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FM ISLAMABAD 081745Z OCT 81.

TO IMMEDIATE COI FOR CENTRAL NEWSROOM

TELEGRAM NUMBER RETRACT 10 OF 8TH OCTOBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE FCO FOR NEWS DEPARTMENT AND OJD, NO 10 DOWNING STREET.

ITEM: MRS THATCHER MEETS AFGHAN REFUGEES

KHYBER PASS, PAKISTAN, 8 OCTOBER (LPS): BRITAIN'S PRIME MINISTER MRS MARGARET THATCHER STOOD TODAY ON THE THRESHHOLD OF AFGHANISTAN TERRITORY AND DECLARED: QUOTE WE SHALL NEVER ACCEPT THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN - WE SHALL NEVER GIVE UP OUR EFFORTS UNTIL SOVIET TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN UNQUOTE. BBR WAY BACK FROM THE COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT MEETING IN AUSTRALIA, MRS THATCHER WAS PAYINBNA ONE-DAY VISIT TO PAKISTAN IN ORDER, SHE SAID, TO SEE FOR HERSELF THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE SOVIET INVASION.

AFTER TALKS IN ISLAMABAD WITH PAKISTAN'S PRESIDENT, GENERAL ZIA UL-HAQ, THE PRIME MINISTER FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO THE FLAT DUSTY PLAIN BEYOND PESHAWAR TO A REFUGEE CAMP WHERE SOME 15,000 OF THE TWO MILLION AFGHANI REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN ARE SCATTERED IN TENTS OVER A WIDE AREA. THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT AND THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES AND NOW REPRESENT THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SINGLE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

A CAMP OFFICIAL SAID MORE REFUGEES ARRIVE EVERY DAY ON 000

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A CAMP OFFICIAL SAID MORE REFUGEES ARRIVE EVERY DAY - ON OCCASION A WHOLE TRIBE, SOMETIMES THE POPULATION OF A VILLAGE, MORE OFTEN TRICKLES OF A DOZEN OR TWENTY.

RAPTUROUS RECEPTION

AT THE CAMP MRS THATCHER HAD A RAPTUROUS RECEPTION FROM AFGHANI TRIBAL LEADERS. THEY TOLD HER THEY HAD DECLARED A QUOTE JIHAD UNQUOTE (HOLY WAR) AGAINST THE SOVIET INVADERS AND MADE CLEAR THAT THEY NOT ONLY KNEW OF BUT THOROUGHLY APPRECIATED THE STAND BRITAIN HAD TAKEN INTERNATIONALLY IN THEIR SUPPORT.

IN HER TURN, MRS THATCHER VOICED HER ANGER THAT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE SUFFERING, NOT THROUGH ANY FAULT OF THEIR OWN BUT BECAUSE A SUPER-POWER HAD QUOTE INVADDED YOUR COUNTRY, ASSAULTED YOUR INDEPENDENCE AND DRIVEN YOU FROM YOUR HOMES WITH AIRCRAFT AND TANKS UNQUOTE.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HER ADMIRATION FOR THE WAY IN WHICH AFGHANIS HAD REFUSED TO LIVE UNDER QUOTE A GODLESS COMMUNIST SYSTEM UNQUOTE WHICH WAS TRYING TO DESTROY THEIR RELIGION, THEIR WAY OF LIFE AND INDEPENDENCE.

QUOTE THE BRAVERY AND PROUD INDEPENDENCE OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE ARE LEGENDARY, UNQUOTE SHE DECLARED. QUOTE THE BRITISH PEOPLE KNOW THESE QUALITIES THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY AND THE SOVIET UNION IS LEARNING OF THEM TO ITS COST. THE AFGHAN PEOPLE WILL NEVER SUBMIT TO FOREIGN TYRANNY UNQUOTE.

MORE BRITISH AID

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE TRIBAL CHIEFS THAT IN ORDER TO HELP THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT MAKE LIFE A LITTLE EASIER FOR THEM, BRITAIN WOULD CONTRIBUTE ANOTHER POUNDS 2 MILLION IN GRANT AID AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRAMME FOR RELIEF OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEEZRDEN

SINCE JANUARY 1980 BRITAIN HAS GIVEN POUNDS 5.8 MILLION IN CASH, EMERGENCY SUPPLIES AND FOOD AID FOR THE REFUGEES.

