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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on a ~~visit~~ by a delegation from the European Parliament
to Pakistan

Rapporteur: Mr N.J. HAAGERUP

PE 78.660/fin.

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On 21 April 1982 a motion for a resolution concerning a visit by a delegation from the European Parliament to Pakistan was tabled by Mr Berkhouwer, Mr Blumenfeld, Mr Beyer de Ryke, Mr Cohen, Mr Ferri, Mr Galland, Mr Haagerup, Mrs van den Heuvel, Mr Jaquet, Mrs Macciocchi, Mr Orlandi, Mr Pelikan, Mr Rieger, Mrs Spaak, Mrs Veil, Mr Wettig, Mrs Dury and Mrs van Hemeldonck (Doc. 1-163/82) pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure.

On 23 April 1982 the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution to the Political Affairs Committee, which considered it at its meeting of 28 to 30 April 1982.

At this meeting the Political Affairs Committee adopted the motion unanimously and appointed Mr Haagerup, its acting chairman, rapporteur.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Haagerup, acting chairman and rapporteur; Lord Bethell, vice-chairman, Mr Antoniozzi, Mr Barbi, Mr Bournias, Mr Cariglia, Mrs Charzat (deputizing for Mr Jaquet), Mr Deschamps, Mr Ephremidis, Mr Fergusson, Mr B. Friedrich, Mr Gawronski (deputizing for Mr Bettiza), Mrs Gredal, Mr Habsburg, Mr Hänsch, Mr von Hassel, Mrs Van den Heuvel, Mr Israël, Mr C. Jackson (deputizing for Lord Douro), Mr Klepsch, Mrs Lenz, Mr Lomas, Mr Penders, Mr Plaskovitis, Mr Prag (deputizing for Sir James Scott-Hopkins), Mr Romualdi, Mr Schall, Mr Schieler, Mr Segrè, Mr J.M. Taylor, Mr Van Miert.

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A

The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on a visit by a delegation from the European Parliament to Pakistan

The European Parliament,

- A. having learnt that the Government of Pakistan is opposed to the fact-finding mission on the situation of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan to be undertaken by a delegation from Parliament on the racist and unacceptable grounds that it takes exception to the name and origins of Gerard Israël, one of the members and the leader of this delegation,
- B. having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr BERKHOUWER and others (Doc. 1-163/82),
- C. having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 1-201/82),
 1. Considers that this attitude is an affront to its autonomy and its dignity, calls into question for the first time in the history of Parliament its role in taking political initiatives and protecting human rights and also constitutes an infringement of the fundamental rights and duties of the Members of Parliament;
 2. Calls on the Commission to review relations between the Community and the Government of Pakistan in the light of this serious event;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation so that they may take appropriate action.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

On 12 February 1981 a motion for a resolution on Afghanistan (Doc. 1-899/80) submitted to the European Parliament by Mr VAN MIERT and others was referred to the Political Affairs Committee. At its meeting of 21 to 23 April 1981 the committee decided to draw up a report on this matter and appointed Mr Gérard ISRAËL rapporteur at its meeting of 13 to 15 May 1981.

At its meeting of 19 and 20 October 1981 the committee decided to seek authorization from the Bureau for Mr ISRAEL to undertake a fact-finding mission to Pakistan in connection with this report.

At its meeting of 2 to 4 December 1981 the Political Affairs Committee again discussed this matter following a request from the Bureau for more details on the purpose of the visit.

The committee then informed the Bureau that Mr ISRAËL was considering a five-day visit to Pakistan to study the problems of refugees in that country, their living conditions in the camps and the effectiveness of international aid, notably that provided by the Community.

The rapporteur also intended to meet leaders of the various Afghan resistance movements to ask them how they proposed to solve the problems of the refugees, in particular by the provision of food aid and adequate sanitary facilities.

The rapporteur also hoped to have talks with the authorities in Pakistan to obtain their views on the problems created by the arrival in their country of a steadily increasing number of refugees. At the same time the Political Affairs Committee also asked the Bureau for authorization for another two committee members to accompany Mr ISRAËL.

