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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Letter dated 23 June 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the following message from His Excellency Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan:

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, Foreign Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The letter, which has been circulated as United Nations document A/4\_/406 of 15 June 1988, has engaged the immediate and earnest attention of the Government of Pakistan.

May I, once again, assure Your Excellency, as also the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other Members of the United Nations, that the Government of Pakistan is solemnly committed to the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan and to their implementation in letter and spirit.

The allegations of violation of the Geneva Accords have been a source of deep concern to the Government of Pakistan and have been thoroughly investigated by us. Our findings reveal that the charges are unfounded.

The Geneva Accords contain specific provisions for the mutually satisfactory redress of complaints about violations that may arise in the implementation of the settlement. The United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) is empowered to investigate and submit reports for the consideration of the parties. This clearly laid down procedure must be followed before conclusions are drawn.

<sup>\*</sup> A/43/50.

The Government of Pakistan has extended its fullest co-operation in the investigation of allegations to ensure the smooth implementation of the Geneva Accords. Already the Government of Pakistan has facilitated visits by UNGOMAP inspection teams to areas in and around Peshawar, Torkham, Parachinar, Quetta and Chaman. In the coming weeks inspection visits will also be arranged to Chitral, Bannu, Miran Shah and other areas. In this way the inspections will have covered areas stretching more than 1,000 kilometres along the international border from Chitral to Chaman. During the visits already undertaken, UNGOMAP personnel have inspected all types of vehicular traffic in the border areas in order to investigate complaints lodged by Kabul regarding trans-shipment of arms. UNGOMAP reports would no doubt be available in the United Nations Secretariat.

The Government of Pakistan has also given detailed point-by-point replies to the various complaints received through UNGOMAP. The charges about the setting up of so-called Islamic regiments, trans-shipment of arms and infiltration by foreign instructors have also proved to be baseless.

We have delivered to your Deputy Representative detailed lists of serious violations of our territory and airspace from the Kabul side. These are in contravention of the Geneva Accords. Since the entry into force of the Geneva Accords, there have been no less than 72 ground violations and 17 air violations in which innocent civilians, including women and children, have been killed. Additionally, we have provided detailed information about centres located in Afghanistan where training is being imparted to terrorists for acts of subversion in Pakistan.

Furthermore, information regarding the areas vacated by the foreign troops and the clearance of land mines, which is vital for the commencement of the voluntary return of the refugees, has yet to be provided to UNGOMAP. Meanwhile, military operations by the other side have forced a large number of Afghans to seek refuge in Pakistan.

I would also like to place on record that military equipment reportedly worth one billion dollars has been transferred to the Kabul forces by the withdrawing Soviet troops. This is inconsistent with the spirit of the Geneva Accords.

I sincerely hope that, in assessing the progress of the implementation of the Geneva Accords, Your Excellency will give earnest consideration to the facts brought out in this letter.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 30 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) S. SHAH NAWAZ Ambassador and Permanent Representative