

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

Would you like a cassette copy of this film?

wm 1/10



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 September 1981

*Y  
Would like to see new film*

Dear Mmes,

Film on Afghanistan

I wrote to you on 25 March 1981 about the success of the film on the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office commissioned from the Central Office of Information. To date it has been shown on television in 42 countries. I said that we were thinking of producing a follow-up film.

A new film has been made and, following Ministerial approval, is now being distributed to our posts. It is similar to the original in that it gives a brief background to the Soviet invasion, shows the reality of the Soviet presence, the resistance to it and the suffering it has brought to the Afghan people. But most of the material the film contains is new, and it should once more dramatise the message we are trying to put across. Versions with the commentary in English, Arabic, French and Spanish have been produced.

As in the earlier version, the credits at the end of the film name the sources of the material used in it (including West German, Japanese and Soviet as well as British), though no reference is made to its British origin. Posts have been instructed to stress that all the footage is available commercially, and that none of the film was shot by or for HMG. While there may be some reaction from the Russians, the last film did not provoke any direct response from them. They have, after all, produced a film of their own on Afghanistan.

Should the Prime Minister wish to see the new film we could arrange, in conjunction with the COI, for a cassette copy to be provided for No 10.

*Yours ever,*

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

Mike Pattison Esq  
10 Downing St

CONFIDENTIAL

Hotel de Ville Commune de Paris  
Paris France



1981 OCT 12  
PARIS  
12 10 1981



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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister  
Would you like to see the  
film some time?

16 February, 1983

A.J.C. 17 1/2

*Mr. P. Bone*  
*MB*

*John T. ...*

COI Film on Afghanistan

In his letter of 23 December 1982 about developments in Afghanistan, John Holmes mentioned that the COI had made a third film on Afghanistan.

This followed the success of the previous two, which were shown on public television in 42 and 26 countries respectively, as well as to many influential audiences worldwide. The new film was distributed in November to our posts. The response has been encouraging: it has so far been shown on television in 13 countries with several other showings likely.

The film is perhaps even more powerful in its message than its predecessors, with emphasis being laid on the refugee problem and the continuing widespread fighting in the country. Excerpts of an interview with President Zia of Pakistan (which had been distributed separately by COI) figure prominently. References are also made to the absorption of the Muslim Central Asian Republics into the USSR. Our aim is that the film should help ensure that the problem of Afghanistan is not forgotten. It was, for example, used to good effect at the well-attended AGM of the UK Afghanistan Support Committee on 8 February.

In contrast to previous years, a substantial amount of the footage used in the film was specially commissioned by the COI, but the rest, as before, came from commercially available newsreel material. There is no mention made of the film's originator, though certain television companies have used the wording 'Made on behalf of the British Government'. Neither of the previous two films provoked a direct response from the Russians.

Should the Prime Minister wish to see the new film we could arrange for a cassette copy to be provided.

*Yours ever*  
*R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



D

Mr. Kydd.  
P/A.

10 DOWNING STREET

*Handwritten mark*

PRIME MINISTER

COI FILM ON AFGHANISTAN

Attached is a video-cassette of the COI film on Afghanistan which you asked to see. It runs 27½ minutes.

*Handwritten initials*

IAN KYDD  
3 March 1983

Mr. Kydd

I have not had a chance to put to the P.R. Could Mr. Pylam see at a media meeting?

A.S.C. 14/3

Central Office of Information  
HERCULES ROAD, LONDON, SE1 7DU  
01-928 2345

3rd March, 1983

Ian Kydd, Esq.,  
Press Office,  
10 Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

Dear *Sam*

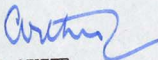
AFGHANISTAN - THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Attached is a note which provides background to the production and distribution of the most recent of the films on Afghanistan that we have made for FCO. A fourth film is planned for production later this year and we are already beginning to assemble material.

With this letter also comes a VHS copy of the long interview with President Zia which was filmed at the same time. Copies were distributed to major FCO posts overseas but television use has been slight.

I would of course be glad to know whether the Prime Minister sees the film and of any comments that are made.

Yours sincerely,



A. C. WHITE  
DIRECTOR  
FILMS AND TELEVISION DIVISION

"AFGHANISTAN: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES"

This 27½ minute film is the third in a series of programmes written and produced by the Central Office of Information on behalf of the FCO dealing with the background and aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. They have been designed to be shown primarily in Islamic and non-aligned countries; but the films have also been widely shown in Europe and North America.

"AFGHANISTAN: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES", released in November 1982, deals with the problems of the exodus of Afghanistan refugees into Pakistan as a result of the Soviet invasion. The film contains an exclusive interview with President Zia in which he discusses his view of Soviet motives and intentions. A separate half-hour film of the whole of this interview was distributed widely overseas and extracts used within newsreels in the UK. The interviewer was David Bowen-Jones.

Unlike the first two films which were compiled from existing film footage - some from Soviet sources - this latest film contains a high proportion of original material shot in Pakistan by a camera team under the direction of the COI producer/script writer.

Copies in four language versions have been distributed by COI to 167 posts overseas for briefing influential audiences and for use by television. Fifteen countries have so far reported national transmissions of the film including Finland, whose services are received in Estonia (USSR), and two showings in 'prime time' by Egyptian Television. We expect eventual television usage to equal that of the earlier films in the series which achieved television showings in 35 countries.

Considerable interest has been shown in the film by the United States Information Agency based in Washington with whom discussions are currently taking place to include extracts from the film in a programme they are producing to mark "Afghanistan Day" - 21st March. The programme appears to be similar in concept to the "Let Poland be Poland" event staged last year.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Mr. Lloyd

It is in my office.  
The P.M. wants to see it.  
Can you pl. arrange?

24 February 1983

A-J.C. 24/2

Dear John,

COI Film on Afghanistan

Thank you for your letter of 21 February.

I enclose a VHS video cassette of the film 'Afghanistan - The Struggle Continues' for the Prime Minister, as requested. This does not need to be returned to us.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

Caroline Chequer.

The P.M. runs 25 mins.  
Please would you find  
a 30 min slot in the  
diary. Bernard would like  
the P.M. to see it in his  
room.  
Th. 24/2

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AFGHANISTAN : INT CIT: Pt 6

INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN OFFICE

London SW1V 2JH





CONFIDENTIAL

JW



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

21 February 1983

COI FILM ON AFGHANISTAN

Thank you for your letter of 16 February.

The Prime Minister would like to see the new film. I should be grateful if you could, as you suggest, let me have a cassette copy.

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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*Afghanistan*

12 October 1981

Film on Afghanistan

Thank you for your letter of 30 September to Mike Pattison. The Prime Minister would indeed like to see the new film that the COI have made on Afghanistan, and I would be grateful if you could arrange for a cassette copy to be sent to us here.

WILLIAM RICKETT

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*FR*