

# European Community

## News Release

### AFGHANISTAN

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Statement of 16 March, 1987,  
of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs  
of the Twelve Member States of the European Community

In the wake of the latest round of indirect talks in Geneva on the question of Afghanistan, the twelve Member States of the European Community reiterate their support for the UN Secretary General's efforts. They express the strong hope that, during the next round of talks, these negotiations will result in a satisfactory agreement involving the rapid and total withdrawal of Soviet troops on the basis of an irrevocable timetable. Such a withdrawal represents, in the Twelve's view, the essential precondition if this long conflict is to end and if the Afghan people are to be able to exercise freely their right to self-determination.

The Twelve condemn all the more strongly the armed attacks launched from Afghanistan on 26 and 27 February, deliberately directed against civilian targets in Pakistan. These caused numerous innocent casualties amongst the Pakistani population and Afghan refugees, which have both suffered so much from this conflict. The Twelve consider these actions to be incompatible with the spirit of the negotiations. They pay tribute to the responsible attitude and moderation which the Pakistani Government has displayed in these circumstances.

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