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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 75 OF 10 JANUARY

MIPT: AFGHANISTAN: GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMON STATEMENT (TO BE DELIVERED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOMORROW MORNING) AS AGREED AT A MEETING OF 'EXPERTS' OF THE NINE TODAY:

'MR. PRESIDENT,

AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTRY WHICH CURRENTLY EXERCISES THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY I AM TAKING THE FLOOR ON BEHALF OF ITS NINE MEMBER STATES.

1. THE EVENTS WHICH LED TO THIS EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ARE WELL KNOWN AND HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVELY COMMENTED IN THE DEBATE WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL FROM 5 TO 7 JANUARY 1980 AT THE REQUEST OF 53 MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANISATION BELONGING TO PRACTICALLY ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD.

2. THE NINE REGRET THAT A DRAFT RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND CALLING, IN THE LIGHT OF THOSE PRINCIPLES, FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN WAS VETOED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL BY THE DELEGATION OF THE SOVIET UNION. THEY NOTE HOWEVER THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS SUPPORTED BY 13 MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL INCLUDING ALL THOSE BELONGING TO THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. THEY ALSO NOTE THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE LENGTHY DEBATE WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE COUNCIL, ON THE SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN THE JUSTIFICATIONS GIVEN FOR IT WERE REJECTED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF DELEGATIONS.

3. THE DEBATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS THUS SHOWN THE DEGREE OF CONCERN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR THE EVENTS WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE IN AFGHANISTAN AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE REGION AND IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE. THE NINE FULLY

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SHARE THIS CONCERN. ALL THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE SHOWS THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN AND REPLACE IT WITH A REGIME MORE RESPONSIVE TO SOVIET INTERESTS. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT INTERNAL TENSIONS HAVE EXISTED IN AFGHANISTAN FOR SOME TIME AND THAT THESE ARISE FROM THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE TO LIVE AND BE RULED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS. ACCORDINGLY OUR GOVERNMENTS CANNOT ACCEPT THAT THIS MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS PROMPTED BY EXTERNAL ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST AFGHANISTAN NOR THAT IT WAS THEREFORE BASED ON THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE, INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE, ENSHRINED IN ART. 51 OF THE U.N. CHARTER.

4. THE NINE ARE CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOVIET TROOPS FROM THE TERRITORY OF AFGHANISTAN. THEY CALL FOR FULL RESPECT OF THE SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THAT COUNTRY. THEY REAFFIRM THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND DECIDE THEIR OWN DESTINY FREE FROM EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE. THEY ARE ALSO DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SUFFERING OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE, THE PLIGHT OF THE REFUGEES AND THE INCREASING BURDEN THEY PLACE ON NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

5. THE NINE ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE URGENT FULFILMENT OF THESE CONDITIONS WHICH ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST WHICH IS THE BASIS OF THE POLICY OF DETENTE AND WHICH HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY SHAKEN BY THE MILITARY INTERVENTION OF THE USSR IN AFGHANISTAN. OUR COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ENDEAVOURING TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THERE HAS BEEN EVIDENT PROGRESS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL SIDES AND THE SITUATION OF EUROPE AS A WHOLE. WE SEE THAT PROGRESS AS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SAFEGUARDING OF WORLD PEACE. HOWEVER, DETENTE IS INDIVISIBLE AND HAS A GLOBAL DIMENSION WHICH REQUIRES PARTICULAR RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH BEAR A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. WE THEREFORE URGE THE SOVIET UNION, AS ONE OF THOSE COUNTRIES TO ABIDE BY THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND PROMPTLY PUT AN END TO ITS MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN. WE RECALL IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS PRODUCED MANY INITIATIVES IN THE U/N. PURPORTING TO UNDERLINE ITS ATTACHMENT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.



6. THE NINE HOPE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL CONCLUDE THIS DEBATE BY SUPPORTING SUCH A CALL BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY. WHAT IN FACT IS AT STAKE HERE IS NOT ONLY THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFGHANISTAN BUT THE VERY PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS ATTEMPTED FOR YEARS TO BUILD A SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BASED ON THE EQUALITY OF ALL STATES, LARGE AND SMALL, AND THE RESPECT OF THE RULE OF LAW. SHOULD POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY PREVAIL AND THE ARMED INVASION OF A SMALL COUNTRY BY A GREAT POWER BE CONDONED OR TOLERATED, THERE WOULD BE A GREAT RISK THAT THE RULE OF LAW WOULD BE PROGRESSIVELY ERODED AND REPLACED BY THE RULE OF FORCE."

PARSONS

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