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FM FCO 161731Z MAR 82

TO ROUTINE ABIDJAN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 43 OF 16 MARCH

AND TO CERTAIN OTHER POSTS

MY TELNO 38: AFGHANISTAN DAY: 21 MARCH

1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE AFGHANISTAN SUPPORT COMMITTEE (AN ALL PARTY COMMITTEE OF MPS) ON THE OCCASION OF 21 MARCH:

IT IS NOW MORE THAN TWO YEARS SINCE THE SOVIET UNION INVADED AFGHANISTAN IN VIOLATION OF THE UN CHARTER AND AFGHANISTAN'S INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED STATUS. DURING THAT TIME THE AFGHAN PEOPLE HAVE WAGED A BRAVE STRUGGLE AGAINST AN OCCUPYING FORCE OF OVER 90,000 SOVIET TROOPS. MANY HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM, AND MANY CIVILIANS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, HAVE BEEN KILLED AND INJURED BY ATTACKS ON THEIR VILLAGES. WE MUST NOT FORGET THEM, NOR MUST WE FORGET THE THREE MILLION REFUGEES WHO HAVE FLED FROM THEIR HOMES TO PAKISTAN AND IRAN. THE HUMAN SUFFERING HAS BEEN COLOSSAL, AS I SAW FOR MYSELF WHEN I VISITED AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN LAST YEAR.

21 MARCH IS AFGHANISTAN DAY. FOR AFGHANS IT IS THE START OF THE TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR. FOR US IT IS THE BEGINNING OF SPRING. I HOPE THAT THE LONG WINTER OF SOVIET OCCUPATION WILL SOON END AND THAT THE AFGHAN PEOPLE WILL TAKE HEART FROM TODAY'S ASSOCIATIONS WITH REBIRTH AND RENEWAL.

ON THIS DAY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT RENEWS ITS CALLS ON THE RUSSIANS TO WITHDRAW FROM AFGHANISTAN, AND TO ALLOW THE AFGHAN PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN FUTURE FREE FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ALSO BE RECEIVING A DELEGATION FROM THE AFGHANISTAN SUPPORT COMMITTEE (INCLUDING SOME AFGHANS)

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AT NO 10 ON THE EVENING OF 18 MARCH. WE HOPE THIS WILL BE GIVEN WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY IN THE UK AND ABROAD.

3. HMG HAVE INVITED TO THE UK FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFGHANS CURRENTLY LIVING IN PAKISTAN. THEY ARE PROFESSOR BAHOUDDIN MAJROOH, DIRECTOR OF THE AFGHAN INFORMATION CENTRE OF PESHAWAR; AND MR SABAHUDDIN KUSHKAKI, DR GHULAM FAROUK AZAM AND ENGINEER GHULAM WHO ARE PEOPLE OF STANDING AMONG THE RESISTANCE GROUPS AT PESHAWAR. THE VISITORS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE PRESS AND ADDRESS MEETINGS IN THE UK.

4. ON 18 MARCH THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ANSWERING A PQ BY LORD BETHELL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS ABOUT THE MEASURES HMG WILL BE TAKING TO MARK AFGHANISTAN DAY. THE ANSWER WILL REFER TO THE EVENTS LISTED ABOVE, AND WILL ALSO SAY THAT:

- A) HMG RENEWS ITS CALL FOR SOVIET WITHDRAWAL, AND FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNGA RESOLUTIONS OF JANUARY AND NOVEMBER 1980, AND NOVEMBER 1981; AND
- B) HMG'S AID TO THE AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN (NOW NUMBERING SOME 2.6 MILLION) NOW AMOUNTS TO SOME POUNDS STERLING 8.7 MILLION, INCLUDING A RECENT GRANT OF POUNDS STERLING 750,000 OF FOOD AID.

5. IF APPROPRIATE YOU MAY DRAW THE ABOVE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENTS TO WHICH YOU ARE ACCREDITED. YOU SHOULD ALSO ISSUE THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO YOUR PRESS CONTACTS IN TIME FOR PUBLICATION ON 20 OR 21 MARCH.

