

FILE

MFJ



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 February 1983

Dear Winston,

Thank you for your letter of 22 January about my meeting on 20 January with the delegation of Afghans invited to London by Radio Free Kabul. It was a moving occasion and brought home once more the suffering of the civilian population in Afghanistan.

It is important that the international community should be made aware of Soviet atrocities towards Afghan civilians. Our delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which is meeting in Geneva from 31 January to 11 March, has been briefed to draw special attention to the Logar massacre along with other violations of human rights in Afghanistan. We shall do our best both in the Commission and elsewhere to ensure that the issue receives all the attention which it certainly deserves.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Winston Churchill Esq MP

da

Afghanistan



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 February 1983

Dear John,

Afghanistan

Type letter p.

A.S.C. 1/2.

Thank you for your letter of 27 January enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr Winston Churchill MP to the Prime Minister about her meeting with the Afghan delegation on 20 January.

The UN Commission on Human Rights is meeting in Geneva from 31 January to 11 March. There is no specific agenda item on Afghanistan. However, Afghanistan will be discussed in public under an item on the rights of peoples to self-determination, and (confidentially) under an item on situations revealing a consistent pattern of gross human rights violations. Our delegation, led by Lord Colville, has been briefed to draw attention to the Logar massacre under the first of these items, where the debate is public and where resolutions on Afghanistan have been adopted in the past and UK statements on human rights in Afghanistan traditionally made. The Commission's resolutions on Afghanistan deal with the violation of the principle of self-determination, however, and a specific reference in the resolution to this atrocity is unlikely. The delegation will of course also be able to raise it in the confidential discussions under the second item, where our intention will be to ensure that the situation in Afghanistan is kept under review. But no resolutions are adopted under this item.

I enclose a draft reply to Mr Churchill.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Winston S Churchill MP
House of Commons
London SW1A OAA

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 22 January about my meeting on 20 January with the delegation of Afghans invited to London by Radio Free Kabul. It was a moving occasion and brought home once more the suffering of the civilian population in Afghanistan.

CAVEAT.....

It is important that the international community should be made aware of Soviet atrocities towards Afghan civilians. Our delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, ^{which is} meeting in Geneva from 31 January to 11 March, has been briefed to draw special attention to the Logar massacre along with other violations of human rights in Afghanistan. We shall do our best both in the Commission and elsewhere to ensure that the issue is not forgotten. *receive all the attention which it certainly deserves.*

Enclosures—flag(s).....

RR 1/2.

Afghanistan
Internal Situation
A/G

51 FEB 1983

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Afghanistan

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 January, 1983.

Afghanistan

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Winston Churchill, M.P., about the delegation of Afghans who were recently received by the Prime Minister and who described to her the Logar Massacre.

Mr. Churchill now repeats the request made during the meeting that the Government should take up this matter with the UN Commission on Human Rights.

B.K. /
I should be grateful for advice and a draft reply from the Prime Minister by Tuesday, 1 February, please.

W. U. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
01-219 3405

John Cross

22 January 1983

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much indeed for so kindly sparing the time to receive the survivors of the Logan Massacre during their visit to Britain. They greatly appreciated the close interest you took in their terrible experiences and the warm concern you expressed for the sufferings of the civilian population.

Would there be any possibility of the Government taking up the massacre and the constant Soviet attacks upon the civilian population with the U.N. Commission on Human Rights? With renewed thanks,

Yours ever,

Winston