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

#### Letter dated 19 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you the text of a letter dated 17 December 1988 from the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in response to the letter dated 23 November 1988 of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kabul régime (A/43/906-S/20305):

"I am writing this letter in response to the letter of the Foreign Minister of the Kabul régime which has been circulated as United Nations document A/43/906-S/20305 dated 30 November 1988.

"In his letter the Foreign Minister of the Kabul régime has proposed that an international conference on Afghanistan's neutrality and demilitarization be held under the aegis of the United Nations which should be attended by 'Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries and the international guarantors of the Geneva Agreements, i.e., the United States and the Soviet Union.'

"I take this opportunity of informing you of our views on the United Nations document referred to above:

- "(i) The neutrality or demilitarization of any country are issues that can only be legitimately taken up by a representative and acceptable government of that country.
- "(ii) The Kabul régime does not fulfil these conditions in view of its unrepresentative character and the fact that it is unacceptable to the overwhelming majority of the Afghan people.

- "(iii) The future of Afghanistan, including the consideration of issues mentioned in the letter of the Foreign Minister of the Kabul regime, is a matter that exclusively concerns the people of Afghanistan.
- "(iv) The letter of the Kabul régime's Foreign Minister itself concedes the prior need for a broad-based government as a vital step. The formation of such a government is part of your mandate which was recently reiterated by the consensus resolution on Afghanistan adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 3 November 1988.
- "(v) In pursuit of efforts to form a broad-based government, a representative of the Soviet Union and the spokesman of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen (IUAM) held talks on 3 to 5 December 1988 in Taif, Saudi Arabia. Further talks between the two sides are scheduled to take place.
- "(vi) We believe that this process needs to be encouraged in order to facilitate an early comprehensive settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan through the induction of a broad-based government in Kabul that is acceptable to the Afghan people.
- "(vii) Once such a representative government is inducted into office we can expect peace to return to Afghanistan, the return of Afghan refugees to begin and the United Nations Secretary-General's programme for economic and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan to be implemented.

"In view of the above, we view the proposals of the Kabul régime for an international conference to be essentially propagandist in nature and unhelpful in facilitating progress towards a comprehensive settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan.

"Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan"

I should be grateful if you would distribute this letter as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 30.

(Signed) S. Shah NAWAZ  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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