

cc B/UP

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH LORD CRANBORNE: AFGHANISTAN

Lord Cranborne is seeing you tomorrow to discuss Afghanistan.

He wrote to you in September (flag A) in terms critical of the American help for the Mujahedeen, not so much the hardware as the tactical advice. He was also worried about corrupt misuse of funds provided to the Mujahedeen, and the fact that the Americans were playing too visible a role. Lord Cranborne's remedies were that we should convince the Americans that we were not negative or defeatist; encourage them towards a more sophisticated approach; urge them to give more training; promote political unity among the various Afghan groups; and seek more humanitarian aid from the international community.

Lord Cranborne subsequently saw Lady Young at your suggestion (flag B). He made a number of the same points. He also said that there was one matter which he could raise only with you.

Points to have in mind are:

- (i) we assess the Soviet withdrawal of six regiments as largely a sham;
- (ii) we understand that UN efforts are making some progress at last;
- (iii) Chris Patten visited Afghan refugees in Pakistan recently to see if there was more we could do to help.
- (iv) the government gave £50,000 to Lord Cranborne's Afghan aid last year and will probably give significantly more this year;
- (v) our small programme of Medical Aid has been a success;
- (vi) we continue to provide 'other' help for the Mujahedeen.

CDP

Charles Powell

15 December 1986

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From the Private Secretary

12 December 1986

AFGHANISTAN

The Prime Minister is to see Lord Cranborne briefly on Tuesday 16 December. As you know, we have had recent correspondence with him. I doubt that we need any further briefing. But if there are additional points, please let me know.

(Charles Powell)

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