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REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFTING OF  
AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE RECRUITMENT,  
USE, FINANCING AND TRAINING OF MERCENARIES  
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 12 November 1982 from the Permanent Representative of  
Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose a text of the declaration adopted at the end of the International Conference on Socio-Economic Development and the Dangers of War, held at Kabul from 12 to 15 November 1982 and to request that this letter and the attached declaration be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 18, 25, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 48, 55, 58, 59, 71, 98, 116, 118, 121 and 122 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. Farid ZARIF  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE DANGERS OF WAR

The International Conference on Socio-Economic Development and the Dangers of War which had begun under the auspices of the World Peace Council in Kabul in November 12 ended today.

At the concluding session, the participants of the Conference have addressed a message of thanks and solidarity to Comrade Babrak Karmal and the people of Afghanistan. They have also adopted a declaration which is as follows:

Never before since the second world war has the danger of war been so great as it is at present. The policy of nuclear armament and of interventionism on the part of the most aggressive forces of imperialism - first of all, the forces around the military-industrial complex in the U.S. - threaten not only the peaceful life, the economic and social development, but also the very survival of mankind. In a nuclear war, the earth would be converted to a lifeless desert. The critical economic difficulties of imperialism provide the impetus for the new escalation of military threats and interventions, of economic pressures, and ideological subversion against the growing anti-imperialist movements for independence and social progress in the developing countries, as well as against the support which the socialist countries render to all progressive forces. By establishing a first-strike capability for waging nuclear warfare, the U.S. Government and its allies seek to plunge mankind into a nuclear holocaust. At the same time, they are plainly instigating and heating up regional conflicts in Asia, Africa and Latin America. By establishing a "rapid deployment force" for the only purpose of securing zones of economic influence, they prepare to launch military intervention in every part of the world. Furthermore, by neo-colonialist policy - terroristic acts and efforts at destabilisation, the newly-liberated countries are weakened and prevented from carrying on their social and economic development and establishing relations of equal and mutually beneficial trade.

The transnational corporations and the United States pursue the imperialistic policy aimed at strengthening their position throughout the world and intensify the plunder of developing countries, thus ruining their national economies.

The financial policy of Reagan administration pushed through the artificial rise of the dollar and the high interest rates provokes serious difficulties throughout the world. Obviously, the consequences are far more dangerous to developing countries whose debt today amounts to nearly U.S.\$600 billion without any prospect of its liquidation.

The conditions attached by imperialist powers and the international financial organizations controlled by them to the loans given to the developing countries, carry extremely stringent and wide-ranging stipulations which affect not only the domestic economic policies of recipient countries, but also their political development and foreign relations. In essence, such terms amount to undermining the independence and sovereignty of these countries.

The economic strategy of Reagan administration is directed at perpetuating domination not only of the developing countries, but also of the developed countries of Western Europe and Japan, by trying to dictate their production and foreign trade and forcing them to spend higher and higher proportion of their budgets on military expenditures. At the same time, the U.S. Government and its NATO allies have decided to deploy a new generation of nuclear missiles in West European countries. These countries would thus be taken as hostages of the U.S. nuclear strategy which is also directed at black-mailing and building up of first strike nuclear capability against the socialist countries.

In the Middle East and Africa, U.S. imperialism, in collusion with Israeli Zionism and the South African apartheid regime, is taking aggressive as well as covert actions to exploit the vast resources of these countries, threaten their peace and stability by setting up and expanding military bases and deployment of troops. By creating regional conflicts, committing genocide and destruction, as in Lebanon and against the Arab people of Palestine, imperialism aims at diverting their developmental efforts at socio-economic transformation, undermining their efforts at collective self-reliance.

Despite the machinations of imperialism, the progressive and democratic forces, especially of the countries that have opted for the socialist orientation, have recorded impressive results by

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asserting full national sovereignty over their natural resources, by democratising their social life to mobilise and enhance the active participation of their peoples and thereby advancing their socio-economic emancipation.

This International Conference:

- supports the demand for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace devoid of nuclear weapons, and the removal of U.S. imperialist military bases from Diego Garcia and other places in the Indian Ocean;

- condemns the unprecedented arming of Pakistan and its consequences on the countries of the region which are forced to spend substantial portions of their budget on military expenditure, reducing their expenses on socio-economic needs;

- condemns the undeclared war launched by imperialism and its hirelings against the DRA which endangers peace in Afghanistan and in the whole region, damages peaceful measures taken by the Government of Afghanistan to pursue a policy of socio-economic development,

- condemns the policy of destabilization pursued by the hegemons in collusion with U.S. imperialists in Southeast Asia, to undermine the reconstruction work of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, to maintain the seat of the disguised Pol Pot genocidal regime at the United Nations and to hinder the establishment of relations of good neighbourliness and cooperation between the Indo-Chinese countries and the ASEAN countries.

- condemns Mr. Reagan's administration policy of supporting the racist regime of South Africa against the front-line states and the liberation forces in the region.

- the conference, at the same time, notes with anxiety that in Latin America the U.S. foreign and economic policies are designed to invoke the old Monroe doctrine to turn the Central American and Caribbean zone into an international hotbed of tension, weaken the regional economies, and deepen the differences among the Latin American countries through preferential and discriminatory treatments to undermine the unity of the countries of the region.

In realization of the urgent need to intensify the struggle against the war danger and the promotion of social and economic development, the conference declares its full support to the effort

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for continental, regional, bilateral and multilateral cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, and for collective self-reliance, for hastening the realisation of the new international economic order.

The Conference affirmed its support for the self-determination, return to their homeland, and establishing of an independent state of the Palestinian people under their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, demands the unconditional withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon and from the occupied Arab territories and for the freedom struggle of the peoples of Namibia, South Africa, and El Salvador under their legitimate representatives, SWAPO, ANC and FMLN.

It also declared its support for the efforts the peoples of the world are making to abolish the policy of plunder of the TNC's, and in this connection, it noted with appreciation, the actions undertaken by newly liberated and progressive countries in asserting their sovereignty over their natural resources, and which are in the process of assuring socio-economic emancipation for their peoples.

The Conference stressed the pressing necessity of mobilising all forces for the promotion of effective steps towards disarmament to facilitate the release of the huge sums squandered on the nuclear arms race for the socio-economic development of the peoples of the world.

The International Conference on Social and Economic Development and the Dangers of War further underscores the vital significance of averting the risk of a nuclear war and putting a halt to the policy of the Reagan administration of escalating the arms race, expanding the military bases and deploying of interventionist forces.

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