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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

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 8 February 1982 from the Permanent Representative
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

The Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, in his letter dated 29 December 1981 addressed to Your Excellency and issued as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council on 31 December 1981 (A/37/58-S/14820 and Corr.1), under the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security", has piled up mountains of slanderous assertions and false allegations about the "national resistance movement of the Afghan people", "non-interference of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan" and "frequent violation of Pakistan's territory by gunships and armed men" which, as the letter asserts, increase tension and threaten regional peace.

Nothing can be farther from reality than these futile efforts to turn the situation in the region upside down. It is armed interventions and incursions from Pakistan's territory, ever increasing in scope, that, in fact, augment tension and threaten regional peace, the responsibility for which lies with the military régime of Pakistan. There is ample and convincing evidence from all available sources that the territory of Pakistan is actively used for armed raids and subversion against the people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, some account of which could be easily found in the green book entitled "Undeclared war: armed intervention and other forms of interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan", issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan and distributed at the United Nations Headquarters.

As to the so-called Afghan refugees, whose presence on Pakistan's territory is being exploited by the Pakistani authorities to their own benefit under the false pretext of so-called care for the refugees' welfare, it is worth recalling that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has granted general amnesty to those whose hands are not stained with the blood of their compatriots, and more than once expressed its willingness to receive Afghans living outside the country and to provide all necessary conditions for their honourable living and fruitful work and social activity, freedom of choice of domicile and equal participation in the benefits of the agrarian reform and land distribution. But all statements of the Government of Afghanistan concerning the refugees are being deliberately kept out of reach of the Afghans remaining outside of their motherland, and they are a constant object of frantic anti-Afghan propaganda in the Pakistani mass media. If the Pakistani authorities complain of the "burden" put on them by the refugees, why are they putting obstacles in the way of large groups of Afghans willing to return to their home?

The Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan tries in vain to create the impression that the proposals of the Government of Afghanistan of 14 May 1980 and 24 August 1981 are propagandistic in nature. Those who seriously want to attain an early political solution of the situation around Afghanistan can see that these proposals are realistic and flexible enough. They take into account the interests of all countries concerned in the most comprehensive way. It is to our regret that the Pakistani authorities have failed to start talks on that basis.

It should also be noted that, while giving preference to direct talks with the neighbouring countries as the shortest and most effective way which could lead to the over-all political settlement of the international aspects of the situation, my Government welcomes the efforts of Your Excellency aimed at facilitating the search for a political solution. We are of the opinion that the contacts which have taken place between the representatives of Afghanistan and Pakistan through the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations proved to be useful, and we declare our readiness to continue such contacts at any place and at the earliest possible date without any pre-conditions. It is reiterated that the Government of Afghanistan is prepared for such negotiations either on a bilateral basis, which is more preferable and most promising, or on the basis of trilateral negotiations if the Iranian Government is ready to join.

I request Your Excellency to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Development and strengthening of good neighbourliness between States", "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" and "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. Farid ZARIF
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
