



communiqué

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AFGHANISTAN DAY

Statement by
The Secretary of State for External Affairs

The Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, issued the following statement today to mark the observance of Afghanistan Day, this Sunday, March 21.

The people of Afghanistan have traditionally celebrated the beginning of a new year on March 21. As that date approaches, the Government of Canada wishes to restate its deep concern about the situation in Afghanistan and the tragic conditions that have been brought about there by the actions of the Soviet Union. Many legislative bodies in the Free World, including the European Parliament and the American Congress, have passed resolutions designating March 21 as Afghanistan Day in their countries.

We have now entered the third year since the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, an invasion condemned by the Government of Canada as a breach of the principles of the United Nations Charter and a violation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of a UN member.

The Soviet Union has consistently refused to respond to international efforts directed at achieving a just solution to the situation in Afghanistan. Not only have the three resolutions passed by an overwhelming majority at the United Nations General Assembly been ignored, but all other initiatives aimed at achieving a just settlement have been rejected.