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Item 32 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 5 July 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the statement dated
3 July 1989 by the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR on
Afghanistan.

I hereby request that this text be circulated as a document of the General
Assembly, under item 32 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. LOZINSKY
Acting Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement dated 3 July 1989 by the representative of
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR

In various circles in Pakistan and the United States it is as if a somewhat different mood has been emerging recently, one which would presumably justify the hope that a realistic approach to the situation in Afghanistan would gradually prevail. From time to time there was talk among them of the need to end that serious regional conflict by political means. The impression was created that that could lead to efforts to find peaceful ways of restoring calm and stability in Afghanistan and the region, but that impression was obviously misleading. There are reports that the Afghan opposition, with the support and direct assistance of Pakistan and the United States is embarking upon a new adventure and preparing a "general offensive" against a number of towns in Afghanistan. That such plans really exist is confirmed by the intensified missile attacks on Kabul and other targets. On 2 July one missile exploded in the immediate vicinity of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. It was a matter of sheer luck that no Soviet citizen was hurt.

Nor can we overlook the statement by Peter Thompson, the United States representative to the so-called "provisional Afghan Government", that the United States intends to help this "Government" as much as it can. The fact that signs of preparations for a "general offensive" coincide with Thompson's presence in Islamabad puts us on guard.

Those who think in terms of military provocation and place their ambitions above the country's interests must take incontrovertible facts into account. The Afghan army has shown that it is capable of withstanding any onslaught from the enemy. The atmosphere in Kabul and most of the provinces shows that the population supports the legitimate Government's policy of national reconciliation. An increasingly large number of Afghans attribute the continuation of bloodshed in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet military contingent to the irresponsible behaviour of the opposition groups, which do not care about the suffering of the people and are obsessed by just one ambition - to seize power no matter what. Pakistan's support of the opposition forces, constituting interference in internal Afghan affairs, is perceived by Afghans as an infringement of their country's sovereignty and independence.

The exacerbation of tension in Afghanistan and the region, and the mounting confrontation under circumstances which offer a real opportunity to end it, can only produce new victims without having solved any problems, either internal or external. As for the hostile acts against Soviet citizens and the Soviet Embassy in Afghanistan, we must again warn in all seriousness that they will not go unpunished.

Instead of preparing a military offensive, the opposition should start thinking about the specific and genuine peaceful steps it might take in reply to the Government's call for national harmony.

Those who are still counting on the possibility of overthrowing the legitimate Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, should analyse the situation again in the light of the fact that this Government has and will continue to have everything it needs to defend the country's independence, rebuff military hit-and-run attacks and satisfy the overriding need of its people - the achievement of peace.
