

DNF G 52/29

ADVANCE COPY

LLO 203/29

X OO F C O DESKBY 291533Z X

OO KABUL

OO ISLAMABAD

OO WASHINGTON

OO UKMIS NEW YORK

RR BONN

RR PARIS

RR UKDEL NATO

RR NEW DELHI

RR TEHRAN

GRS 350

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 291533Z

FM MOSCOW 291453Z DEC 79

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 871 OF 29TH DECEMBER

FOR INFO IMMEDIATE KABUL, ISLAMABAD, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEWYORK,  
ROUTINE BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO, NEW DELHI AND TEHRAN.

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 799: AFGHANISTAN.

1. I DELIVERED THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE (YOUR TELEGRAM NO 800) TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN THIS AFTERNOON FOR TRANSMISSION TO BREZHNEV. I EMPHASIZED THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH HMG VIEWED SOVIET ACTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, AND THEN ASKED THAT A FULL TRANSLATION OF THE MESSAGE BE READ OUT.
2. FIRYUBIN REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE OCCASION RIGHT FOR A FULL DISCUSSION. HE THEN SPOKE IN THE TERMS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT AS SET OUT IN YOUR TELEGRAM

Ps.

Ps | LPS

AS Mr. Baker

Ps | Mr. Hurd

Ps | Pus

Sir D. Martland

Mr. Colkazzini

Mr. Ferguson

SAD

NAD

LESD

RC

Ps ~~NEWS~~ S.

[Typists]

*[Handwritten scribble]*



AFGHANISTAN, AND THEN ASKED THAT A FULL TRANSLATION OF THE MESSAGE BE READ OUT.

2. FIRYUBIN REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE OCCASION RIGHT FOR A FULL DISCUSSION. HE THEN SPOKE IN THE TERMS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT AS SET OUT IN YOUR TELEGRAM NO 797, ADDING AT THE START ONLY THAT THE BRITISH KNEW VERY WELL WHENCE CAME THE LONG STANDING INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFGHAN AFFAIRS, INCLUDING MILITARY INTERFERENCE, WHICH HAD PROVOKED THE PRESENT SITUATION. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S POINTS ON THE UN CHARTER, AND THE LENGTH OF THE SOVIET TROOPS STAY WERE AS IN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT. THE SOLE SOVIET AIM WAS TO SEE AFGHANISTAN UNDER AN INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT EXERCISING ITS RIGHT AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE UN CHARTER.

3. I SAID THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT SEEMED TO BASE THEIR WHOLE CASE ON AN ALLEGATION OF PRIOR EXTERNAL AGGRESSION BY SOME OTHER POWER, BUT AS THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER MADE CLEAR, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS BASIC SOVIET ASSERTION. FIRYUBIN HAD REFERRED TO EFFORTS TO TOPPLE THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT BY FORCE. SO FAR AS I KNEW, THAT GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TOPPLED ONLY AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET TROOPS. NOR WAS IT CLEAR WHICH GOVERNMENT HAD APPEALED FOR SOVIET HELP OR WHEN. UNAMBIGUOUS ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WOULD HELP TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION. FIRYUBIN SAID I WOULD HAVE SEEN THE TEXT OF THE APPEAL IN THE SOVIET PRESS. WHAT WENT ON IN AFGHANISTAN WAS THE INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. NO ONE HAD THE RIGHT TO QUESTION THE LEGITIMACY OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. AS TO MY QUESTION ABOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, I WOULD KNOW THE ANSWER FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT.

4. FIRYUBIN WAS OBVIOUSLY NEITHER ABLE NOR PREPARED TO SAY MORE.

F CO PLEASE PASS TO WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK,  
BONN PARIS UKDEL NATO

KEEBLE

NNNN