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SECURITY COUNCIL

Fortieth year

Letter dated 8 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative  
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you some additional information on some aspects of the policy of the Pakistani authorities vis-à-vis Afghan fugitives living in that country.

I have further the honour to request you to arrange for the circulation of this information as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 72, 73, 131, 132 and 137 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. Farid ZARIF  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Additional Information on Some Aspects of the  
Policy of Pakistani Authorities vis-a-vis Afghan  
Fugitives living in that country

1. During the past seven years the military Government of Pakistan has constantly utilized, for political, economic and military purposes, the question of Afghans residing in that country. The Pakistani authorities, hand in hand with the ring-leaders of the Afghan counter-revolution residing in that country are fanning this question through various kinds of interferences and interventions and hostile propaganda. Utilizing this question, they are making every effort to receive so-called humanitarian assistance in the form of weapons, equipment and money from reactionary and imperialist countries as well as from certain international organizations.
2. Towards this end, the Pakistani authorities are grossly inflating the number of fugitives through different ways and means. Statistics issued by western sources and the UNHCR are compiled on the basis of information provided by the Pakistani authorities. It is claimed that special camps have been established in the "Northwest" and Baluchistan provinces for these fugitives. In fact, however, except in a limited number of show-case camps established for propaganda purposes, the Afghan fugitives are living in tents and caves which lack the minimum conditions for livelihood. In these concentration camps, food and potable water are lacking and contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemic diseases are rampant. Food rations and medicine "granted" by the West do not reach those that deserve them and are sold under high prices in the Pakistani market. Death rate among the fugitives, particularly among children, is very high, as is the rate of crime.
3. Pakistani authorities and counter-revolutionary groups are using the concentration camps as centres for recruiting bandits. Through intimidation, sometimes at gun point, bribery and even through taking women and children of Afghan families as hostages, they force the men living in the camps to join one or other of the counter-revolutionary bands. They are then trained and armed to be infiltrated inside Afghanistan for murder and sabotage. Those who refuse are either sent to the Pakistani prisons and those managed by the counter-revolution or they are denied the rations necessary for their mere survival.
4. Dissatisfaction with such a situation is growing among the fugitives. Similarly as a result of the crushing blows inflicted inside Afghanistan to the counter-revolutionary bands dispatched from Pakistan and because of the ever-increasing realization among the fugitives to the effect that the fratricidal war is senseless, a great number of fugitives are refraining from participation in this war.

Recently, dissatisfaction, disillusion, and even rebellion due to the miserable living conditions of the Afghan fugitive have been on the increase. This has been particularly evident in Jamrood, Balbira, Naser Khan, Babo, Manev, Manda, Alozav and other camps. The wish to return to their homeland is becoming more explicit. In addition to this, numerous jirgahs (assemblies) held by tribes living in Kaiber Agency, Momand and Kurram have demanded the expulsion of Afghan counter-revolutionaries and the closure of their camps which have turned into a source of crime and various epidemic diseases.

5. The Pakistani authorities are still continuing their policy of creating obstacles on the return of Afghans residing in that country. Units of Pakistani army and militia have been deployed along the frontier for this purpose. For instance, these units prevented, by resorting to arms, the return of 600 families in June this year. In July and August numerous arrests were made in Bano, Kurram, Gairay, Baqi Khail, Katoran and other camps in the "Northwest" province where more than fifty per cent of the fugitives had explicitly expressed during meetings their wish to return to their homeland. However, in addition to other forms of intimidation and coercion, the food ration of those who wanted to return home were cut.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan cannot but be gravely concerned for the misery of these compatriots who are forcefully kept in Pakistan. Therefore, our people, while strongly protesting against such a situation, condemn the efforts of Islamabad authorities towards creating obstacles on the return of Afghans residing in that country which is in gross violation of all the accepted norms of international law.

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