



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 November 1989

Apart from these considerations, I think you really for too busy see Charles to see him. Agree not on this occasion?

Visit by President of the Afghan Interim Government, 8-11 November

Professor Mojaddedi will be visiting Britain from 8-11 November with a 7-man delegation, including his Ministers for Information and for Communications. Mojaddedi is the Head of the Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF), one of the main Afghan resistance groups, and since February has been President of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG).

The Foreign Secretary will see Mojaddedi and we are treating him as an FCO/COI sponsored visitor during his stay.

Mojaddedi will arrive after visiting France (5-8 November), where he will be received at Minister of State level in the Foreign Minister's absence. He goes on from here to the US, where we understand he may be received by President Bush.

You may remember writing to Mojaddedi's representative in Paris on 5 September (copy attached), giving a non-committal reply to the possibility of a call on the Prime Minister. In the event, Mojaddedi did not come then, but the visitors have made it clear that they would welcome a call on the Prime Minister during this visit.

Mojaddedi himself is a senior and respected, though not a particularly impressive figure, and his party is moderate and pro-Western. But the AIG have failed to establish their authority either within Afghanistan or even among the resistance. Strong UK and Pakistan support has probably done as much to damage their credibility as to enhance it. We will want to give the visitors a friendly and sympathetic hearing, and to assure them of our continuing support for the resistance. But we see no strong reason to press the Prime Minister to find time to see them, though there is no reason why she should not do so if she wishes.

/On

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3/Ki
Agree -
not.
Too much
at that time
no

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On a previous visit to Britain in late 1987 in his capacity as leader of the ANLF, Mojaddedi was received by Lord Glenarthur. Following the formation of the Afghan Interim Government, Sir Geoffrey Howe called on him and his AIG colleagues, in Islamabad in March 1989.

Yours ever

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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MOJADDEDI, PROFESSOR SIBGHATULLAH

President of the Afghan Interim Government.

Born 1926 in Kabul into the family of the Shor Bazaar religious leaders of the Naqshbandi Sufi sect whose influence extends to the Moslems of the Indian continent. His family originally came from Xinqiang in China and migrated to Afghanistan from the USSR after the basmachi revolt failed in the twenties. After secondary education in Kabul, he went to Al-Azhar University in Cairo. In 1953 he obtained a Doctorate in Islamic Law and Jurisprudence and returned to Afghanistan. Was Professor of Islamic Law at Kabul University. Jailed 1960-65 for allegedly taking part in an assassination plot against Krushchev. Considered pro-monarchy.

In 1972 founded "Jamiat-ul Ulema-e Mohammadi", the Society of Muslem Scholars, a politico-religious society of Afghan anti-communist scholars and intellectuals. Imprisoned by Daoud 1974-75. Lectured in theology in Copenhagen during the 1970's and was abroad during both the 1973 and 1978 coups. Took part in Islamic Christian conferences of Tripoli in 1975 and London in 1976. Made a member of the convention of Islamic Medical Associations, USA, in 1978. Went to Pakistan after 1978 coup, in which all his family in Kabul were arrested and the men (about 40) executed. Deputy leader of Jamiat, but left in 1978 to found the Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF) (Jabha-e Najat-e Melli). ANLF joined the Seven-Party Resistance Alliance, 1985. Elected President of the Interim Government by the resistance Shura in Rawalpindi on 23 February 1989. Speaks English. Visited Europe and USA, 1986. Visited UK as Category II visitor, November 1987. Enjoys Saudi and Jordanian support.



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 September 1989

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RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 61		
11 SEP 89		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken
		<i>[Signature]</i>

Mr. Haldane ok PA
Mr. Jones RM29
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27/9

Thank you for your letter of 14 August to the Prime Minister about Mr. Modjaddedi's plans to visit Europe. I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister was pleased to hear that Mr. Modjaddedi expects to include London in his itinerary and hopes that his visit here will be successful.

You will, however, understand that it is rather difficult, because of her very crowded diary, to give you an indication of whether the Prime Minister would be able to see Mr. Modjaddedi until we know the exact dates when he will be in London. I should be grateful if you could let me know as soon as you are able to do so.

CHARLES POWELL

Mr. Assem Akram