



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 August 1987

CDP ofr

C D Powell Esq  
PS/No 10 Downing Street

CDP  
26/8

Dear Charles,

**MEETING WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR: AFGHANISTAN**

Thank you for your letter of 5 August reporting your discussions with the Soviet Ambassador.

/ We agree that it would be useful if you could continue to press Zamyatin on Afghanistan and I enclose some points to make as a quarry for when you next meet him. Some of his own points were interesting although one cannot always be sure that what he says is authoritative (he was for example wrong when he implied that the Kabul regime would be prepared for the Prime Minister to be drawn from "representatives of exile groups". Only the posts of Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy President are currently on offer, together with a number of non-sensitive ministerial portfolios (not those of the Interior, Defence, Internal Security or Foreign Affairs).

/ We have recently heard from the Pakistanis (Islamabad telno 682, copy enclosed) that they believe the Russians may have proposals for a non-party government up their sleeves. If true, this may have been reflected in Zamyatin's comment to you that Soviet thinking was to exclude both "left and right wing extremists".

We will of course continue to keep in touch with the Russians in Moscow. We will shortly be instructing the Embassy to seek a substantive conversation with the Head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department.

Yours ever,

Fiona Paterson

Fiona Paterson (Miss)  
Assistant Private Secretary  
to Mrs Lynda Chalker