

You have in the...reports, the microcosm of a nation massacred and mutilated. Over one million dead. An equal or greater number physically scarred by the battle for life. Between one and two million uprooted, ravaged and homeless in their own land. Four to five million [out of a total population of 16 million] as wretched refugees in Pakistan and Iran. (Speech to the United States General Assembly, November 12, 1985)

This wholesale destruction of a people is being carried out by the Soviet Union and its puppet régime in Kabul for no other reason than crude geopolitical ambition. The Soviet Union has dispatched over 100,000 of its troops with the immediate aim of violent repression and the longer-term objective of reducing Afghanistan to a Soviet colony. As has happened so often in the history of colonialism, the imperial power failed to reckon with the national spirit and independence of the people. Despite the terrible slaughter, the Afghan people have not been subjugated. They are continuing to fight.

In these circumstances, what can the international community do? Appealing to Soviet public opinion cannot work because the Soviet media do not report on the situation in Afghanistan and there is no opportunity for opponents of Soviet policy to voice their opposition within the country. The only existing leverage arises from the adverse effect on the USSR of international public opinion. It is essential that the spotlight be kept on Afghanistan by the news media of the world and by international organizations. Meetings have taken place in Geneva between Soviet representatives and officials of the United Nations, as well as between the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan. We strongly urge the United Nations to continue to its efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan involving, as a *sine qua non*, the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Such a settlement may take years to achieve, although we are confident that the Soviets will come to accept its inevitability. In the meantime the suffering continues. The committee recommends that Canada continue to give high priority to providing humanitarian and medical assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan and that it strongly support the efforts of the International Red Cross and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in particular. In its bilateral relations with the Soviet Union, Canada should take every opportunity to raise the issue of Afghanistan and make clear that Soviet occupation and devastation of that country constitute a serious obstacle to improved relations. In that connection we recommend the continued use of frank and direct language by Canada's representatives in United Nations forums in New York, Geneva and elsewhere.

South Africa

Each case of human rights violation is unique. Afghanistan is a case of massive violations arising from foreign occupation. South Africa is a case of institutionalized racism that is reflected in every aspect of life—personal, social, political and economic. Whites are citizens, blacks are sub-citizens, at the mercy of white law. Although condemned for 20 years by the international community, apartheid has remained intact.

During the 1980s the black people of South Africa have shown themselves increasingly prepared to pay any price to claim their human rights. The white government of South Africa, faced with this growing militancy, has replied with a combination of harsh repression and mild reform. The price in blood and suffering has been high: some 1,500 people have been killed in the past 18 months, and countless