



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/44/371 ✓

S/20720

5 July 1989

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL! RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Forty-fourth session

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.

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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.
