

CCP



Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

7 March 1990

Dig Clerk  
~~Please say that I agree with CDP/B.~~  
x  
✓ Done 1.3.90

Dear Charles

Afghanistan *flat*

Thank you for your letter of 22 February about a letter from Mr Najibullah to the Prime Minister.

Although we have not broken diplomatic relations with Afghanistan, our policy has long been not to have substantive dealings with the politicians and senior officials of the Kabul regime. We do not acknowledge formal diplomatic communications from the PDPA regime other than on technical and administrative matters. A letter from Najibullah to the Prime Minister is clearly outside this category.

Since the Soviet withdrawal in February 1989, Najibullah has been conducting a propaganda campaign to try to legitimise and gain wider acceptance for his government. His letter to the Prime Minister is part of this effort. We recommend that the letter be ignored. There is all the more reason for doing so in the light of recent events in Kabul.

X | If you agree we shall inform other EC countries of this approach and our response, and ask them if they have received similar letters.

Yours ever  
R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

22 February 1990

AFGHANISTAN

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from President Najiballah. I should be grateful for advice and a draft reply if appropriate.

Charles Powell

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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د افغانستان د جمهوریت سفارت  
کابل

Embassy of the Republic of Afghanistan  
31 Princes Gate London SW7 1QQ  
Telephone: 01-589 8891/2

Kabul, 15 February 1990

Her Excellency,

I cordially dispatch you this letter when my country Afghanistan, is burning in the flames of war. As a result of this war, hundreds of thousands of this country's people have either been killed or wounded. And millions of others compelled to abandon their homes and lands. The national economy has sustained losses worth billions of dollars, and the social and cultural fabric of our society has suffered enormously.

The new way of thinking and approach in the field of International relations as well as inside Afghanistan on the one hand, made it possible for the Geneva Agreements to be signed on April 14, 1988, and on the other, paved the way for the proclamation and successful implementation of the humane policy of National Reconciliation since more than three years aimed at a complete cessation of the war in Afghanistan.

In accordance with the inter-related and mutual commitments under the Geneva Agreements, which were the outcome of six-year-long untiring efforts under the auspices of the UN Secretary General, all forms of foreign interference and intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan were to be ceased forthwith. The USA and The USSR were to provide guarantees for their implementation. It was on the basis of these agreements that the Soviet troops completely withdrew from Afghanistan by February 15, 1989, in accordance with the agreed time frame. However, far from ending, foreign interference and intervention rapidly escalated until it became a full-fledged war against Afghanistan after the signing and entry into force of the Geneva Agreements and particularly after the completion of Soviet troops withdrawal.

Since the Geneva Agreements have entered into force thousands of Pakistani violations have been registered out of which 8531 instances have been brought to the attention of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) through 1112 verbal notes. Over this period more than half a million rockets and other heavy artillery shells have been fired at cities and other residential areas as well as at civilian and military establishments, as a result of which around ten thousand persons, the vast majority of whom were women, children and the old, and other civilian people, have martyred or severely injured, material losses due to these attacks surpassed billions of dollars.



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I deem it necessary to mention that thousands of men belonging to Pakistan's armed forces and Saudi Arabia mercenaries participated directly along with Afghan armed opposition groups in the extensive frontal attacks against the cities of Jalalabad, Khost and Kandahar. They continue to actively take part in the military operations in other parts of Afghanistan. Several Pakistani intelligence and military personnel and Saudi mercenaries have been captured and tens of them killed in the course of their attacks.

In the same period, the quantity and quality of weapons made available to the opposition groups were substantially up-graded, while a plan for economic blockade of cities through attacking and destroying convoys of food staffs and other items of necessity was carried out which brought about a lot of suffering to the residents of cities.

All these acts were intended to help materialize the unrealistic and illusory expectations of toppling down the government of the Republic of Afghanistan by force. Now that one year elapses since the complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops, the government is stronger from the military, political, economic and morale points of view, and the possibility of achieving a military victory against it has been realistically nullified.

Many a time one ponders that after so many deaths and destructions, what objectives they are after, those who persist in their policy of continuation of war in Afghanistan.

We have proposed that broad negotiations be held between the Leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan and all the Afghan political forces, both in and outside the country, who are in favour of ensuring peace and stopping of war. These negotiations are meant to holding of a national peace conference in which all forces involved may take part and which will reach an agreement on setting up a leadership council of the country representing the convictions and views of all forces. The conference will declare a six month-long ceasefire, within which a socially broad-based coalition government will be formed by and under supervision of the leadership council that shall also establish a commission to draft a new constitution and a law on new elections.

Having confirmed the drafts of these legislations, the council shall call the traditional Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) of Afghanistan to consider and then to ratify them. Afterwards, on the basis of the new legislating a free direct, fair and nationwide parliamentary election with secret ballot will be held, and a new government will be formed, subject to the result of the election, by a party or a coalition of parties that has won a majority of seats in the parliament, and will assume the administration of the country according to the new constitution.



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Besides, the state is ready to accept the monitoring by an international commission of the election process to avoid any mistrust and to guarantee the rule of law therein.

In order to solve the external aspects of the problem, the Republic of Afghanistan has proposed that an international conference be convened with participation of Afghanistan, Pakistan, The United State, USSR, China, Iran, India, The Chairmen of NAM and Organization of Islamic Conference, and other nations concerned. In the first stage, to reinforce the ceasefire in Afghanistan, the conference will reach an agreement on stopping the delivery of any kind of weapons to the warring sides and in the next stage, it will protect and guarantee the legal status of Afghanistan both as a permanently neutral and demilitarized country to be stipulated in the new constitution.

The establishment of a free and democratic political, social and economic system in Afghanistan can in no way harm the legitimate and legal interests of neither political forces in our society. Similarly, an independent, neutral and demilitarized Afghanistan shall not only ensure peace and tranquility within our country but shall also fall in line with the interests of peace, stability and cooperation in our region.

These are our peace initiatives and the mechanism for their implementation, which, in our view can and must replace the unrealistic and futile concept of military solution, with the help of Almighty and with reliance on the sound reason and action of all Afghans. We sincerely and steadfastly strive for the effective implementation of the policy of National Reconciliation in our country and firmly believe in the triumph of this noble Islamic and humane ideal.

Your Excellency, I would like to request you as Prime Minister of a country which is a permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations to spare no efforts in restoring peace in Afghanistan which would further consolidate democratic institutions in the country.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and for the further successes of the people of Great Britain.

Her Excellency Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister of Great Britain

Najibullah  
President of the Republic of  
Afghanistan



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