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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Germany,
Federal Republic of, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg,
Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and the humanitarian rules set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, 3/

Aware of its responsibility to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and resolved to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur,

Emphasizing the obligation of all Governments to respect and protect human rights and to fulfil the responsibilities they have assumed under various international instruments,

* Reissued for technical reasons.

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1984/55 of 15 March 1984, 4/ in which the Commission expressed its concern and anxiety at the continuing presence of foreign forces in Afghanistan, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/37 of 24 May 1984, in which the Council requested the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur to examine the situation of human rights in Afghanistan,

Also taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1985/38 of 13 March 1985 5/ and 1986/40 of 12 March 1986, 6/

Further taking note of Economic and Social Council decisions 1985/147 of 30 May 1985 and 1986/136 of 23 May 1986,

Recalling its resolutions 40/137 of 13 December 1985 and 41/158 of 4 December 1986,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/58 of 11 March 1987 7/ and Economic and Social Council decision 1987/151 of 29 May 1987, by which the Council approved the Commission's decision to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan,

Having carefully examined the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan, which, while recognizing some improvements in some aspects of the human rights situation in Afghanistan, reveals continuing grave and massive violations of fundamental human rights in that country,

Recognizing that a situation of armed conflict continues to exist in Afghanistan, leaving large numbers of victims without protection or assistance, and that the duration of the conflict increases the seriousness of the gross and systematic violations of human rights already existing in the country,

Welcoming the resumption of some of the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Afghanistan in the field of medical assistance,

1. Commends the efforts of the Special Rapporteur to fulfil his mandate and takes note of his interim report on the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan;

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984, Supplement No. 4 (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

5/ Ibid., 1985, Supplement No. 2 (E/1985/22), chap. II, sect. A.

6/ Ibid., 1986, Supplement No. 2 (E/1986/22), chap. II, sect. A.

7/ Ibid., 1987, Supplement No. 2 (E/1987/18), chap. II, sect. A.

2. Welcomes the co-operation which the Afghan authorities have begun to extend to the Commission on Human Rights by permitting its Special Rapporteur access to facilities for conducting his investigation when he visited Afghanistan from 30 July to 9 August 1987;

3. Expresses its deep distress and continuing alarm that the Special Rapporteur reports continued violations of the right to life, liberty and security of person as well as of the right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement and freedom of association;

4. Expresses its deep concern about the large number of persons detained without due process of law for seeking to exercise their fundamental human rights and their detention under conditions contrary to internationally recognized minimum standards, while noting a reduction in the number of political prisoners and the release of some prisoners as a result of limited amnesties;

5. Notes with great concern that such widespread violations of human rights, which have already caused millions of people to flee their homes and country, continue to cause large flows of refugees and displaced persons;

6. Expresses once again its deep concern that the Afghan authorities, with heavy support from foreign troops, are acting with great severity against their opponents and suspected opponents, in a manner contravening humanitarian law without any respect for the international human rights obligations which they have assumed;

7. Expresses its grave concern at the intensification of the armed conflict, which is causing death and material destruction, leading to brutalities and to maltreatment of prisoners and which, in particular, has severe consequences for the civilian population, with rising numbers of wounded and dead as well as the destruction of houses, mosques, livestock and crops;

8. Also expresses its grave concern, in particular, at the severe consequences for the civilian population of indiscriminate bombardments and military operations primarily targeted on villages and the agricultural structure;

9. Continues to note with great concern that the educational system does not appear to respect the liberty of parents to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own traditions and convictions;

10. Calls once again upon the parties to the conflict, in order to alleviate the suffering of the people of Afghanistan, to apply fully the principles and rules of international humanitarian law and to co-operate fully and effectively with international humanitarian organizations, in particular to facilitate the protection activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

11. Urges the authorities in Afghanistan to extend their full co-operation to the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur, in particular by permitting the Special Rapporteur access to all the places he wishes to visit;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur;

13. Decides to keep under consideration, during its forty-third session, the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan in order to examine this question anew in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.
