



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 June 1981

Dear Michael,

State Visit of King Khalid
of Saudi Arabia

Please refer to Francis Richards's letter of 8 June.

/ I enclose a supplementary brief about our proposal for an initiative on Afghanistan.

yours ever
Rodric Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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R. JUN 1987

VISIT OF KING KHALID OF SAUDI ARABIA AND FOREIGN MINISTER
PRINCE SAUD: 9-12 JUNE

AFGHANISTAN

POINTS TO MAKE

1. International pressure must be maintained. Islamic and non-aligned movement meetings in January and February showed that there is no weakening of resolve, but grain embargo decision a set-back. We have ideas for an initiative on Afghanistan, developing Giscard's earlier idea of an international conference. The basis of this is that a conference should be held in two stages. Lord Carrington will discuss the matter in more detail with Prince Saud.

2. Until we have taken our consultations further, and have worked out the details of the proposal we shall not publicise the proposed initiative. At this stage, we have only discussed it with a very small number of people, and we have asked them to treat the matter in confidence.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Basic Concept of UK Initiative

1. The Prime Minister may wish to mention the initiative briefly to King Khalid.
2. The Secretary of State may wish to give a slightly fuller account to Prince Saud. We are, however, concerned that the Saudis may not accord any information given to them adequate security protection. For this reason it is probably preferable to say little until we ask Jedda to brief the Saudis in detail just before the initiative is launched.
3. Our proposal envisages a two stage conference on Afghanistan. Stage one would deal with external factors relating to a settlement. The membership would include the permanent members of the Security Council, leading countries in the region, the Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference, and possibly the UN Secretary-General. A second stage would then bring in representatives of Afghan opinion and would aim to reach agreement on the proposals emerging from Stage one and all other matters designed to assure Afghanistan's future as an independent and non-aligned state.
4. We have mentioned the idea to the Pakistanis who welcome the proposal.

Consultations

5. We are consulting few countries at this stage. We hope that the Ten will announce the proposal after the meeting of the Ten Foreign Ministers on 22 June. In the meantime we are limiting knowledge of the proposal to prevent/

prevent leaks.

Situation within Afghanistan

6. Resistance seem to be doing better now than for many months past. Recently they have been active in the cities, particularly Kandahar, Herat and Jalalabad. They have maintained notably high levels of activity in the south-east (particularly Pakhtia) and the north-west provinces. Much of central Afghanistan is in the hands of the Resistance. No sign that Russians are making military progress.