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

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 14 March 1989 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement by the Soviet Government dated 11 March 1989.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 32 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. BELONOGOV

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement by the Soviet Government dated 11 March 1989

On 10 March, President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan appealed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America as guarantors of the Geneva Agreements, in connection with the escalation of outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, which threatens not only to increase the bloodshed in Afghanistan itself but also to heighten tension on a regional and international scale.

In view of these appeals, the Soviet Government considers it necessary to state the following.

Almost a month has passed since the day when the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was completed. This withdrawal was carried out strictly in accordance with the time-limits and time-table established in the Geneva Agreements on Afghanistan. The way in which the Soviet Union has complied with its obligations under the Agreements has been highly appreciated by the international community and by the United Nations.

It would seem that every opportunity has been created for both the legitimate Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the opposition to set an Afghan settlement on a peaceful course and to work out mutually acceptable compromises and political solutions with a view to overcoming internal differences. However, the tension in Afghanistan is not subsiding; on the contrary, it is continually increasing. The senseless fratricidal war of Afghans against Afghans is intensifying and becoming broader in scope.

It is thus perfectly clear that the causes of the bloodshed were by no means to be found in the Soviet military presence, although those who thus sought to conceal the unseemly role which they themselves were playing in the aggravation of the situation in Afghanistan sought to give that impression. The causes were and continue to be the unceasing interference in the internal affairs of the Afghans, in defiance of the Geneva Agreements, which has increased sharply since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. The armed Afghan opposition, which is being spurred on and encouraged by certain political and military circles in Pakistan, the United States, Saudi Arabia and other countries and which ignores all reasonable calls for national reconciliation made by the Government of the Republic, has adopted a course based exclusively on military solution methods and on the seizure of power by violence. The formation in Pakistan of a so-called "interim Afghan Government" by the Afghan opposition merely aggravates the confrontation and leads to an increase in the bloodshed.

The Soviet Government fully shares the concern expressed in the appeals of Afghan President Najibullah concerning the fate of an Afghan settlement. The Geneva Agreements are being flagrantly trampled upon. In Pakistani territory, the entire infrastructure of interference has remained virtually intact - the headquarters of the opposition groups, the camps and centres for the training of militants and terrorists and the logistical bases are still functioning.

Weapons - including armoured vehicles and ammunition - and troops continue to flow openly into Afghanistan from Pakistan. Pakistani troops are directly involved in military operations on the side of the Afghan opposition. There are many Pakistani officers in disguise in the ranks of the armed detachments of the opposition. The direct Pakistani military presence is particularly active in the area of Jalalabad, the capture of which is linked by the Afghan opposition with ambitious plans for installing its "interim Government" there. More than 500 Pakistanis from the territorial troops (the so-called "malishes") are taking part in operations on the Torham-Jalalabad road alone. Eight hundred "malishes" have arrived in the area of the Afghan-populated locality of Ghaziabad. Pakistani army helicopters are bringing ammunition and arms there. The list of such examples could be continued. The military activity of armed detachments connected with Pakistan is also directed against Soviet territory. A Soviet border patrol was recently fired on in an area of the Tadzhik Soviet Socialist Republic which borders on Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union, as one of the guarantors of the Geneva Agreements, cannot remain indifferent and close its eyes to the attempts to disregard the Agreements and to the fact that one of the parties to the Agreements is being subjected to undisguised aggression. In this connection, we call upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations, under whose auspices the Geneva Agreements were concluded, and upon the United States, which signed the Declaration on International Guarantees, to take as a matter of urgency effective measures to put an end to foreign intervention in Afghanistan and thereby to implement the Geneva Agreements in their entirety. It is time, at last, to give the Afghan people an opportunity to find tranquillity, to end the bloodshed, to return to creative labour and to live in accordance with their traditions and customs, in peace and friendship with their neighbours.

The Soviet Union, which has consistently stated that it is in favour of achieving an intra-Afghan settlement through political talks, resolutely condemns the actions of Pakistan and of the "alliance of seven" connected with it, which are aimed at fanning the flames of armed conflict in Afghanistan, and demands that such actions stop immediately. The Soviet Government states that, remaining committed to the Geneva Agreements, it will press for their effective implementation and will fulfil the commitments it has assumed under the bilateral Soviet-Afghan treaties aimed at protecting the sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan against encroachments from the outside.

In this connection, the Soviet Government strongly emphasizes that the entire responsibility for the heavy consequences that might ensue from the continuation of the war in Afghanistan rests with those who, through their short-sighted and unrealistic policy, are contributing to the continuation of inter-Afghan strife and pursuing expansionist goals as regards the neighbouring country.
