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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Item 30 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 1 July 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The attention of the international community is now focused on the progress in the application of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan. It is quite natural that this should be so. The successful implementation of these agreements would mean an important breakthrough in the political settlement of regional conflicts which are a source of danger for the world as a whole and retard the progress of peoples.

The Geneva agreements, to the drafting of which you and your personal representative Mr. D. Córdovez made an important contribution, constitute a package of clearly balanced mutual obligations of the parties to ensure a comprehensive settlement of the Afghan problem: on the one hand, cessation of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and on the other, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country.

The Soviet Union has more than once stated at the most authoritative level its intention of scrupulously fulfilling, with no exceptions of any kind, the obligations it entered into under these agreements. These statements are consistently backed by practical action. The Soviet troop withdrawal is taking place in accordance with the timetable laid down in the Geneva agreements. The concrete measures being taken by the Government of Afghanistan are strictly in accordance with the spirit and the letter of these agreements.

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However, the Soviet Union cannot but express its serious concern at the situation which has arisen as a result of the violations by the Pakistani side of its obligations under the agreements. The letter (A/43/406 of 15 June 1988) addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, E. A. Shevardnadze, cites numerous hard facts in this respect and takes a position of principle with respect to them. Facts of this kind are continuing to come to light even now.

In this connection, it must be noted that the letter (A/43/424 of 23 June 1988) addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Mr. Yaqub-Khan, does not contain an adequate response to the questions posed by the Soviet side. Although Pakistan states in words its commitment to the Geneva agreements, in practice it is not desisting from its interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. This course of action cannot be described as aimed at anything other than undermining what was agreed upon at Geneva.

Despite the assertions contained in the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, armaments and armed groups of the opposition continue to move into Afghanistan from Pakistani territory. As before, the rebel's headquarters and training centres are located in Pakistan. The Pakistani authorities are encouraging the activities of the Afghan opposition aimed at disrupting the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland, and providing them with assistance in relocating arms depots to places inaccessible to inspection by United Nations personnel. In violation of the Geneva agreements, the Pakistani side is not providing the necessary assistance to the group of United Nations observers operating in Pakistani territory. Artificial obstacles are being created to the conduct of on-site inspections, and limits are being placed on the freedom of movement of United Nations observers.

Attention must also be drawn to the deliberate distortions contained in that letter of Afghanistan's approach to the fulfilment of its obligations under the Geneva agreements.

I wish to point out that the Soviet side is at present paying special attention to the provision of non-reimbursable economic assistance to the population of Afghanistan, inter alia, by handing over buildings and strictly civilian property, worth a considerable sum, left after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops; this is groundlessly described as "Soviet military assistance worth a billion dollars".

It is to be hoped that Pakistan is fully aware of the serious consequences which the action it is taking in violation of the Geneva agreements might have, and that it will in the final analysis take a responsible approach to the discharge of its obligations. The Soviet Union expresses the hope that you as Secretary-General will use the opportunities available to you to prompt Pakistan's strict compliance with the Geneva agreements.

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I request you to circulate this letter as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 30 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. BELONOGOV
