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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Forty-fourth session

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

Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 13 February 1989 from the Permanent Representatives  
of Pakistan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the  
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to forward the text of the Pakistan-Soviet statement adopted as a result of the talks between Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Mr. Eduard A. Shevardnadze, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

We request that the text of the statement be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aleksandr M. BELONOGOV  
Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

(Signed) S. SHAH NAWAZ  
Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of Pakistan

ANNEX

Pakistan-Soviet statement

At the invitation of His Excellency Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, paid a working visit to Pakistan on 5 and 6 February 1989.

Mr. Shevardnadze was received by the President of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and had a meeting with Her Excellency Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He also had two rounds of talks with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

The two sides discussed international and regional issues of mutual interest, in particular the situation relating to Afghanistan. They also reviewed the existing state of bilateral relations and discussed ways and means to further expand mutually beneficial co-operation in the economic, cultural and technical fields.

With regard to the situation in Afghanistan, the two sides agreed that every effort should be made to promote a political settlement in Afghanistan in order to bring peace and tranquillity to the Afghan people and to put an end to the protracted conflict that has prevailed in Afghanistan for the past several years.

The Ministers believe that the military path can only lead to a worsening of the situation in Afghanistan, which would result in further loss of life and destruction throughout the country. A political settlement is the only way to prevent this.

The two sides reiterated their intention to encourage the establishment in Afghanistan of a broad-based government, which should be formed through the efforts of the Afghans themselves and would reflect the right to determine their own future and their political and economic institutions without any outside interference. Both sides also reiterated their support for a sovereign, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan, enjoying good relations with all its neighbours.

In this context, the two sides emphasized the importance of the resolution on Afghanistan adopted unanimously at the forty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, which reflects the common will of all countries of the world. In their view, everything must be done for an unconditional implementation of the resolution.

The Pakistan side noted the steps undertaken by the Soviet Union in order to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and welcomed the assurances that the withdrawals would be complete by 15 February 1989. In the interest of an Afghan settlement, both sides reiterated their commitment to observe faithfully the provisions of the Geneva Accords.

Considering specific issues regarding the situation in Afghanistan, the Ministers examined the problem of repatriation of Afghan refugees, the majority of whom were in the territory of Pakistan. They noted the need to create conditions that would enable all refugees to return to their homes in safety and to live in peace.

Special attention was given to the problem of supplying the population of Afghanistan with food and other needed commodities so as to alleviate their suffering. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the efforts undertaken in this regard by the United Nations within the framework of its programme of economic and humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan.

With regard to bilateral relations, the two sides undertook a review of the existing level of bilateral co-operation in the economic, scientific and cultural fields and decided to take a number of steps for the purpose of developing it further.

It was agreed to expedite the establishment of a joint ministerial commission for the promotion of bilateral co-operation in a number of fields.

The two sides also discussed co-operation with respect to projects in the fields of steel and machine-tool production, power-generation and mining.

The Ministers agreed that the Foreign Ministers of the two countries would hold regular consultations on various subjects of mutual interest. The consultations would be held alternately in Islamabad and Moscow.

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