehood of these allegations and their propagandistic character is fully exposed by the fact that Kabul has not responded to the offer that a delegation of any relevant United Nations agency or UNHCR could ascertain from the Afghan refugees in the camps in Pakistan whether they wish to return to their homes under the prevailing circumstances while their country is still under foreign military occupation. In this connection, I would invite your attention to the Kabul representative's letters (A/42/91-S/18612, A/42/117-S/18655, A/42/187-S/18763 and A/42/240-S/18823), as well as our letters (A/42/161-S/18734, A/42/215-S/18789 and A/42/274-S/18846).

* A/42/50.

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Instead of responding to this genuine and concrete offer by Pakistan, the Kabul régime has embarked on yet another patently hollow propaganda exercise. The Afghan refugees will not countenance meetings with the representatives of a puppet régime whose brutal tyranny and repression have caused them to flee their homeland in the first place. The Kabul régime can only be deluding itself if it believes that it can acquire respectability, if not legitimacy, through such transparently unrealistic proposals.

Such propaganda cannot disguise the reality of the Afghan situation as a result of continuing repression and the intensified military operations undertaken by the occupation forces to liquidate the Afghan resistance. The Afghans continue to flee their tortured land. Some 7,000 to 8,000 Afghan refugees are entering Pakistan every month. Our refugee agencies are finding it difficult to cope with this inflow. Despite the urging of UNHCR, our authorities have been unable to register the new arrivals or to set up additional refugee camps. The precarious plight of these refugees has obliged us to divert ever greater resources for their relief.

It is also an unfortunate fact that the Afghan refugees, who have left their homes to escape persecution and reprisals, are not being spared from murderous attacks even in the refugee camps. These defenceless people have been constantly subjected to brutal and merciless aerial bombardment in their refugee camps inside Pakistan. Hundreds have lost their lives and many more have been seriously injured. This is a flagrant violation of the norms adopted by the international community for the protection of refugees, besides transgressing Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Pakistan will co-operate fully with the United Nations to ascertain the wishes of the Afghan refugees. We desire that the brazen fabrications of the Kabul régime should be fully exposed by an impartial survey. The Government of Pakistan stands by its offer to allow any delegation of the relevant United Nations agencies and UNHCR to conduct a survey to ascertain the wishes of the Afghan refugees. The Government of Pakistan would also be prepared to welcome any delegation appointed by the Secretary-General, comprising representatives of Member States, agreed through consultations, to visit the refugee camps and to ascertain, through direct contact, the wishes of the refugees.

I request Your Excellency to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 31, 73, 131, 136 and 140 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhammad Nasser MIAN
Acting Permanent Representative
