

17. The situation in Afghanistan

Decision of 24 January 1994 (3330th meeting): statement by the President of the Security Council

At its 3330th meeting, on 24 January 1994, the Security Council included the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan" in its agenda. After the adoption of the agenda, the Council invited the representative of Afghanistan, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President (Czech Republic) stated that, following consultations among members of the Council, he had been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council: ¹

"The Security Council deplores the continuing large-scale fighting in Afghanistan, which is creating mass suffering among the civilian population and is jeopardizing efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need.

"The Council notes with concern that the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan disrupts efforts to establish a political process that would lead to a broad-based government, is producing another wave of refugees and displaced persons and detracts from efforts to foster regional stability.

"The Council notes General Assembly resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to dispatch as soon as possible a United Nations special mission to Afghanistan to canvass a broad spectrum of Afghanistan's leaders to solicit their views on how the United Nations can best assist Afghanistan in facilitating national rapprochement and reconstruction. The Council welcomes the reaffirmation of support for such a mission issued on 12 January 1994 by the Secretary-General and his intention to dispatch this mission.

"The Council calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Afghanistan and the beginning of a process to create a broad-based government acceptable to the Afghan people.

"The Council appreciates the humanitarian assistance that the international community and the countries neighbouring Afghanistan have been providing to the most recent wave of refugees as well as to displaced persons within Afghanistan and encourages them to increase their assistance even further.

¹ S/PRST/1994/4.

"The Council commends the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Personal Representative and the United Nations agencies active in Afghanistan to alleviate the suffering caused by the conflict in that country. The Council attaches great importance to the continuation of their work.

"The Council also commends the efforts of the General Assembly, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and a number of concerned States to promote peace in Afghanistan through a political dialogue among the Afghan parties."

Decision of 23 March 1994 (3353rd meeting): statement by the President of the Security Council

At its 3353rd meeting, on 23 March 1994, the Security Council resumed consideration of the item. After the adoption of the agenda, the Council invited the representative of Afghanistan, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President (France) drew the attention of the members of the Council to a letter² dated 7 February 1994 from the representative of Greece addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of a communiqué of the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the situation in Afghanistan issued on the same date, a letter³ dated 9 February 1994, from the representatives of the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan, addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of a joint Russian-Uzbek statement of 8 February 1994 on Afghanistan, and a letter⁴ dated 14 March 1994, from the representative of Pakistan, addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of a statement adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference Group in New York, on 16 February 1994, concerning the situation in Afghanistan.

At the same meeting, the President stated that, following consultations among members of the Council, he had been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council⁵:

2 S/1994/157

3 S/1994/156

4 S/1994/318

5 S/PRST/1994/12.

"The Security Council deeply regrets that the food blockade imposed on Kabul continues. This situation is increasing the hardships of the population in all sectors of the capital, since the humanitarian aid that has so far been provided has not alleviated substantially the plight of hundreds of thousands of the city's starving inhabitants.

"The Council continues to believe that the seriousness of the humanitarian situation is entirely due to the ongoing fighting in Afghanistan, and calls for its immediate cessation. This fighting has been the cause of the suffering of the Afghan population and of repeated interruptions in the delivery of humanitarian aid in that country.

"The Council therefore calls for an immediate end to the obstacles to the passage of humanitarian aid in order to ensure that future supplies are distributed without hindrance to the whole of the population. In this regard, the Council expresses its appreciation to the countries in the region for facilitating efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to Kabul and other provinces of the country. Furthermore, the Council calls upon the international community to extend urgent humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in order to alleviate the suffering of the Afghan people.

"The Council stresses the importance that it attaches to full compliance with international humanitarian law in all its aspects and recalls that those who violate international humanitarian law bear individual responsibility.

"The Council welcomes the Secretary-General's appointment of a special mission to Afghanistan, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993. This mission will canvass a broad spectrum of Afghanistan's leaders to solicit their views on how the United Nations can best assist Afghanistan in facilitating national rapprochement and reconstruction.

"The Council supports this mission, which is due to leave Geneva soon, and urges all Afghans to assist it in carrying out its mandate and thus promote a cessation of hostilities, the resumption of humanitarian aid and the restoration of peace in Afghanistan."

Decision of 11 August 1994 (3415th meeting): statement by the President of the Security Council

In a note⁶ dated 1 July 1994, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council a progress report of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA), pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of General Assembly resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993. UNSMA reported that it had begun its work in Afghanistan on 27 March 1994, travelling in Afghanistan and Pakistan from 27 March to 29 April 1994, and subsequently visiting a number of other

⁶ S/1994/766

countries. While travelling in Afghanistan, the mission had found that, although most of the country was at peace, the effect of the war could be felt throughout the country, spreading instability to various regions. The fighting had displaced hundreds of thousands of people, killed and wounded thousands more and obstructed United Nations reconstruction and humanitarian efforts. The economic infrastructure had been almost completely destroyed. Moreover, the fighting had undermined the very national institutions necessary to bring peace and to rebuild the country. The mission felt that it was time for the United Nations and the international community to assist the Afghans more actively in bringing peace to their country. That was also the wish of the Afghans who saw the United Nations as the last and only way out. A successful, comprehensive effort would have to link international reconstruction assistance to a national political dialogue on acceptable transitional arrangements. It would also have to pursue concerted and coordinated efforts to encourage regional disengagement. In that regard, the mission recommended the following in the first stage of its renewed engagement: the United Nations should re-establish its physical political presence in Kabul or Jalalabad and other specialized agencies and programmes as well as Governments should be encouraged to do the same; a working group of countries interested in peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan should be established to assist United Nations efforts and prepare for an international conference on Afghanistan; and the Organization should begin in-depth consultations with the various Afghan leaders on the establishment of a viable transitional authority and a country-wide cease-fire, which were essential preconditions for free and fair elections. Indigenous decision-making structures, such as a grand assembly or council, might be explored to facilitate such elections which would be the best way to ensure that all segments of Afghan society would participate in determining the future of the country.

