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Letter dated 29 December 1981 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

In the statement annexed to his letter dated 12 November 1981 addressed to Your Excellency and issued as a document of the General Assembly on 13 November 1981 (A/36/672), entitled "On the EEC proposal on Afghanistan", the representative of the Babrak Karmal régime in Afghanistan made a number of misstatements about Pakistan's position on the Afghanistan problem which necessitate a reply.

In a travesty of facts, the Kabul authorities have made Pakistan responsible for the national resistance movement of the Afghan people which is entirely indigenous in character and which springs from their proud national tradition of opposing all foreign domination.

Pakistan for its part strictly adheres to a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The allegation that Pakistan is allowing its territory to be used as a base of operations by the Afghan Mujahideens or as a conduit for arms is utterly baseless. Such propaganda is aimed only at misleading world opinion about the true nature and dimensions of the resistance of the Afghan people. Afghan refugee camps are regularly visited by officials of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and representatives of many international organizations. No one has ever found any evidence that these camps are being used for any purpose other than providing shelter to the Afghan nationals who have been forced to leave their hearths and homes and seek shelter in Pakistan. In order to expose the falsity of these allegations, the Government of Pakistan has declared its readiness to facilitate visits to the refugee camps by neutral observers. This offer remains open.

It is the internal conflict in Afghanistan which has saddled Pakistan with nearly 2.5 million refugees. The Kabul authorities are now widening this conflict through frequent violation of Pakistan's territory by gunships and armed men. This

cannot but increase tension and threaten regional peace, the entire responsibility for which must be borne by those in power in Afghanistan.

Dedicated as it is to a just political settlement of the Afghanistan crisis, the Government of Pakistan has studied carefully the proposals made by the Kabul authorities. However, they fail to address themselves to the fundamental issues of the continued foreign military presence and the continued resistance by the people of Afghanistan to a foreign imposed régime. Their purpose is solely to secure legitimacy for the authorities in Kabul while conveniently attributing the internal conflict in Afghanistan to extraneous causes. They are, therefore, propagandistic in nature.

The Government of Pakistan has always maintained that the situation in Afghanistan does not admit of a military solution, and has been making unremitting efforts to bring about a political solution based on the principles enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the subject adopted at its sixth emergency special session in January 1980 as well as at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions. These call for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, restoration of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-aligned character of Afghanistan, respect for the right of the Afghan people to determine their own form of government and to choose their economic, political and social system free from outside intervention, subversion, coercion or constraint, and the creation of the necessary conditions which would enable the Afghan refugees to return voluntarily to their homes in safety and honour. These principles have received the endorsement of the Islamic Conference and of the Non-Aligned Movement. Pakistan's stand thus is in harmony with the position unequivocally adopted by the international community. This has, however, been summarily rejected by the Kabul authorities. Pakistan, however, continues to work for the attainment of a just political solution to the problem and towards that end has shown its readiness to consider all proposals which have been seriously made. Pakistan's sincere desire to promote a political solution has been reflected in the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan to the General Assembly on 2 October 1981 ^{1/} to the effect that Pakistan was prepared to set aside procedural problems and engage in an exchange of views on substantive issues through the Secretary-General or his representative, and at the same time prepare the ground for trilateral talks between the representatives of the Governments of Pakistan and Iran and those of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, as soon as circumstances permit. If the Kabul authorities are genuinely interested in a solution, they would be well advised to eschew propagandistic statements and come to grips with the fundamental issues which govern the Afghan problem.

I request Your Excellency to circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalid MAHMOOD
Acting Permanent Representative

^{1/} See A/36/PV.23, p. 63.