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Items 25, 58, 59 and 90 of the provisional agenda*

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

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 3 September 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Two letters, dated 8 February and 29 June 1982 addressed to Your Excellency by the Kabul representative have been circulated as documents of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/37/84-S/14863 and A/37/329). These letters distort the facts of the situation obtaining in Afghanistan and contain baseless allegations against Pakistan.

Pakistan has been falsely accused of permitting its territory to be used for armed raids and subversion against Afghanistan and of putting obstacles in the way of the return of the Afghan refugees. It has also been insinuated that the issue of Afghan refugees is being exploited by the Pakistan authorities to their own benefit.

Clearly, these baseless allegations cannot conceal the objective reality of the Afghanistan situation, which has been a matter of grave concern to the international community for nearly three years now.

* A/37/150.

At the heart of the Afghanistan problem lies the foreign military intervention and the imposition of a régime on the people of that country in flagrant contravention of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. This fact is borne out by the repeated and unequivocal calls for the immediate withdrawal of the foreign troops from Afghanistan made by the international community in the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Islamic Conference.

The enduring national resistance movement which covers the length and breadth of Afghanistan is a clear expression of the resolute opposition of the Afghan people to foreign domination, in keeping with their time-honoured traditions of freedom and liberty. No amount of baseless propaganda can mislead the international community about the genesis of the Afghan national resistance.

The allegations of interference on the part of Pakistan are belied by the fact that, since its inception 35 years ago, Pakistan has consistently followed a policy of strict non-interference and non-intervention in the affairs of its neighbours. Regardless of the ideological orientation of the previous Governments in Kabul, including the former régimes of President Taraki and President Hafizullah Amin, Pakistan extended its hand of friendship to Afghanistan, consistent with its desire to pursue good-neighbourly relations.

It is a fact beyond dispute that because of its geographical proximity Pakistan has not been immune from the consequences of the Afghan national resistance against foreign domination. In the course of the past three years, nearly 3 million Afghan refugees have been forced to abandon their hearths and homes and to seek refuge in Pakistan. We have devoted much of our own resources, along with the valuable contribution from the international community, to alleviate the miserable plight of the refugees, for humanitarian reasons alone. Pakistan would welcome the restoration of normal conditions in Afghanistan which would permit the Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour.

In order to expose the falsehood of the Kabul allegations, the Government of Pakistan has repeatedly declared its readiness to facilitate visits to the Afghan refugee camps by neutral observers. As stated in our letter of 29 December 1981 addressed to Your Excellency (A/37/58-S/14820 and Corr.1), these camps are regularly visited by officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and representatives of many international foreign organizations. No evidence has ever been found to sustain any of the charges contained in the Kabul representative's letters.

Like the rest of the international community, the people and Government of Pakistan are deeply concerned over the unmitigated sufferings of the Afghan refugees and desire that they return to their homes in safety and honour as early as possible. The perverse argument that the Pakistan authorities are obstructing the return of the refugees or exploiting the issue to their own benefit reflects a callous disregard for human suffering and a cynical disposition to distort and misrepresent facts.

The Afghan refugees, who left their homes because of persecution and repression, are free to return to their country whenever they wish to do so.

However, Pakistan cannot be expected to force them to return to Afghanistan against their wishes.

The so-called statements of "amnesty", emanating from Kabul, are well known to the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, as these have been repeatedly broadcast by the Kabul radio and have received adequate coverage in the Pakistan and international news media. Pakistan has proposed that these statements may also be conveyed to the Afghan refugees through an impartial international agency.

Consistent with the resolutions of the General Assembly adopted at its sixth emergency special session in January 1980 as well as at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions, Pakistan has responded in a positive and constructive spirit to the efforts made by Your Excellency in the search for a political settlement. Pakistan has welcomed the visits of your Personal Representative, Mr. Diego Cordovez, to the area and has participated in the indirect discussions organized through Your Excellency's good offices at Geneva in June 1982. You may feel assured of our continued co-operation with your efforts to bring about a political settlement of the crisis in Afghanistan, which has caused so much misery to the people of that country and which threatens to disrupt the peace and security of our region.

I request Your Excellency to circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under items 25, 58, 59 and 90 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. Shah NAWAZ
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
