

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 February 1988

Dear Robert,

AFGHANISTAN

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had a brief word this morning about Mr. Gorbachev's statement of 8 February on Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Prime Minister recalled that she had urged Mr. Gorbachev, at their meeting at Brize Norton, to withdraw all Soviet troops from Afghanistan in the course of 1988 and had added that the Soviet Union could not stipulate the form of government in Afghanistan after their withdrawal. To the extent that the new Soviet statement matched these requirements we should welcome it while making clear that there had to be genuine self-determination and a solution which would enable the refugees to return. She thought it would be tactically unwise to suggest that the statement represented no change over existing Soviet positions.

Yours sincerely,

(C.D. POWELL)

R.N. Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL