

**Security Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/542
5 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION
IN TAJIKISTAN

1. In my report to the Security Council dated 4 April 1994 (S/1994/379), I informed the members of the Council about the situation in Tajikistan and the efforts of Ambassador R. Piriz-Ballon, my Special Envoy for Tajikistan, to initiate a political dialogue between the Tajik parties. The present report contains an account of subsequent developments.

I. MOSCOW ROUND OF INTER-TAJIK TALKS

2. The first round of inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation, under United Nations auspices, took place in Moscow from 5 to 19 April 1994 with the participation of observers from Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan. At the request of the parties concerned, my Special Envoy chaired the talks and made his good offices available during the negotiations.

3. The delegation of the Tajik Government was led by Mr. S. Zukhurov, Minister of Labour and Employment. Mr. O. Latifi, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the Democratic Forces of Tajikistan in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, was acting head of the delegation of the opposition. Both delegations had proper credentials from the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan and the leadership of the Tajik opposition respectively, and both had plenipotentiary powers.

4. During these talks, the two parties were able to work out a comprehensive agenda for the duration of inter-Tajik negotiations, including the next rounds. It includes three clusters of issues related to the achievement of national reconciliation:

- (a) Measures aimed at a political settlement in Tajikistan;
- (b) Solution of the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons;
- (c) Fundamental institutional issues and consolidation of the statehood of Tajikistan.

5. All three clusters were discussed by the Tajik parties during the Moscow round of talks. In discussing measures related to a political settlement, the two delegations recognized the need to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and, responding to a proposal by my Special Envoy, adopted a joint statement by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and the participants in the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation, which contained an appeal to the Government of Tajikistan and to the Tajik opposition forces "to refrain from any act that could complicate the process of ... negotiations" (see annex I). Both Tajik parties expressed similar concerns regarding the critical economic situation in the country and the widespread instability, violence and proliferation of arms there. However, the proposals that they advanced concerning the modalities of a cessation of hostilities, the disbanding and disarming of irregular military formations and confidence-building measures were far apart.

6. During discussion of the second cluster of issues, relating to refugees and internally displaced persons, both Tajik delegations expressed their serious concern over the grave situation of their compatriots who had found refuge in Afghanistan and CIS and other countries. Both sides put forward some similar ideas and proposals for improving their situation and in due course solving the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons and agreed to sign a protocol on the establishment of a joint commission on problems relating to refugees and displaced persons from Tajikistan (see annex II). However, there were serious differences between them as to priorities in dealing with this issue. The government delegation stressed the need for the early repatriation of refugees, while the opposition gave priority to the need to provide them with immediate humanitarian assistance and legal protection, arguing that repatriation should be considered only after the creation of proper conditions in Tajikistan. Despite these differences, the creation of the Joint Commission was an important step forward.

7. The widest gap between the two sides emerged during the debate on the third cluster of the agenda related to fundamental institutional issues and the consolidation of the statehood of Tajikistan. The delegations accordingly agreed that in future they would consider all three clusters of issues as a single package and would negotiate compromise solutions based on that approach.

8. It is important and encouraging that, during this first round of talks, both Tajik parties reaffirmed their commitment to political dialogue as the only means of achieving national reconciliation and included this principle in their joint communiqué (see annex III). In this connection and in accordance with their previous agreement to rotate the venue of the talks, the parties agreed to ask my Special Envoy to hold consultations to determine the venues and dates for the second and third rounds of talks.

9. During the Moscow round, at the initiative of some non-governmental organizations, the Tajik parties also signed a joint declaration on the problem of the Tiger Gorge Wildlife Preserve (see annex IV). While the issue is not directly related to the political agenda of the inter-Tajik talks, the signing of the joint declaration was an important example of the joint concern of the two Tajik parties over the future of their motherland and a useful step in building mutual confidence.

/...

II. THE SITUATION IN TAJIKISTAN

10. Despite these encouraging results, the situation in Tajikistan and on its borders with Afghanistan remains unstable. Armed opposition groups have been making almost daily attempts at infiltration. The border between the autonomous region of Gorny-Badakhshan and the Afghan province of Badakhshan, where there have been a number of cross-border armed clashes between opposition groups and government forces, has been particularly tense during the last few weeks. In addition, the deep economic crisis has a negative impact on the attempts of the Government to achieve political stability in the country, especially in the southern districts of Tajikistan, which were directly affected by the civil war. The above factors, together with instability and fighting in neighbouring Afghanistan, prevent effective and speedy repatriation of the Tajik refugees who are currently residing in northern Afghan provinces and CIS and other countries.

III. OBSERVATIONS

11. The first round of the inter-Tajik talks in Moscow was encouraging and met my expectations. The agreement reached on the comprehensive agenda and the signing of a number of documents constituted the first step towards building confidence between the Tajik parties. The regional and other countries attending the talks as observers provided valuable help in organizing and holding this first round. It will be important to capitalize on the momentum achieved in Moscow and to make political dialogue irreversible.

