

internally. The government is at war with its own people. Indeed, despite the cruel and inhuman treatment which Russia inflicts on captured defectors and prisoners of war, there is increasing evidence, recently set out in a series of articles in the *New York Times*, of numbers of successful defections from the Soviet army to the ranks of the *mujahideen*. That's not surprising. Some Russian soldiers are bound to rebel against so perfidious a war; some will inevitably be attracted to the Afghan cause.

The Soviet Union would wish to draw the curtains of silence over Afghanistan. They wish they could wage their vengeful war in stealth and in private. They wish the war were never reported in the press. Even now, they attempt to staunch the flows of refugees so that word of military atrocities never reaches the outside world. They wish these debates never occurred. They wish the resolutions were never passed.

But it's up to this General Assembly, to keep the Afghan cause alive, and to make clear, repeatedly, the condemnation of the world. We must somehow persuade the Soviet Union that negotiation is the only route to world approval. The United States has suggested a regional initiative; it might well be worth pursuing. Anything is worth pursuing that brings the prospect of a settlement within the stated goals of this resolution.

When he spoke this morning, the Permanent Representative of the USSR made much of the benefactions bestowed upon the people of Afghanistan by Karmal of Kabul. "The campaign against illiteracy is being waged with success," he said. "After the victory of the revolution," he added, "over one million Afghans have learned to read and write."

After the victory of the revolution, over one million other Afghans have been slaughtered. In the choice between literacy and life, they would, as all the rest of us, have chosen life. But why must they make the choice? Why can they not have both? That is the question the Soviet Union refuses to answer.

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