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LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 January 1989

Dear Mr. Wall

AFGHANISTAN

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had a brief discussion this evening about the position of our mission in Kabul as the date of Soviet withdrawal comes closer. They agreed that it would be a pity to pull out our mission now after it had gone right through the Civil War. The staff were prepared to stay and steps were being taken to see whether we could provide some additional protection for them. Of our main allies, it appeared that the Germans would be pulling out and the French and Italians were likely to do so. The Americans were undecided: they wanted to stay but were rather nervous about the prospects. While we would reach our own decision, it would be sensible to stay in very close touch with the Americans and take into account whatever conclusion they reached.

I am copying this letter to Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence).

Yours sincerely

C. D. Powell

pp. C. D. POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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