

**Further Comments by H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan
during the open discussion in the United Nations Security Council on 'Threats to
international peace and security'**

4 April 2003

Mr. President,

It was not my intention to intervene again in our discussion, but I believe that the regional problems to which Sir Jeremy Greenstock just referred have intruded and oblige me to respond to my colleague from India.

My friend from India referred to what he called the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. The United Nations recognizes Jammu and Kashmir as disputed territory. The maps of the United Nations clearly indicate the line of demarcation — the ceasefire line — between Indian-occupied Kashmir and Azad Kashmir, which is free Kashmir. The Security Council resolutions on Kashmir, calling for a United Nations-supervised plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination, remain to be implemented.

At this moment in history, when we have seen a war waged for the purpose of securing the implementation of Security Council resolutions, the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the people of Pakistan ask the Security Council to adopt a standard that is uniform and does not discriminate against them, because they have awaited their freedom and self-determination for 50 years under Indian occupation. It is an occupation of several hundred thousand Indian

troops occupying a country the size of Belgium. There is one Indian soldier for every four Kashmiri males. And my colleague from India can speak only about acts of terrorism. It is a pity that he referred to, as he said, 75,000 Indian citizens killed in Kashmir. Those were Kashmiris — more than 80,000 Kashmiris — killed by Indian occupation forces. That is well documented, and my delegation is prepared to circulate those documents for the information of Council members.

In the context of terrorism, the representative of India referred to an incident that occurred a few days ago in Indian-occupied Kashmir in which 24 innocent people were massacred. Pakistan has vigorously condemned that terrorist incident. As usual, India has held one country — to quote my colleague from India — responsible for the situation. We submit that this is a case of the pot calling the kettle black. In such situations, as I said this morning, it is always better to resort to impartial investigations and to impartial inquiry before making allegations against another State, because allegations of that nature can very often lead to the rise of tensions and to threats to international peace and security.

We say that there must be an investigation, because in March 2000, just as President Clinton was visiting India, 35 Sikh villagers were massacred in Kashmir. The New Delhi Government blamed — guess who. But at the time, there was an inquiry conducted by two independent organizations, called Movement Against State Repression and the Punjab Human Rights Organization, and, after a thorough investigation, both of them concluded that it was Indian forces that had carried out the massacre. A separate investigation conducted by an international human rights organization came to the same conclusion.

India seeks to portray the Kashmiri movement as a terrorist movement in order to delegitimize the struggle for freedom and self-determination. That is the central and core reality in Kashmir. Therefore, Pakistan has asked that this latest massacre should be investigated. We have suggested that the investigation could be carried out by non-governmental organizations such as Amnesty International. Today, since my colleague from India has raised this matter in the Security Council, I should like to ask him if he would be prepared to accept an independent

United Nations inquiry into this incident. I hope he will respond positively. If India is convinced that external forces are responsible for such acts of terrorism, let it say yes. Pakistan is prepared for such an investigation. We know that our hands are clean, our conscience is clear and our cause — for the sake of the freedom of Kashmir — is just.

I thank You.