AFTER VISITING THE CAMP, THE PRIME MINISTER TRAVELLED BY HELICOPTER AND CAR UP THE KHYBER PASS TO WITHIN A FEW YARDS OF THE AFGHANISTAN BORDER. AS SHE LOOKED ACROSS THE MOUNTAINOUS AEC DESOLATE LANDSCAPE, A MAN PROUDLY HANDER HER A RUSSIAN KALASHNIKOV AUTOMATIC RIFLRE WHICH HE SAID AFGHAN GUERILLAS HAD XCAPTURED FROM THE RUSSIANS.

TUMULTUOUS GREETING

WHEN THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER ARRIVED EARLY THIS MORNING SHE WAS GIVEN AN OFFICIAL RECEPTION ON A SCALE NORMALLY RESERVED

WHEN THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER ARRIVED EARLY THIS MORNING SHE WAS GIVEN AN OFFICIAL RECEPTION ON A SCALE NORMALLY RESERVED FOR HEADS OF STATE, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATS HERE, AND A TUMULTUOUS GREETING BY THE POPULATION WHO STOOD SHOULDER TO SHOULDER TO CLAP AND CHEER HER ON EACH STAGE OF HER TOUR.

THIS MORNING MRS THANCHER HAD AN HOUR-LONG BILATERAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ZIA, DISCUSSING MAINLY AFGHANISTAN BUT ALSO A NUMBER OF BILATERAL ISSUES.

SHE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERWARDS THAT THE ANGLO-PAKISTAN RELATIONSHIP - CLOSE AND FRIENDLY AS IT HAD BEEN FOR MANY YEARS HAD BEEN GIVEN AND ADDED DIMENSION BY THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN.

THE EFFORTS AND GENEROSITY OF THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT IN CATERING FOR MORE THAN TWO MILLION REFUGEES WAS MUCH ADMIRERD BY ALL THE FREE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, SHE DECLARED. (LPS)
ENDS.

FORSTER

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Peshawar Cantt

NWFP

Pakistan

15 October 1981.

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May it please Your Excellency,

Most respectfully I beg to say that it was on 8 October 1981 when I had the great honour to interpret Your Excellency's speech into Pashto delivered at the representative assembly of Afghan refugees held at their tented camp near Peshawar.

After the meeting, Your Excellency were extremely kind and considerate in complimenting me for my contribution, little though, I think it was.

Your kind words were highly encouraging. I thank Your Excellency with all the respect due to your high office. I am deeply obliged and feel grateful.

I met quite a few Afghan refugees after the 'Jirga' was over who most warmly and sincerely felt grateful for all that was said by Your Excellency crystalising the pace of historical events- both in the past and present and assuring them of the shape of good things to come in Afghanistan. Your Excellency's speech was indeed a message of hope to Afghan refugees under their present state of stresses and strains, hard peril and pain. Yet they are the people who have chosen the right with invincible resolution, resisting the sorest pressure, bearing the heaviest burden cheerfully and remaining cool, calm and fearless in storms giving strength and stability to what they hold most dearly namely to pursue their own good in their own way without any dictation or intervention from outside.

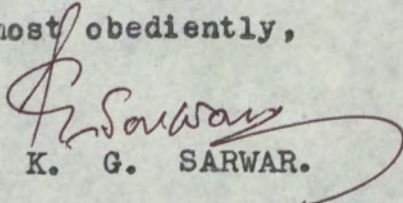
I thank Your Excellency again for

Your kindness and consideration by quoting Sir H. Davy that 'life is made up not of great sacrifices or duties but of little things in which smiles and kindnesses and small obligations given habitually are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort'.

I request Your Excellency to very kindly convey to Mr. Denis Thatcher my respectful 'Salaam' and good wishes.

Her Excellency,
Mrs Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister,
United Kingdom,
L O N D O N.

I beg to remain,
Your Excellency's
most obediently,


K. G. SARWAR.

HOME ADDRESS:-

K. G. SARWAR M.A.
No 1 KHATTAK LODGE,
NEAR CIVIL QUARTERS,
KOHAT ROAD,
PESHAWAR CANTT: NWFP
PAKISTAN.



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Pakistani

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From the Private Secretary

2 November 1981

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter to her of 15 October. She was most grateful to you for having written.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Mr. K.G. Sarwar

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