CARRINGTON

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AFGHANISTAN STANDARD

<u>SAD</u>	<u>SEAD</u>
<u>RESD</u>	<u>NAD</u>
<u>MED</u>	<u>NENAD</u>
<u>FED</u>	
<u>UND</u>	
<u>ECD (E)</u>	
<u>CABINET OFFICE</u>	

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FROM LONDON COREU
TO BRUSSELS COREU PRIORITE
INFO ALL COREU PRIORITE AND UN MISSIONS NEW YORK
CPE/EIL/ETR 124
16/3 2100Z
CONFIDENTIEL

DISTRIBUTION GENERALE
AFGHANISTAN DAY

REFERENCE CPE/MUL/ETR/824 AND 915:

1. THE UK WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM ITS EARLIER PROPOSAL (CPE/MUL/ETR 915) THAT THE DRAFT PRESIDENCY MESSAGE SHOULD INCLUDE A PASSAGE WELCOMING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE ON AFGHANISTAN, AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON AFGHANISTAN.
2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS REFERENCE SHOULD BE TO EMPHASISE THAT MEDIATION BY THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL MUST TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE UNGA RESOLUTIONS.
3. THE UK HAS NO OTHER COMMENTS ON THE TEXT PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENCY.
4. THE UK WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE PRESIDENCY AND ITS PARTNERS OF THE STEPS WHICH IT IS TAKING TO MARK AFGHANISTAN DAY:
 - A) THE PRIME MINISTER IS SENDING THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE AFGHANISTAN SUPPORT COMMITTEE (AN ALL PARTY COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS OF THE U K PARLIAMENT):

IT IS NOW MORE THAN TWO YEARS SINCE THE SOVIET UNION INVADED AFGHANISTAN IN VIOLATION OF THE UN CHARTER AND AFGHANISTAN'S INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED STATUS. DURING THAT TIME THE AFGHAN PEOPLE HAVE WAGED A BRAVE STRUGGLE AGAINST AN OCCUPYING FORCE OF OVER 90,000 SOVIET TROOPS. MANY HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM, AND MANY CIVILIANS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, HAVE BEEN KILLED AND INJURED BY

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- B) THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ALSO BE RECEIVING A DELEGATION FROM THE AFGHANISTAN SUPPORT COMMITTEE (INCLUDING SOME AFGHANS) ON THE EVENING OF 18 MARCH. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE GIVEN WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY IN THE UK AND ABROAD.
 - C) THE UK HAVE INVITED TO BRITAIN FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW IN PAKISTAN. THEY ARE PROFESSOR BAHAOUDDIN MAJROOH, DIRECTOR OF THE AFGHAN INFORMATION CENTRE AT PESHAWAR, AND MR SABAHUDDIN KUSHKAKI, DR GHULAM FAROUZ AZAM AND ENGINEER GULAM, WHO ARE PEOPLE OF STANDING AMONG THE RESISTANCE GROUPS AT PESHAWAR. THE VISITORS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE PRESS AND ADDRESS MEETINGS IN THE UK.
5. AFGHANISTAN DAY HAS ALSO BEEN THE SUBJECT OF
- A) AN EARLY DAY MOTION (A PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTION) IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WHICH NOW HAS 99 SIGNATURES: AND
 - B) A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

FIN DE TEXTE

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AFGHANISTAN STANDARD

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MED	NENAD
FED	CABINET OFFICE
UND	
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THE PRIME MINISTER

It is now more than two years since the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in violation of the UN Charter and Afghanistan's independent and non-aligned status. During that time the Afghan people have waged a brave struggle against an occupying force of over 90,000 Soviet troops. Many have sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom, and many civilians, including women and children, have been killed and injured by attacks on their villages. We must not forget them; nor must we forget the three million refugees who have fled from their homes to Pakistan and Iran. The human suffering has been colossal, as I saw for myself when I visited Afghan refugees in Pakistan last year.

21 March is Afghanistan Day. For Afghans it is the start of the traditional New Year. For us it is the beginning of Spring. I hope that the long winter of Soviet occupation will soon end and that the Afghan people will take heart from today's associations with rebirth and renewal.

On this day the British Government renews its calls on the Russians to withdraw from Afghanistan, and to allow the Afghan people to choose their own future free from outside interference.

Margaret Thatcher

March, 1982.