



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/1215
26 October 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 17 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued on 14 October 1994 in Tashkent.

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan also has the honour to request that the text of this note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan
of 14 October 1994

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan is seriously concerned and indignant at the accusations - which have lately become more frequent - made by official organs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, which have accused Uzbekistan of "interference" in Afghanistan's internal affairs, in particular the accusation that the armed forces of Uzbekistan are interfering in the internal war of opposing forces in Afghanistan.

We most firmly reject this baseless defamation of Uzbekistan and declare that the aforementioned accusations are nothing more than attempts by certain forces in Afghanistan and outside its borders to diminish Uzbekistan's prestige in the eyes of the international community, undermine its peacemaking efforts, aggravate relations between the two neighbouring States and escalate tension in the region.

Uzbekistan has always expressed its profound concern at the continuing armed confrontation and fratricidal war in Afghanistan and has repeatedly declared its readiness to discuss, with all interested States, concrete measures that could facilitate the solution of the Afghan problem. We have always adhered to the firm and principled position that the Afghan question must be settled through peaceful means, which excludes the interference of any State in its internal affairs. At the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Uzbekistan put forward the initiative of organizing in Tashkent, under United Nations auspices, a standing seminar on problems of regional security.

The position of strict neutrality and non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan was expressed in the joint statement on Afghanistan by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation on 8 February 1994 (S/1994/156, annex).

At the Tashkent seminar conducted by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in September 1994, Uzbekistan underscored the need to involve all healthy forces of the region and the international community in the peaceful settlement of the conflicts in Afghanistan, at a time when Uzbekistan had once again been subjected to the gross and provocative accusation of armed interference in the affairs of that unfortunate country.

On 4 October 1994, at a plenary meeting of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Uzbekistan reaffirmed the inadmissibility of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the need to impose an embargo on the import of weapons into areas of regional conflicts.

Uzbekistan expects that the leaders of Afghanistan and its diverse political forces will correctly assess Uzbekistan's concern and peacemaking role in the prevention of conflicts in the region and its efforts to develop

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good-neighbourly relations and all-round, mutually advantageous cooperation with independent and sovereign Afghanistan in the interests of strengthening a spirit of mutual understanding and confidence in the region, and will take measures to prevent the machinations of the enemies of that spirit, both within Afghanistan and outside its borders, demonstrate true patriotic wisdom and, bearing in mind the grave consequences of the fratricidal war, focus their efforts on achieving national reconciliation in the interests and for the benefit of the entire Afghan nation.
