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*to Mr
Prime Minister
Well worth while.*

(4)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 March 1981

Dear Michael,

RMJ - 26/3

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Film on Afghanistan

George Walden wrote to you on 3 November 1980 about the film on the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office commissioned from the Central Office of Information, I understand that the Prime Minister subsequently saw it.

You may be interested to know that the film has now appeared on television in 35 countries and been shown to Heads of State, Ministers, officials and journalists in many others. Saudi Arabian TV showed it during the recent Islamic Heads of State Conference.

For a total cost of only £34,000, including the Arabic, French and Spanish versions, we have had good value for our money. We considered it prudent to try to avoid attribution, but in the case of Channel 13 New York the film was introduced as "made on behalf of the British government". There has been no direct reaction from the Russians, although they complained to the Government in Sierra Leone and to the French (sic) Ambassador in Zaire.

We are thinking of producing a follow-up film for screening in September.

Yours ever

Ronald Lyne

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