On 27 January 1982 the Bureau authorized Mr ISRAËL to visit Pakistan accompanied by one other member.

By letter of 25 February 1982 the Political Affairs Committee again asked the Bureau to allow Mr ISRAEL to be accompanied by another two members.

On 9 March 1982 the Bureau authorized Lord BETHELL and Mr RIPA de MEANA to join the fact-finding mission.

In March the Political Affairs Committee contacted Mr TINDEMANS, the current Chairman of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Member States meeting in political cooperation, Mr Poul HARTLING, the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Pakistani authorities (notably the Pakistani Ambassador to the European Communities, Mr JAFAREY) in order to prepare for the visit which was scheduled to last from 26 April to 3 May 1982.

On 6 April 1982 the secretariat of the Political Affairs Committee received an official message for Mr DANKERT from Mr HAQQANI, Counsellor at the Pakistani Embassy in Brussels, expressing his government's reluctance to receive the delegation.

As diplomatic contacts continued between the Chairman of the Conference of Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation and the Pakistani authorities, the Belgian Embassy in Islamabad was told that a delegation from the European Parliament would not be received if it included Mr ISRAËL. Mr TINDEMANS informed the President of the European Parliament and the chairman of the Political Affairs Committee by telex on 20 April 1982.

On 21 April 1982 the European Parliament held an urgent debate on this matter after Mr DANKERT had outlined the facts to the House.

The Pakistani authorities refuse to receive Mr ISRAËL for the following reasons:

- (a) his membership of the Universal Israelite Alliance,
- (b) his views on the situation in the Middle East.

It was also pointed out that contacts between Mr ISRAËL and representatives of the refugees would affect the latter's relations with the Moslem and Arab world.

At its meeting of 28 to 30 April the Political Affairs Committee considered what action to take on the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr BERKHOUWER and others which had been referred to it by Parliament in plenary sitting on 23 April 1982.

Following a debate, during which the members of the committee fully endorsed the statements made at the plenary sitting, notably by Mr DANKERT, President of the European Parliament, it was decided to draw up a report on this matter.

In view of the urgent need for the European Parliament to adopt a position on the preposterous attitude of the Pakistani authorities in this matter, the members of the Political Affairs Committee agreed to adopt

the proposed text unanimously and instructed the acting chairman to present it to the European Parliament during the May part-session in the form of a report.

It is clear from the resolution adopted by the Political Affairs Committee that the resolution itself does not mark the end of action by the European Parliament in this connection. It strongly condemns the attitude of the Pakistani authorities and calls on the Commission, the Council and the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to take appropriate action. The European Parliament, of course, reserves the right to raise this matter again, notably on the basis of any measures taken by the Community's executive authorities.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Doc. 1-163/82)

tabled by Mr BERKHOUWER, Mr BLUMENFELD, Mr BEYER de RYKE, Mr COHEN, Mr FERRI, Mr GALLAND, Mr HAAGERUP, Mrs van den HEUVEL, Mr JAQUET, Mrs MACCIOCCHI, Mr ORLANDI, Mr PELIKAN, Mr RIEGER, Mrs SPAAK, Mrs VEIL, Mr WETTIG, Mrs DURY and Mrs van HEMELDONCK

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on a visit by a delegation from the European Parliament to Pakistan

The European Parliament,

- having learnt that the Government of Pakistan has opposed the visit by a delegation from Parliament - intended to gather information on the Afghan refugees in Pakistan - on the racist and unacceptable grounds that Gérard Israël is a member and the leader of this delegation and that it takes exception to his name and his origins;
- 1. Considers that this attitude is an affront to its autonomy and its dignity and calls into question, for the first time in the history of Parliament, its role in taking political initiatives and protecting human rights and is also an infringement of the fundamental rights and duties of the Members of Parliament;
- 2. Invites the Commission to reconsider relations between the Community and the Government of Pakistan in the light of this serious event;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Ministers meeting in political cooperation so that they may take appropriate action.