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LETTER DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

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

"I have the honour to refer to Security Council document S/20269 of 14 November 1988 containing the text of a letter addressed to Your Excellency by the Foreign Minister of the Kabul régime.

"I would like to start by reiterating that the Government of Pakistan does not recognize the Kabul régime, and that this letter is in response to a document which has been circulated by the Security Council.

"I have no hesitation in reaffirming the solemn commitment of the Government of Pakistan to abide by the letter and spirit of the Geneva Agreements. The accusations levelled against Pakistan by the Kabul régime are completely unfounded. Under the Geneva Agreements the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) is entrusted with the task of investigating complaints and recommending follow-up action in case any of the complaints are substantiated. The Kabul régime has now chosen to ignore this mechanism and has instead drawn the attention of the Security Council to its fictitious accusations.

"The Kabul régime's claim that the role of UNGOMAP has been limited is not borne out by facts. Pakistan has extended full co-operation to UNGOMAP and has even allowed it to establish forward bases near the border in Peshawar and Quetta. UNGOMAP teams have carried out more than 20 inspection visits to areas along our border where alleged violations were said to have occurred.

"The charge that Pakistan is obstructing the return of the refugees is absurd. Despite its limited resources, Pakistan has accepted more than 3 million refugees on its soil. Its main interest is to see the refugees return to their homes in safety and honour. They have been unable to return because of the instability and continuing turmoil in Afghanistan caused by the repressive policies of the unrepresentative Kabul régime.

"Pakistan has also been blamed for the adverse comments against the Kabul régime that have appeared in the media. The press in Pakistan is free, and the views it has been reflecting about conditions in Afghanistan are widely shared by the international media.

"The Kabul régime has recently acquired the most modern and sophisticated weapons, including SS-I Scud missiles, MIG-27s and Backfire bombers. The induction of these weapons and their deployment inside Afghanistan, and in some cases even against the territory of Pakistan, belies the claim of the Kabul régime that it is abiding by the provisions of the Geneva Agreements and that it is seeking a comprehensive political settlement.

"I must place on record that since the coming into force of the Geneva Agreements there have been more than 104 air violations, 328 ground violations and 96 incidents of sabotage against Pakistan. No less than 134 innocent civilians have lost their lives. In contrast to the unsubstantiated accusations by the Kabul side, the complaints lodged by Pakistan are substantiated by concrete evidence. Only recently an Afghan aircraft was shot down when it violated Pakistan's airspace. An UNGOMAP team inspected the debris which fell well inside Pakistan territory. The team also interviewed the pilot of the aircraft who admitted that he had been sent on a bombing mission on either side of the Durand Line. On other occasions the Kabul side has resorted to the shelling of Pakistan territory when UNGOMAP teams were in the area.

"The Resistance leadership, and also the majority of the Afghans, have rejected the so-called attempts at national reconciliation which the Kabul régime claims to be making. Instead, the Resistance leadership has made a proposal for the convening of a genuinely representative assembly to establish a broad-based Government acceptable to the Afghan people.

"It will be recalled that the consensus resolution passed by the General Assembly this year also called for the establishment of a broad-based Government in Kabul. I would like to reiterate that the Government of Pakistan remains committed to a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan issue in accordance with the Geneva Agreements and this consensus resolution."

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. SHAH NAWAZ
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

