

Conclusions of the Luxembourg European Council: excerpt on Afghanistan (29 and 30 June 1981)

Caption: On 29 and 30 June 1981, the Luxembourg European Council publishes an official statement on the political and military situation in Afghanistan.

Source: Bulletin of the European Communities. June 1981, No 6. Luxembourg: Office for official publications of the European Communities. "Declaration on Afghanistan", p. 9.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/conclusions_of_the_luxembourg_european_council_excerpt_on_afghanistan_29_and_30_june_1981-en-4d6c2839-4e70-4d6f-a58a-04cdba910624.html

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Luxembourg European Council (29 and 30 June 1981) Conclusions of the Presidency

[...]

Declaration on Afghanistan

The European Council notes with deep concern that the situation in Afghanistan remains an important cause of international tension, that Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan and that the sufferings of the Afghan people continue to increase.

The European Council recalls its earlier statements, notably those issued at Venice on 13 June 1980 and Maastricht on 24 March 1981, which stressed the urgent need to bring about a solution which would enable Afghanistan to return to its traditional independent and non-aligned status free from external interference and with the Afghan people having the full capacity to exercise their right to self-determination. In keeping with the Resolutions voted by the United Nations, the Islamic Conference and the New Delhi Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, the European Council has made it clear on several occasions that it will support any initiative which could lead to the desired result.

The European Council considers that the time has come for a fresh attempt to open the way to a political solution to the problem of Afghanistan. They therefore propose that an international conference should be convened as soon as possible, for example in October or November 1981, and that the Conference should consist of two stages, each stage being an integral part of the conference.

The purpose of Stage One would be to work out international arrangements designed to bring about the cessation of external intervention and the establishment of safeguards to prevent such intervention in the future and thus to create conditions in which Afghanistan's independence and non-alignment can be assured.

The European Council proposes that in due course the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council, Pakistan, Iran and India and the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference, or their representatives, be invited to participate in Stage One of the Conference.

The purpose of Stage Two would be to reach agreement on the implementation of the international arrangements worked out in Stage One and on all other matters designed to assure Afghanistan's future as an independent and non-aligned State.

Stage Two would be attended by the participants in Stage One together with representatives of the Afghan people.

The Member States of the European Community will be ready at a later stage to make further proposals on the detailed arrangements for the proposed Conference.

The European Council firmly believes that the situation in Afghanistan continues to demand the attention of the international community. It is convinced that this proposal offers a constructive way forward and therefore calls on the international community to support it fully with the aim of reducing international tension and ending human suffering in Afghanistan.

[...]