



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 January 1980

cc HO
 KCO
 Tsy
 MOJ
 WPO
 NPS
 DIT
 D I
 N
 CO

JPH
 cc Afghanistan
 Situation
 FCS Mini-Ab
 /om

Dear George,

Iran and Afghanistan

As you know, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary called on the Prime Minister yesterday evening to review the situation in Iran and Afghanistan. For the most part the discussion covered the same issues as are dealt with in Lord Carrington's minute to the Prime Minister of 2 January. However, some of the points which came up should be recorded separately.

The Prime Minister agreed that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, accompanied by Lady Carrington, should make, next week, the tour of the Middle East countries summarised in the final paragraph of his minute under reference.

The Prime Minister expressed concern about the evident intention of the United States to push ahead with a sanctions resolution in the United Nations if and when the deadline set in the resolution of 31 December expires. She wondered whether the continued drive to isolate the Iranians should not be reconsidered in the light of events in Afghanistan. However, she agreed with Lord Carrington's comment that those in control in Iran were not acting with sufficient rationality to make it likely that they would give the United States any credit for softening the line being taken in the United Nations. The Prime Minister said that if the sanctions resolution were to fail next week, the UK could not be committed to implementing its contents unilaterally or voluntarily.

The Prime Minister agreed with Lord Carrington that it would be "unthinkable" to recognise the new Afghan regime in present circumstances. She also agreed that implications for our current representation in Kabul would need careful consideration. More generally, the Prime Minister agreed that a continued effort would be necessary to ensure that the enormity of the act which the Soviet Government had committed was not lost to sight.

/I am sending

CONFIDENTIAL

JS

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries of the members of OD, to Ian Ellison (Department of Industry), Bill Burroughs (Department of Energy) and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

G. G. H. Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL