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BETWEEN STATES
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 26 August 1981 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan on the Problem of Political Settlement, issued on 24 August 1981, and to request you to have that text and the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 57, 58 and 83 of the provisional agenda and of the Security Council,

(Signed) M. Farid ZARIF
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

* A/36/150.

ANNEX

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF AFGHANISTAN ON THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
(24 August 1981)

1. The securing of complete and reliable cessation of armed and any other intervention in the domestic affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the creation of conditions making impossible the recurrence of such interference in the future must be the main aim and basic content of the political settlement.

2. Taking into account that the armed intervention in Afghanistan, as well as other subversive activities against it, are now being carried out first of all from the Pakistani territory, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has already repeatedly proposed and proposes to the Government of Pakistan once again that the representatives of the two countries meet to discuss the questions pertaining to the commencement of the negotiations with the aim of reaching an agreement to normalize relations.

In the course of such negotiations, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will be ready to consider other problems outstanding between Afghanistan and Pakistan to normalize Afghan-Pakistani relations and to ensure stability and tranquillity.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan reaffirms also its proposal to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold negotiations with the aim of working out an agreement on the development of friendly relations and multifaceted, mutually beneficial co-operation between the two countries, including the questions of trade, economic co-operation, transit and cultural ties.

The agreements between Afghanistan and Pakistan and between Afghanistan and Iran must contain universally acknowledged provisions, concerning mutual respect, sovereignty, readiness to develop relations on the basis of principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in internal affairs as well as include concrete commitments of the parties on preventing armed and other hostile activities from their own territory against each other.

3. Considering the conduct of negotiations both with Pakistan and Iran on a bilateral basis preferable and most promising, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, at the same time, is ready to hold trilateral negotiations if Pakistan and Iran express such a desire.

However, the lack of desire to start negotiations of one of the above-mentioned countries shall not impede the commencement of a dialogue between Afghanistan and the other country and the achievement of relevant agreements between them and also it should not be an obstacle to their subsequent realization.

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It follows that the country refraining from negotiations in the beginning, may join them or start independent negotiations with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan later.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan does not object to its negotiations with the Governments of Pakistan and Iran whether bi- or trilateral being attended by the United Nations Secretary-General or his representative.

4. As it was defined by the decree of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council on 18 June 1981, as well as by other official documents on General Amnesty, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will secure full freedom and immunity to all the Afghans that are temporarily living, because of certain reasons, in the territory of Pakistan and other neighbouring countries. When they return home the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan guarantees security freedom of choice of the domicile and equal participation in the solution of the land question on the basis of agrarian reform. They will be provided with all the necessary conditions for living, fruitful labour and social activities for the welfare of the homeland.

The nomads, tribes and cattle-breeders will be provided not only with the right to use pastures on a just basis but with the right for free movement within the country. It is meant also that the traditional seasonal migration of the nomads from Afghanistan to Pakistan and vice versa shall be allowed without hindrances.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan expresses its agreement to discuss the practical aspects of the problem with its neighbours, however if some of the Afghans do not want to return to their homeland, the relevant questions pertaining to their further stay shall also be discussed in the course of the negotiations so as to achieve necessary agreements.

5. Reliable international guarantees of agreements being achieved with regard to the cessation and the non-recurrence of armed and other interference in Afghan affairs, must be an integral part of a political settlement.

The states, providing guarantees shall themselves strictly refrain from such interference and enhance the achieved agreements by their authority. With this aim the guaranteeing countries might adopt a relevant document by which they would commit themselves to respect and observe the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity of Afghanistan and its non-aligned status. On its own behalf the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan would reaffirm its loyalty to the policy of peace and non-alignment, its desire to develop friendly ties with all countries and first of all with the neighbours.

Although the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan does not determine in advance the composition of the guarantor countries, it believes as before, that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America as well as some other countries which may be acceptable to Afghanistan and its negotiating neighbours ought to be included in this composition.

The working out of international guarantees as well as the solution of all other questions touching upon Afghanistan's interests must be conducted with the participation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. At the same time, it does not object to the discussion of questions pertaining to the working out of international guarantees being started simultaneously and conducted parallel with bi- or trilateral negotiations among Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran at the first stage such a discussion might be conducted in the form of informal multilateral consultations and later on at a relevant international forum.

6. In case of cessation and guaranteed non-recurrence of armed intervention and any other form of interference in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan the reasons which caused Afghanistan's appeal to the USSR urging it to send the limited Soviet military contingent into its territory, will cease to exist. The achievement of a political settlement including the working out of international guarantees will respectively give an opportunity to determine by the accord between the Afghan and Soviet sides, the order and terms or in other words the time-table of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The pullout of troops would be conducted to the extent of the realization of the achieved agreements. That is why the speedier the achievement and realization of these agreements making impossible the interference into Afghanistan's affairs, the earlier would be the beginning and completion of the pullout of Soviet troops and vice versa.

7. It is a deep conviction of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan that the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan which can be worked out and implemented step by step would not only meet the interests of the Afghan people and the peoples of the neighbouring countries, but would lead to the elimination of tension in this region as a whole.

In this connexion, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan does not object to the international aspects of the problem around Afghanistan being discussed together with the questions of strengthening peace and security in the Persian Gulf region if such an opinion prevails among the potential participants of the discussion of both these problems. But the lack of accord with respect to such a joint discussion should not be a pretext to delay the start of a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

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8. In any variant of the negotiations bilateral, trilateral or multilateral, in that part of them which pertains to the guarantees, the question concerning the present régime in Afghanistan, the composition of its Government as well as other internal affairs are not to be discussed.

These questions are being solved and will be solved in the future only by the Afghan people but not by anybody else.
