

My delegation wholeheartedly supports a firm judgment by this Assembly against what has happened in Afghanistan. While we recognize that resolutions of this Assembly have no mandatory force, we submit that a resolution to this effect will carry the judgment of the large majority of the nations of the world and that, as such, its political and moral value cannot be casually dismissed and ignored. If the many past initiatives of the U.S.S.R. on non-intervention and non-use of force are not to be emptied of their content, now is the time for that country to live up to its professed beliefs. Only in total respect of one another's sovereignty and independence will we be able to continue striving for international co-operation and understanding.