

right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defense shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security."

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Lester B. Pearson, today made the following statement in the House of Commons:

The Canadian Government was informed on October 27 by the Soviet Ambassador, sitting on the Security Council, that the Soviet Union had decided to send a limited military contingent to Afghanistan to assist the Afghan Government in its fight against the forces of the Taliban. The Canadian Government is deeply concerned by the Soviet Union's decision to send a military contingent to Afghanistan. It is not clear from the statement that Afghanistan has been the object of an armed attack. The situation in Afghanistan is the result of a civil war which has been going on since the overthrow of the Afghan monarchy in 1973. The situation is a result of a regime which seized power by means of a coup d'état in April 1978 and whose course of power has been marked by increasing internal dissent. The situation in Afghanistan is a result of a civil war and the presence of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan is a result of a situation of civil conflict and the presence of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

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