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DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS
BETWEEN STATES

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Letter dated 12 November 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and to request Your Excellency to have the enclosed text and this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 57, 58 and 83.

(Signed) M. Farid ZARIF
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

On the EEC Proposal on Afghanistan

First of all I would like to say that the DRA Government has never received any form of proposal from the EEC Council or from any other quarters with respect to the so-called Conference on Afghanistan. As far as one can see from news agencies and newspaper reports about this proposal, I can state the following:

1. The EEC proposal repeats the previously advanced ideas of the imperialist countries and in its essence is aimed at undermining the Afghan revolution. It provides for the convening of the two-stage international conference on Afghanistan allegedly "to ensure the termination of the outside interference and to establish guarantees to prevent such an interference in future."

2. But the suggested composition of the conference and its proposed agenda in itself is an outright interference into the internal affairs of the DRA. The "ten" propose to discuss the "Afghan question" without the participation of the DRA Government. Such a stand is not only unrealistic but entirely unacceptable to the Afghan people. Nobody can discuss, without saying about taking decision, the questions pertaining to the sovereign rights of the Afghan people.

3. There is already a realistic and all-embracing plan of how to reach a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and normalization of relations between Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries. This plan is laid down in details in the DRA Government statement of May 14, 1980 and reaffirmed in the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement of May 13, 1981.

4. The only correct and realistic way of the political settlement is to terminate outside armed intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan. It is quite evident that such an intervention from the territory of Pakistan is intensifying. With the assistance of a number of states including US, Britain, other western countries and some Moslem reactionary regimes, the bands of anti-Afghan mercenaries are armed, trained, equipped and sent to Afghanistan to commit barbarous acts of violence against the Afghan people. The armed intervention in Afghanistan has become an official policy of the United States and some other states.

5. It was repeatedly pointed out by the Afghan and Soviet governments that when this outside armed intervention against Afghanistan is terminated and its non-recurrence is firmly guaranteed, the Soviet Union with the covenant and agreement of the DRA Government will withdraw its limited military contingent from Afghanistan.

6. Evidently, it is necessary to begin the whole process with the direct negotiations between the representatives of Afghanistan and Pakistan, between the representatives of Afghanistan and Iran. Since May 1980, the DRA Government at least six times at various levels proposed to the governments of Pakistan and Iran to come down to the negotiating table and to work out mutually acceptable accords on the normalization of relations with them on the basis of the generally recognized principles of the international law and the UN Charter. It did so at the 35th session of the UN General Assembly, on the eve of the conference of the ministers of foreign affairs of the OIC in May 1980, and before the Islamic Summit in Taif in January 1981, at the conference of the ministers of foreign affairs of the non-aligned countries in February 1981. The readiness to start direct negotiations with Iran and Pakistan was repeatedly stressed in the speeches and statements of Babrak Karmal.

7. It must be pointed out that Pakistani leaders themselves several times came out with an idea of a meeting between the representatives of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The DRA Government positively responded to the idea of a direct dialogue between the two neighbouring countries. To facilitate a dialogue it did not even object to the participation in such a meeting of the UN Secretary General of his representative. However, Pakistani rulers, evidently not without an outside pressure, changed their stand and denounced their own proposal. This is another proof of insincerity and inconsistency in such an important affair as establishment of normal good-neighbourly relations between our two countries.

Meanwhile the peoples of Afghanistan and Pakistan and we know it pretty well - want to live in peace. That is why the DRA Government as in the past is ready to start negotiations with Pakistan. Objectively there are no hindrances on this way. Only a good will of parties is necessary. Once again we appeal to Pakistan to come down to the negotiating table as it is demanded by the interests of the peoples of our countries.