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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 December 1986



Yes -

You would be asked some further questions but I could play them away again

Prime Minister Agree to do this again?

Dear Charles

Seventh Anniversary of Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

CDP 9/12

I am writing to raise the possibility of the Prime Minister giving a television interview to mark the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which falls on 27 December. Last year the Prime Minister gave such an interview to Mr Sandy Gall of Independent Television News, which made a considerable impact. We hope that the Prime Minister might consider repeating this initiative.

As in previous years we are concerned to use the occasion to draw international attention to the continuing plight of the Afghan people under Soviet occupation. We have given a strong lead on Afghanistan to our European partners and have encouraged them to make maximum use, in their own national statements on 27 December, of the European Council statement. FCO News Department will, like last year, be issuing a statement under Sir Geoffrey Howe's name on these lines on 27 December; both he and Lady Young will also be giving radio interviews to be broadcast on that day on, respectively, the World Service and the "Today Programme". A domestic television interview by the Prime Minister would emphasise the strength of our concern on Afghanistan at a time when the resistance - faced with increasing difficulties on the ground and with a more vigorous Soviet propaganda campaign - need all the help and encouragement they can get.

The Prime Minister may wish to hold the interview with Mr Sandy Gall again, given that he has just visited Afghanistan and is one of the most informed journalists working on the subject.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

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From the Private Secretary

10 December 1986

**Seventh Anniversary of Soviet Invasion
of Afghanistan**

Thank you for your letter of 9 December proposing that the Prime Minister should give a television interview to mark the seventh (is it in fact the eighth?) anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

BT

The Prime Minister is ready to do this and we are getting in touch with Sandy Gall to do the interview on Monday 15 December. I should be grateful for appropriate briefing in time for the Prime Minister's weekend box.

(C.D. Powell)

Robert Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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