

# CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 311933Z DEC 79

TO IMMEDIATE ANKARA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 403 OF 31 DECEMBER

AND TO OTHER POSTS

INFO OTTAWA

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 23 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 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 [ I SHOULD WELCOME YOUR ASSURANCE THAT ALL SOVIET TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN AT A VERY EARLY DATE, LEAVING THE AFGHAN PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE. ]

Not  
for  
use

PLEASE SEE MIFT,  
CARRINGTON  
F.C.O./WHK. DISTN.  
SAD

# CONFIDENTIAL