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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Forty-third session

Items 30, 72, 130, 134 and 137 of the preliminary list*

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IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE
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GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-third year

Letter dated 14 July 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letters addressed to you by the permanent representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Kabul régime, contained in documents A/43/431-S/19969 dated 28 June 1988, A/43/439-S/19978 dated 1 July 1988, A/43/447-S/19990 dated 6 July 1988 and A/43/451-S/19996 dated 7 July 1988, in which baseless allegations falsely accusing Pakistan of violating the Geneva Accords have been repeated.

The response of the Government of Pakistan to such allegations has already been conveyed in the letter addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, circulated as document A/43/424, dated 23 June 1988. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate for the record the position of my Government.

 * A/43/50.

The Government of Pakistan is solemnly committed to abide by the provisions of the Geneva Accords and the associated understandings in their letter and spirit. We have consistently endeavoured to assist the United Nations Good Offices Mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) to fulfil its obligations in accordance with its mandate.

Specifically, with reference to the complaints of violations alleged against Pakistan, I have the honour to convey to you the following affirmations of the Government of Pakistan:

(a) Pakistan fully respects the sanctity of the boundary with Afghanistan in accordance with the obligations under the Geneva Accords. There have not been any illegal crossings of the border from the Pakistan side. UNGOMAP inspection visits to border areas have been arranged in response to requests. On-site inspections and physical checking of all types of vehicular traffic have been carried out by UNGOMAP. We remain committed to providing any further facility requested;

(b) The armed forces of Pakistan are under strict instructions not to engage in any military operations against Afghanistan. Despite numerous ground and air violations of its territory from the Afghan side, Pakistan has exercised the utmost restraint and will continue to do so.

(c) Pakistan has no intention of permitting the establishment on Pakistan territory of arms depots or camps or training centres for hostilities against Afghanistan. On-site inspection by UNGOMAP teams has taken place at their request in numerous areas from Chitral to Chaman - a distance of more than 1,000 kilometres along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border;

(d) The Government of Pakistan has not placed any restriction on the return of Afghan refugees. On the contrary, plans have been prepared for their return, which would be implemented in co-operation with international agencies;

(e) The 3 million refugees in Pakistan who represent a substantial and important segment of the Afghan population have the right to participate in the endeavours of the people of Afghanistan for the formation of a broad-based Government which all concerned parties have agreed to promote. It is, therefore, essential that they enjoy the freedom to engage in legitimate political activities to express their will and aspirations.

The commitment of the Government of Pakistan to fulfil its obligations under the Geneva Accords is not limited to verbal assurances. We have taken practical steps that clearly and unequivocally demonstrate our observance of these agreements. To date the UNGOMAP inspection teams have conducted seven on-site inspections in Peshawar, Torkham, Parachinar, Quetta, Chaman, Chitral, Arandu, Ghram Chasma, Miran Shah and Mir Ali areas. UNGOMAP teams have inspected locations of alleged training camps and arms depots, physically checked all types of vehicular traffic passing through our border posts and interviewed numerous Afghan refugees. These facts clearly refute the assertions that Pakistan has not provided the necessary assistance to UNGOMAP.

It is also pertinent to recall that the Geneva Accords establish a clear procedure for the investigation of complaints by UNGOMAP and for their settlement. The Government of Pakistan is extending its co-operation to UNGOMAP. Pending investigation of complaints, it is inconsistent with the spirit of the Geneva Accords for a party to publicize its allegations.

Pakistan categorically rejects efforts by the Kabul régime to implicate it in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. It should realize that the present unfortunate situation in Afghanistan is the result of years of oppression and repression with the aid of foreign military intervention which provoked a fierce struggle by the people of Afghanistan against the régime. Over 1 million people have given the ultimate sacrifice and 5 million people, one third of the country's population, were forced to seek refuge outside Afghanistan. The formation of a new Government responsive to the urges and aspirations of the people of Afghanistan has been recognized by all concerned as indispensable for peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, I have been instructed to inform you that the Government of Pakistan will continue to extend to you, your representative and UNGOMAP, all necessary co-operation for the faithful implementation of the Geneva Accords.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 30, 72, 130, 134 and 137 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Shaukat UMER
Acting Permanent Representative
