

PRIME MINISTER

AFGHAN DELEGATION: 1800 HOURS, THURSDAY

You are to receive a delegation organised by the all-Party Afghanistan Support Committee. This will include a representative from each Party and a number of Afghans. The purpose of the fifteen minute call is to encourage public interest in Afghanistan Day (Sunday 21 March) and re-affirm internationally the Government's concern over Afghanistan.

Yes
We plan to organise a photocall. In order to achieve maximum publicity would you be prepared, exceptionally, to meet the Afghans at the Front Door? This ^{SETTING} would be much more in keeping with the Afghans national dress than one of the State Rooms whilst providing an immediately recognisable backdrop. Agree?

We then envisage you will take the delegation (but no press or cameras) upstairs for no more than ten minutes. Peter Temple-Morris and Lord Bethell will say a few words and no doubt you will wish to respond. Content?

P. Temple-Morris

Yes mt.

16 March 1982



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

This need not take very long - 15 minutes at the outside.

2. You have agreed to be photographed with the delegation outside No. 10.

3. We could then go to the White Drawing Room where Mr. Temple-Norris and Lord Sathell will give you a brief account of their activities. You can then comment briefly on our attitude towards Afghanistan.

A.F.C. $\frac{17}{3}$

MR COLES

h.a. M 19/3

AFGHANISTAN SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Prime Minister has agreed to receive the delegation at the front door.

Mr Peers Carter has given me the following details in respect of the delegation:-

Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP

Lord Bethell MEP

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth MP

Mr James Tinn MP

Mrs Fatima Nasser Zia (she is the daughter of an Afghan resistance leader. She lives in the UK.)

Mrs Karima Farani (she has been living in the UK since the Russian invasion. Her husband was a political prisoner in Afghanistan under the communist regime prior to the invasion. He has since managed to leave Afghanistan.)

Mr Mohammed Ebrahim (a Hazara from Kabul who has been living in this country for the past year.)

Mr Engineer Ghulam (not his full name as he wishes to protect his family. He is currently visiting Britain on a COI sponsored visit and represents the combined Fundamentalist resistance headquarters in Peshawar.)

All of the Afghans, except Mr Ebrahim, will be in national dress.

The Press Office is arranging for a photocall outside the front door.

M.

IAN KYDD
17 March 1982



10 DOWNING STREET

Press Notice

AFGHANISTAN DAY

DELEGATION TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER

Later today (Thursday 18 March) the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP, will receive a delegation sponsored by the Afghanistan Support Committee. In the delegation will be four Afghans including Dr Ghulam Farouq Azaz who is currently visiting the UK and who is Secretary General of the Alliance of Non-Fundamentalist Resistance Groups in Peshawar. The delegation are calling in connection with Afghanistan Day on 21 March. A copy of the Prime Minister's message to the Afghanistan Support Committee is attached.

18 March 1982

Notes to Editors

The delegation members are:

Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP
Rt Hon Roland Moyle MP
Mr Ian Wrigglesworth MP
Lord Bethell MEP

Dr Ghulam Farouq Azaz (see above)
Mrs Fatima Nasser Zia (daughter
of a resistance leader)
Mrs Karima Farani (her husband
was a political prisoner in
Afghanistan)
Mr Mohammed Ebrahim (a Hazara
from Kabul)

Further details about the delegation are available from the Afghanistan Support Committee, Tel: 01-379 7218.

Photocall

There will be an open photocall outside No 10 at 6.00pm today, Thursday 18 March. Please inform the No 10 Press Office if you plan to send a representative.

Afghanistan Support Committee

The Afghanistan Support Committee was formed in late 1980 as an all-party British parliamentary group. They campaign for the rights of the people of Afghanistan to individual freedom and national self-determination. They also raise money for Afghans in need and particularly for Afghan refugees. For further information contact the Afghanistan Support Committee, Tel: 01-379 7218.