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**SHARP REACTION BY EC FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS MEETING IN
BRUSSELS THIS WEEK TO THE AFGHANISTAN CRISIS**

The Foreign Ministers of the nine countries of the European Community have focused their attention on the Afghan crisis in the light of its dramatic development, the debate in the Security Council and the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The nine ministers have reaffirmed their grave concern with regard to the crisis created by the military intervention of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan which represents a serious violation of the principles of international relations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

They have emphasized that the explanations given by the Soviet Union to justify its intervention in Afghanistan are unacceptable. They take the view that the Soviet intervention constitutes a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of a non-aligned country belonging to the Islamic world and constitutes furthermore a threat to peace, security and stability in the region including the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East and the Arab world.

It is with great concern that the foreign ministers of the nine countries of the European Community have noted that despite the almost universal protest against the Soviet military intervention, the Soviet Union has vetoed a resolution on the Afghan crisis sponsored by non-aligned countries and supported by a large majority of members of the Security Council.

They urge the Soviet Union to act in conformity with the resolution on the Afghan crisis adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations with an overwhelming majority which calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan.

The nine countries of the European Community have devoted continuous effort to the cause of detente and they remain convinced that this process is in the interest of all members of the international community. They are, however, convinced that detente is indivisible and has a global dimension. They therefore urge the Soviet Union in conformity with the standards and principles of the United Nations Charter to allow the Afghan people to determine their own future without foreign interference.

In formulating their position on this important question, the foreign ministers of the member countries of the European Community have also been keenly aware of the suffering borne by the Afghan people as a whole as a result of the crisis, including those Afghans who are being forced to leave their country.

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