12. My Special Envoy is currently involved in the preparatory work for the second round of talks. In this connection, I appeal to the Tajik parties to demonstrate restraint and to refrain from any action that could obstruct the process of negotiations and the reconciliation of the Tajik nation.

/...

Annex I

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General
and the participants in the inter-Tajik talks on national
reconciliation dated 11 April 1994

In the interests of achieving progress in the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation and in view of the possibility of armed clashes and other hostile incidents that could complicate the negotiating process, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the participants in the talks appeal to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and to the Tajik opposition forces to refrain from any act that could complicate the process of the negotiations that have been initiated.

/...

Annex II

[Original: Russian]

Protocol on the establishment of a joint commission on
problems relating to refugees and displaced persons
from Tajikistan signed on 19 April 1994

The participants in the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation under United Nations auspices have agreed as follows:

1. A joint commission on problems relating to refugees and displaced persons from Tajikistan (hereinafter called "the Joint Commission") shall be established, on the basis of parity, with effect from 19 April 1994. The Joint Commission shall be composed, on the one hand, of representatives of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and, on the other, of representatives of the opposition, including the "Umed" ("Nadezhda") Fund.

2. The Joint Commission shall work within the framework of the negotiating process and coordinate its activities with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the migration services and the competent local organs of power of States that have refugees and displaced persons from Tajikistan in their territory. If necessary, the Joint Commission may establish working groups of experts.

3. The participants in the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation appeal to the United Nations to provide financial assistance to the Joint Commission.

Annex III

[Original: Russian]

Joint communiqué on the results of the first round of
the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation dated
19 April 1994

The first round of the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of observers from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan, took place in Moscow from 5 to 19 April 1994. The delegation of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan was headed by Mr. S. Zukhurov, Minister of Labour and Employment and Mr. O. Latifi, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the Democratic Forces of Tajikistan in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, acted as head of the delegation of the Tajik opposition. During the talks, Mr. Piriz-Ballon, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, served as a mediator.

The talks took place in a businesslike and open manner and in an atmosphere of good will. Both sides demonstrated a sincere concern to resolve the complex set of political, military, humanitarian and socio-economic problems arising from the political confrontation and civil war in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The participants in the talks drew up and adopted a comprehensive agenda for the period of the whole negotiating process, comprising three main sets of problems relating to the achievement of national reconciliation:

- (a) Measures aimed at a political settlement of the situation in Tajikistan;
- (b) A solution to the problem of refugees and displaced persons;
- (c) Fundamental questions relating to the constitutional structure and the consolidation of the statehood of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The parties agreed to consider all three sets of problems together and they set out in working papers their positions on all the items included in the agenda.

Recognizing the need to create an atmosphere of mutual trust, the parties and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the outset of the inter-Tajik talks, agreed upon and signed a joint statement calling upon "the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition forces to refrain from any act that could complicate the process of the negotiations that have been initiated".

The parties signed a Protocol establishing a joint commission on problems relating to refugees and displaced persons from Tajikistan. The Protocol was signed on the understanding that the Commission's immediate task would be to resolve the urgent humanitarian problems that exist and to count and register

/...

the refugees. The parties also expressed their appreciation to all those States that had offered assistance in accommodating the refugees and displaced persons from Tajikistan, and to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian organizations for their assistance.

The parties once again reaffirmed their commitment to political dialogue as the only means of achieving national reconciliation. In this connection, in accordance with the previously agreed principle of the rotation of the venue of the talks, the parties agreed to request the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to hold consultations to determine the venue and times for the second and third rounds of the inter-Tajik talks.

The parties expressed deep gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation for the hospitality, assistance and cooperation it had offered in connection with the organization and holding of the first round of talks in Moscow.

The parties also expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his Special Envoy, Mr. R. Piriz-Ballon, and to the representatives of the States that had attended the talks as observers for their help and cooperation in connection with the organization and holding of the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation.

Annex IV

[Original: Russian]

Joint declaration by the participants in the inter-Tajik
talks on the problem of the Tiger Gorge (Tigrovaya Balka)
Wildlife Preserve

The Tiger Gorge (Tigrovaya Balka) Wildlife Preserve is a unique small corner of unspoiled nature, without equal in the world. It is the last relic of the northern type of Indian jungle in the territory of central Asia. Within its limits, the last natural population of the Bukhara deer is preserved and a surviving species of sturgeon - the Amu Darya pseudo-shovel-nosed sturgeon - still lives in the waters of the Vakhsh river. Dozens of species of animals and plants that can be found in the Preserve are included in the "Red databook": the grey monitor lizard and the Central Asian cobra, the Saker falcon and the Houbara bustard, the Central Asian otter and the Near Asian leopard.

Recognizing the lasting value of Tiger Gorge not only to the Tajik people but to the whole of mankind, we urge that all possible measures be taken to preserve its territory and flora and fauna. The Preserve must be kept for future generations, despite any political, economic and social difficulties.

The participants in the inter-Tajik talks appeal to the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to include the Tiger Gorge (Tigrovaya Balka) Wildlife Preserve in the World Heritage List.
