



Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

28 January, 1983

*Pete Murrin*

*DP*

*MT*

*28/1*

*Dear John,*

Visit by Witnesses of Soviet Atrocities in Afghanistan

Thank you for your letter of 20 January.

We have now taken steps to have the massacre in Logar Province raised at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, as requested by the Afghans during their meeting with the Prime Minister on 19 January. Afghanistan is already on the agenda for discussion at the 39th session of the UN Human Rights Commission (Geneva, 31 January-11 March), and we are briefing Lord Colville, leader of the UK delegation, to draw particular attention to the Logar massacre.

The Prime Minister may also be interested in the other steps being taken to encourage further publicity for the massacre (the story was of course fully reported at the time and the delegation's visit to London was well covered in the British press, including an interview on ITN News at Ten).

The Logar Committee, an umbrella organisation set up to arrange the delegation's visit last week, was responsible for the publicity arrangements and the constituent groups will presumably make the most of the story. For example, the Afghanistan Support Committee (to which we have just given a further £20,000 grant) will include it in their information material.

As for our own efforts, the COI have already sent to a wide selection of posts a photograph and cover story of the delegation's call on the Prime Minister. We plan to include information on the incident in our regular background briefing material. We have also briefed our CSCE delegation and will include reference to the incident in briefing material for inter-governmental discussions on Afghanistan.

We have asked our Embassy in Paris to obtain a copy of the Russell Tribunal's report. It would be preferable for non-governmental organisations to take the lead in publicising the report. But when it is available, we will consider how best to use it.

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I shall be writing separately with a draft reply to the follow-up letter from Mr Winston Churchill MP.

*Yours ever  
for Holmes*

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Private Secretary

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Private Secretary  
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Afghanistan: Internal Situation 1976



Afghanistan  
HL

31 January 1983

Visit by Witnesses of Soviet Atrocities  
in Afghanistan

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Thank you for your letter of 28 January describing the action that has been taken to bring to the attention of the UN Human Rights Commission the facts relating to the massacre in Logar Province and the other publicity measures which you have in hand. The Prime Minister has noted the contents of your letter.

JOHN COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.