President and Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud’s interview with correspondent of the daily statesman of New Delhi, India.

April 29, 1974
President of State and Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud's interview with Jameel-ur-Rahman, Editor of Daily New Times of Rawalpindi, Pakistan:

Question: That I have been afforded an opportunity of an interview and you have received me, I wish to offer my thanks for it.

Answer: I am happy to see you in my country and I hope that your stay here will be a pleasant one.

Q: Will you allow me to begin asking my questions?

A: Please do.

Q: It is heard that the Constitution of the young Republic of Afghanistan will be drafted and prepared this summer: Can I ask you to please give clarifications in this regard?

A: Many journalists have asked about Afghanistan's Constitution so far to which answers have been provided. I do not know why any haste should be made in this respect by a regime that is hardly ten months old while there have been governments which have functioned without a Constitution for long years.

Q: Can you say how long it will take?

A: Whenever it is ready, but what I can say is that it will be a democratic and progressive Constitution.
Q: What sort of economy do you envisage for Afghanistan?
A: This will depend upon Afghanistan’s future Constitution.

Q: Different statements have been made about Pashtunistan: please say what your Government means when it speaks of Pashtunistan. In other words how can one clearly interpret Pashtunistan?
A: I wonder how can a Pakistani journalist ask this question. Concerning the Pashtunistan issue sufficient official statements have been made and published during the 28 years of Pakistan’s life and Afghanistan’s position in this regard is quite clear and unambiguous and it is certain that records of all these statements, publications and discussions will be available in the archives of both countries.

Q: Would you kindly explain what is Pashtunistan?
A: The decisions of the Loya Jirgah and the parliament and the official statements of the governments in Afghanistan about Pashtunistan have been given at every occasion and opportunity in which our position has been explained. If you, as a journalist wish to seek information about Pashtunistan you may ask your Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore if the history of Afghanistan and the Indian sub-continent is studied and particularly the events which have taken place in this region especially during the era of British colonialism, then you will find an answer to your question and you can also put this question to the Pashtun and Baluch leaders themselves.

Q: During the past one year relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan have not been satisfactory; what would be the cause?
A: I must say with regret that the reason is the provocations and unfriendly moves made and being
made by the Government of Pakistan and its agents, against the republican regime.

Q: Kindly explain what were the unfriendly acts?
A: You have said yourself that relations between the two countries are not good; therefore I do not wish to mention anything more in this regard, but we have evidence and documents in our possession which bear out our statement.

Q: What measures do you consider necessary for improving relations?
A: The only way to improve relations is that the problem should be studied in its reality. I think that if goodwill exists there is no problem which cannot be solved. We shall never hesitate at the solution of the problem if it is based upon reality and is acceptable but of course we cannot accept negotiation with preconditions. I wish to tell you clearly that between Afghanistan and Pakistan no other problem exists except that of the Pashtunistan issue. If a solution based upon reality is found for it then, as I have stated times and again and say again now, no other problem will remain when this sole issue is solved.

Q: Do you consider Pakistan a threat to Afghanistan's security?
A: This depends upon Pakistan's attitude.

Q: Has Pakistan ever had greater enmity towards Afghanistan and sometimes less or what?
A: Unfortunately the attitude of the government and rulers of Pakistan has never been cordial and friendly.

Q: The recent visit of an Indian military mission to Afghanistan created feelings of suspicion in Pakistan and some papers even commented upon and reported about military cooperation between Afghanistan and India. Do you wish to comment on this matter.
A: I do not give this right to anyone to ask such question. This concerns the people of Afghanistan themselves to receive a mission from any country at any time we may want and to send our mission to any place when we may desire.

Q: Is any military accord intended?
A: This subject concerns only ourselves and does not concern anyone else.

