

OPS

Subject fixed on Afghanistan,  
Internal Sitn. Dec 79.

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PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T181/79T

GPS 350

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DESKBY MOSCOW 290530Z

FROM F C O 290129Z DEC 79

TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

TELEGRAM NUMBER 800 OF 29 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE KABUL, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, ISLAMABAD,  
BONN, PARIS, ROME, DUBLIN, UKDEL NATO.

M.I.P.T.

AFGHANISTAN: MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV.

I HAVE BEEN PROFOUNDLY DISTURBED AT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN  
AFGHANISTAN. THE LARGE SCALE DEPLOYMENT OF SOVIET TROOPS HAS  
COINCIDED WITH A COUP LED BY SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN ABSENT FROM  
AFGHANISTAN, LIVING IN EASTERN EUROPE FOR OVER A YEAR, AND WHO  
RETURNED TO THE COUNTRY AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ARRIVAL OF THE  
SOVIET TROOPS.

I HAVE SEEN THE STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HANDED TO  
THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE LATE ON 27 DECEMBER BY THE  
SOVIET EMBASSY IN LONDON AND AM FRANKLY PUZZLED BY THE  
ASSERTION THAT RECENT SOVIET ACTION WAS AT THE INVITATION OF THE  
AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. AFTER ALL, THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS ONLY  
ANNOUNCED ON 28 DECEMBER. NOR CAN I SEE THAT SOVIET ACTION IS  
JUSTIFIED IN TERMS OF ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER. THERE IS  
NO EVIDENCE OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE TO SUBSTANTIATE CHARGES OF  
OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF AFGHANISTAN. THE ONLY  
COUNTRY WHICH HAS INVOLVED ITSELF IN RECENT YEARS IN AFGHAN  
INTERNAL PROBLEMS IS THE SOVIET UNION.

/IT IS CLEAR

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IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS SOUGHT A PRETEXT TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON A SMALLER NEIGHBOUR. AND WHAT YOU ADMIT TO BE OPEN SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER INDEPENDENT COUNTRY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT ANY MANDATE FROM THE AFGHAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. I BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN HAVE A RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. RECENT SOVIET ACTION APPEARS TO LIMIT THIS FREEDOM. I SHOULD WELCOME YOUR ASSURANCE THAT ALL SOVIET TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN AT A VERY EARLY DATE, LEAVING THE AFGHAN PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE.

CARRINGTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

F I L E S

SAD

NEWS D

EESD

MED

FED

EID

SEAD

UND

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR BLAKER

PS/MR HURD

PS/PUS

SIR A DUFF

MR COETAZZI

MR MURRAY

MR BULLARD

MR FERGUSSON

MR J C MOBERLY