

John Coles

MR WINSTON S CHURCHIL MP - AFGHANISTAN

1. WSC is a hero.
2. 105 Afghans were murdered by the Russians in an irrigation tunnel on 13th September 1982.
3. Six Afghans, including a survivor of the massacre, a priest, a Supreme Court Judge, and one of the Village Elders of the village to which those murdered belonged, are coming to London on the evening of Wednesday, 19th January.
4. Will you allow the Prime Minister to shake the hands of these valiant fighters for freedom and friends of the martyrs, in her room at the House at 3.35 p.m. on Thursday, 20th January, literally for 10 minutes only?
5. I suppose that the Foreign Office will say that this will upset the Russians - so what.

14.1.83

IAN GOW

cc. Caroline Stephens



Churchill

MR. GOW

Mr. Winston Churchill MP - Afghanistan

I see no objection in principle to the Prime Minister receiving these Afghans (your minute of 14 January), but I should very much prefer that Mr. Churchill makes contact with the Afghan Support Committee (Lord Cranborne) which has a coordinating role in these matters, and could, for example, tell us whether all of the ~~seven~~ Afghans are the kind of people who should be received by the Prime Minister. If Lord Cranborne wishes the Prime Minister to receive them, I would certainly support this - and I have no doubt at all that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office would agree.

A. J. C.

John

ROBERT CRANBORNE 15 11

FULL SUPPORT

14. to am p.m.  
19/1/83

18/1/1983

17 January, 1983.

IAN

Then I have no objection. But now would I pass the Prime Minister to receive them when she is so busy.

2. Please let me know if decide to pursue this so that I can commission briefing. A. J. C. 15/1



Churchill

14th February 1983

When your Afghan heroes came to see the Prime Minister last month, they showed her a map of the village and, I think, some other drawings and photographs.

If you were able to obtain copies or duplicates of these, the Prime Minister would be most grateful.

Please forgive me for adding to your burdens.

IAN GOW

Winston S Churchill Esq P