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IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 21 March 1989 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 the statement issued by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 21 March 1989 (see annex).

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

(Signed) S. SHAH NAWAZ
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Government of Pakistan on 21 March 1989

On 14 March 1989, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics circulated its statement of 11 March 1989 as a United Nations document (see A/44/174-S/20519, annex). In this statement, the Soviet Government has resorted to baseless and irresponsible allegations against the Government of Pakistan.

The Soviet Government has not produced a shred of evidence to support its various allegations of interference by the armed forces of Pakistan in Afghanistan. This was only to be expected because the allegations are totally untrue.

In addition, the Soviet Government has chosen to state that "the military activity of armed detachments connected with Pakistan is also directed against Soviet territory". It goes on to state that the Soviet Union cannot remain indifferent to what it describes as "undisguised aggression" against Afghanistan. Such statements are both unfortunate and totally unjustified. Moreover, the implicit threat contained in them can only be a matter of the gravest concern to Pakistan and the international community.

The Geneva Accords include an agreed mechanism for the investigation of complaints which should be utilized instead of making baseless allegations. The fact is that not one of the allegations made by the Soviet Government or the Kabul régime against Pakistan have been substantiated by the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP). Similarly, no other independent and neutral source has supported the allegations made by Kabul and Moscow. It is illogical to assume that the Afghan Mujahideen, who have successfully fought against the forces of a super-Power for more than nine years, stand in need of assistance by the armed forces of Pakistan in confronting the isolated and unpopular Kabul régime.

Pakistan has consistently followed a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The Government of Pakistan has scrupulously adhered to this policy in spite of grave provocations by the Kabul régime through air and ground violations of our territory over the last nine years.

Regrettably, the Soviet Government and the Kabul régime are seeking to distract the attention of the world from the real situation inside Afghanistan through a policy of intensified propaganda, including a stream of preposterous charges against Pakistan. The truth is that the illegal and unrepresentative régime that was installed in Kabul by external military intervention and which sought to consolidate itself through a brutal policy involving massive violations of human rights, unsurpassed in recent history, is now faced with an increasingly hopeless situation in its war against the Afghan freedom fighters who represent the aspirations of the entire Afghan nation.

Every segment of Afghan opinion has made clear its wholly understandable refusal to negotiate or share power with the Kabul régime that has been responsible for the killing and maiming of over 1.5 million Afghans, the uprooting of a further 7 million people and the destruction of reportedly more than half the villages of Afghanistan. The refusal to recognize this fundamental reality stands in the way of a peaceful transfer of power to a representative broad-based interim government. This, today, is the main obstacle to a comprehensive settlement that would restore the rights of the Afghan people.

While lauding the completion of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan on schedule, the Government of Pakistan earnestly hopes that the Soviet Union as a signatory of the Geneva Accords will take cognizance of the realities of the situation and thereby facilitate an early and peaceful settlement, which the Geneva Accords were designed to bring about.

In particular, the Soviet Union must recognize the fact that a representative and broad-based interim government has been established by a widely representative Afghan consultative Shura on 24 February 1989 and that the interim government has been invited by the fraternity of Islamic States to occupy the seat of Afghanistan in the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It should also be noted that the interim government has kept a number of Cabinet posts vacant for representatives from Kabul.

Instead of making irresponsible allegations and ominously raising the prospect of war, it would be more constructive if all parties were to encourage and co-operate with the interim government with the objective of facilitating an early and peaceful comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan problem.
