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Item 26 of the preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS

IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 26 March 1981 from the Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Heads of State and Government and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 10 States members of the European Community, meeting as the European Council, issued at Maastricht on 24 March 1981 the following statement on the situation in Afghanistan:

"1. The European Council notes with grave concern that the military operations by Soviet troops against the Afghan people, who are resisting this external interference, continue without interruption. The tragic course of events in Afghanistan constitutes a severe ordeal for the Afghan people and expresses itself in the form of a massive flood of refugees who are a heavy burden for neighbouring countries, in particular for Pakistan. The developments in Afghanistan remain a threat to the stability of relations in the region and worldwide.

"2. In face of the situation resulting from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the European Council has called many times, and in particular at its meeting in Venice in June 1980, for respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and for an end to all interference in the internal affairs of that country. The Council has stated on many occasions the need for a solution which entails the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and which permits the Afghan people to exercise freely their right to self-determination, and for Afghanistan thus to return to its traditional status as an independent state, neutral and non-aligned.

* A/36/50.

A/36/153
S/14422
English
Page 2

"3. The European Council supports any initiative which could lead to the desired result and welcomes in particular the initiative which was the subject of the resolution of the United Nations of 20 November 1980, 1/ and that put forward recently by France."

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 26 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) H. SCHELTEMA
Permanent Representative

1/ General Assembly resolution 35/37.