



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 13 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In continuation of my earlier verbale démarches of 2, 7 and 9 August 1996, I have been authorized to convey the concern of the Government of Pakistan on the decision contained in the note by the President of the Security Council (S/1996/603 and Corr.1), dated 30 July 1996, relating to the deletion of certain items from the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized.

We would like to point out that items on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized should normally be taken off only when the issue is resolved, or with the consent of all the parties concerned. Matters of which the Council is seized should in any case require a decision in formal meeting for the termination of their consideration by the Council. The note purports to deal with substantive issues on the Council's list in a procedural manner. The criteria for deletion of items is arbitrary and premised on a factually inaccurate list annexed to that note.

We regret to note that, in this case, the Council has decided to strike out items without taking into consideration the substantive merit of each issue in so far as the maintenance of international peace and security is concerned, and without prior consultations with the States concerned.

This is unprecedented and carries serious political implications for the future work of the Council, as well as for the position of the States directly concerned.

Although the Council's decision allows a Member State to object to the deletion of an item, at the same time it imposes an untenable limitation of retention only for a year.

The automatic cut-off period of five years for items not considered formally also raises serious questions. The distinction between "consideration" in formal and informal meetings has important political and legal connotations. There are several issues which are brought to the attention of the Security Council, with which it is seized, and there are different ways in which the

S/1996/649

English

Page 2

Council responds. A distinction of this nature would erode the importance of the work of the Council as a whole.

In view of the above, the Government of Pakistan would request the Security Council to review and rescind its decision contained in document S/1996/603, with due recourse to the established principle of prior consultations with the concerned Member States.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative
