

precepts of the Charter, the clamour of nation-states, the cries of the people of Afghanistan, and get out of that country.

The second test, however, is for the rest of us. If we can do no more in this arena than to keep the issue alive, to keep the pressure on and to keep the Soviet Union aware of the monumental ignominy of its position until one day that position is changed, then at least let us continue to do it overwhelmingly.

There are few issues in this world which unite virtually all of us. South Africa is one of them; Afghanistan should be another. Even those in nominal ideological alliance with the Soviet Union should on Afghanistan break ranks. It probably will not happen, but it should happen.

We're talking about a relatively small country, a terribly vulnerable country, a country which, given any chance, would return to the solidarity of the non-aligned. It is also a country in agony... in agony for no reason, conceivable or defensible, that has ever been plausibly advanced in this Assembly.

During the course of our intervention last year, I said on behalf of Canada that if we were back again, same time, this year, it is because the Soviet Union continues to believe that nihilism is preferable to negotiation; that butchery is preferable to bargaining.

Harsh words, I concede. But we're back again.

Thank you, Mr. President.