At its 3415th meeting, on 11 August 1994, the Security Council included the note by the Secretary-General in its agenda and resumed consideration of the item.

At the same meeting, the President (Russian Federation) drew the attention of the members of the Council to a letter⁷ dated 8 August 1994 from the representative of Afghanistan, addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of a resolution adopted by an extraordinary meeting of a Supreme Islamic Council convened at Herat, Afghanistan, on 25 July

⁷ S/1994/943

1994. The resolution provided, *inter alia*, for the convening of a Grand National Assembly (Loya Jirga) on 23 October 1994 to ratify a constitution and to elect the political leadership of the country, as well as to resolve the country's destiny-making matters. It also urged the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to act diligently towards putting an end to foreign interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and contributing with all friendly countries to its reconstruction without imposing any condition.

The President then stated that, following consultations among members of the Security Council, he had been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:⁸

"The Security Council notes with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993, headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri, and welcomes his progress report⁹ of 1 July 1994 in particular the recommendations contained in paragraph 40 of the report.

"The Council expresses its appreciation for the cooperation the Afghan people and leaders provided to the Special Mission. It calls upon all Afghans to continue to work with the Special Mission as it seeks to help Afghans begin a peaceful political process to end their differences.

"The Council deplores the continuing civil war in Afghanistan which has brought death and destruction to the people of Afghanistan and has created a threat to the stability and security of other countries in the region. The Council calls upon all parties to end hostilities and embark upon the process of political reconciliation, reconstruction and development.

"The Council calls upon all States to take the necessary steps to promote peace in Afghanistan, to stop the flow of weapons to the parties, and to put an end to this destructive conflict. It also urges the international community to assist Afghans in rebuilding their shattered country as conditions permit.

"The Council commends the efforts of the United Nations humanitarian agencies in Afghanistan and stresses the need for all States to continue contributing to those efforts.

"The Council reaffirms its readiness to assist the Afghan people in their efforts to return peace and normalcy to their country and encourages the countries neighbouring Afghanistan to continue their efforts to the same end.

"The Council reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan."

⁸ S/PRST/1994/43

⁹ S/1994/766

Decision of 30 November 1994 (3474th meeting): statement by the President of the Security Council

At its 3474th meeting on 30 November 1994, the Security Council resumed consideration of the item. After the adoption of the agenda, the President (United States) drew the attention of the members of the Council to a letter¹⁰ dated 9 November 1994 from the representative of Afghanistan, addressed to the President of the Security Council. The letter contained, in its annex, Afghanistan's views with regard to the peace process in the country, in particular the composition, duties and competence of the Convening Commission of the Supreme Islamic Assembly (Loya Jirga) and the qualifications of its members.

At the same meeting, the President stated that, following consultations among members of the Council, he had been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council¹¹:

"The Security Council notes with appreciation the progress made by the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, led by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri, and the report of the Secretary-General of 22 November 1994 to the General Assembly¹².

"The Council fully supports the Special Mission's broad-based consultations with Afghan representatives and its proposals to bring about an end to the factional fighting, institute a process of political reconciliation and begin the tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

"The Council welcomes the acceptance by the warring parties and other Afghan representatives of a step-by-step process of national reconciliation through the establishment of a fully representative and broad-based Authoritative Council, which would: (a) negotiate and oversee a cease-fire, (b) establish a national security force to collect and safeguard heavy weapons and provide for security throughout the country, and (c) form a transitional government to lay the groundwork for a democratically chosen government, possibly utilizing traditional decision-making structures such as a 'Grand Assembly'.

10 S/1994/1277

11 S/PRST/1994/77.

12 A/49/688. This report was submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993 by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to (a) dispatch to Afghanistan a United Nations special mission to canvass a broad spectrum of the leaders of Afghanistan to seek their views on United Nations assistance for national rapprochement and reconstruction of Afghanistan; (b) develop the Action Plan for Immediate Rehabilitation prepared by UNDP; (c) initiate a plan for mobilizing financial, technical and material assistance. It described the activities of the United Nations in Afghanistan since UNSMA's first progress report of 1 July 1994.

"The Council notes with grave concern, however, the continuation of hostilities among the warring parties in Afghanistan, involving the continued suffering, death and destitution of innocent citizens of the country, and calls for an immediate halt to these pointless and destructive attacks.

"The Council calls upon all States to take the necessary steps to promote peace in Afghanistan; to prevent the continued flow of weapons, ammunition and military supplies to the warring parties in Afghanistan; and to put an end to this destructive conflict.

"Recognizing that the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of war-torn Afghanistan will be dependent in large part upon the progress made towards the establishment of a reliable cease-fire and the development of a viable political process, the Security Council urges all States to support the peacemaking proposals of the special mission and to recognize its primary role in the peacemaking process.

"The Security Council calls upon all States to respect Afghanistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, strictly refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and respect the right of the Afghan people to determine their own destiny, and reaffirms its readiness to assist the Afghan people in their desire to achieve peace and tranquillity in their country."