Q: Afghanistan has maintained a policy of neutrality for more than a century. Don't you think that military cooperation with another country may change Afghanistan's standing and its position?
A: I am surprised that the representative of the paper of a country that has been in military pacts since its establishment and up to the present, asks us this question. Afghanistan's proclaimed policy is quite lucid and clear and we shall continue to maintain this policy.

Q: In an interview with the correspondent of Le Monde you had said that if the situation in Baluchistan and the Frontier did not deteriorate further then you will not resort to military intervention. Kindly explain the degree of deterioration which would demand such intervention?
A: Whatever the Le Monde correspondent has written concerns Le Monde and what I can say is that Afghanistan cannot remain indifferent and disinterested as regards unrest of Pashtun and Baluch brothers and this matter has been communicated to your rulers many times.

Q: You have said that you could not remain impartial and disinterested; may I ask to what extent?
A: This is for us to determine, and to circumstances.

Q: Afghanistan considers the National Awami Party of special significance while there exist other parties in Pakistan which work for Pashtun and Baluch interests. Why has this privilege been grant-
ed to the Awami Party?

A: Peoples and parties endeavouring to serve their nation, whoever they might be, and wherever they may be, we have respect for them. The Awami Party are our brothers and these are persons who are struggling for their national objectives and, therefore, we, and others, respect them.

Q: The position of the NAP concerning Pashtunistan is autonomy; do you agree with this?

A: I have said previously that the problem of the Pashtuns and the Baluchs concerns themselves and you should put this question to them. The best way for the leaders of Pakistan is to seek a solution of the problem through talks and agreement with the Pashtun and Baluch leaders and not that the Pashtun and Baluch leaders should be eliminated through oppression and violence.

Q: Does Afghanistan recognise NAP as the real representatives?

A: Undoubtedly because the best reason for it is the majority won by them in the elections.

Q: If NAP should make a decision on the Pashtunistan problem, will that decision be acceptable?

A: If the NAP decision is acceptable to the Pashtuns and the Baluchs then why should it not be acceptable?

Q: The success of the tripartite conference between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh has proved that the countries are desirous of amicable relations. What do you think; will the success of this conference have positive effects upon relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan?

A: You can realise it better because it concerns your bilateral relations. As for its bearing upon relations between us and you, I did not understand, but as a peace loving country we want peace and security in the world.
Q: What is the opinion of your Government on Brezhnev's plan for Collective Security in Asia? Do you think that it will be practicable without China's inclusion?

A: The idea of Asian collective security includes a number of principles most of which are accepted by the peace-loving countries of the world. Therefore every world peace and security plan offered by anyone and any country and which is not contrary to our national interests, we look upon it favourably.

Q: Will Afghanistan and Pakistan lay aside their negative policy towards each other and consider a positive policy designed to improve relations because vast possibilities, particularly in the economic sphere are seen?

A: I wish to tell you again that there exists an issue between us and so long as this issue is not settled there is no possibility and expectation for an amelioration of relations. It is better that first of all the solution of the basic problem should be attended to so that the ground may be paved for improving and expanding relations and I am sure that with the solution of the sole political difference that of Pash-tunistan issue existing between Afghanistan and Pakistan, nothing can hinder amicable relations between us. I request Jameel-ur-Rahman, as a journalist to endeavour to serve as a means of closeness between the two countries.

Jameel-ur-Rahman: Yes, this is the objective.

Q: When the intended Constitution of Afghanistan is formulated will it be an Islamic constitution?

A: I am surprised that you are asking this question because a country that is known as an Islamic country not only in the region but all over the world, how can it be that its Constitution may be something contrary to Islam and Islamism.
Jameel-ur-Rahman: I wish to thank you; I am grateful.

The President and Prime Minister: Thanks. Leaving aside political problems, I hope that you will come to Afghanistan whenever you may like and to consider yourself among friends. I ask you to convey the good wishes of the people of Afghanistan to the people of Pakistan.

Jameel-ur-Rahman: I have felt this friendly feeling since arriving in Kabul.

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