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

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-second year

Letter dated 28 December 1987 from the Permanent Representative of  
Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honor to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 27 December 1987 by a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) K. KIKUCHI  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative  
of Japan  
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement issued on 27 December 1987 by a spokesman of  
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on the Soviet  
intervention in Afghanistan

1. Eight years have passed since the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan took place on 27 December 1979. It is most regrettable that, in spite of repeated calls from the international society during this period, Soviet troops are still stationed in Afghanistan and that there is no sign of improvement in the deplorable situation brought about by that intervention. With no end to the fighting, the agony of the Afghan people is continuing. The human rights of the Afghan people are repressed and some five million have been forced to leave their country as refugees.

2. At every possible opportunity, Japan has emphasized the necessity of a political settlement of the issue that fulfils the following four conditions:

(a) Immediate and total withdrawal of the Soviet forces;

(b) Restoration of the political independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan;

(c) Respect for the right of the Afghan people to self-determination; and

(d) Return of the Afghan refugees to their homes in safety and honour.

Japan intends to continue her co-operation with like-minded countries for this purpose.

3. On this occasion, Japan reaffirms its support for the efforts being made on the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a political settlement of the problem and strongly hopes that tangible progress towards the total withdrawal of the Soviet forces will be seen in the proximity talks which are expected to be resumed early next year.

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