



file
Afghanistan

SUBJECT.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 March 1982

✓ cc. Harriet set.

AFGHANISTAN SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Thank you for your letter of 17 March. A delegation from the Afghanistan Support Committee duly called on the Prime Minister this evening. In the event, the only MP who appeared was Mr. Peter Temple-Morris. The rest of the delegation consisted of Lord Bethell, the three Afghans referred to in your letter, a further Afghan, Dr. Ghulam Farouq Azaz, and Mr. Peers Carter.

The delegation was photographed with the Prime Minister outside No. 10 Downing Street. The delegation then entered No. 10 and a brief discussion followed. Mr. Peter Temple-Morris explained the purpose of the Afghanistan Support Committee and stated that it had already raised £20,000 and had sent £4,500 of medicines to Afghanistan. Lord Bethell gave a brief account of the European Parliament's activities leading up to the designation of 21 March as Afghanistan Day. Then Dr. Azaz spoke in familiar terms about the efforts of the Resistance to maintain their struggle against Soviet forces. He claimed that the latter were using chemical weapons and argued that insufficient international pressure was being applied to the Soviet Union. Fatma Gailani and Karima Farani also spoke briefly. All expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for the interest she had shown in the Afghanistan cause. Fatma Gailani asked that some of our official assistance should be channelled through the Afghanistan Support Committee, but it was explained that this proposition was being examined by the ODA. In conclusion, the Prime Minister promised that the Government would not forget the Afghanistan cause - this was one reason why we were supporting Afghanistan Day.

A. J. COLES

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