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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
PRIME MINISTER
SERIAL No. T75A/80

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New Delhi,
April 6, 1980

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your message of March 2 regarding Afghanistan.

We have taken a consistent position against foreign interference in any form in the internal affairs of other countries. We are deeply concerned at the extension of super-power rivalry in our region. We believe that the attempts to de-escalate the present situation should be through diplomatic and political initiatives rather than taking recourse to military solutions.

I have closely followed the initiative taken by Britain and other members of the European Community, on the idea of a neutral Afghanistan. I believe that the proposal has been conveyed to the USSR. We have an open mind on the continuing efforts to seek a lasting solution. We appreciate your clarification that your ideas do not exclude Afghanistan remaining non-aligned. We wonder, then, whether a non-aligned country needs to indicate a neutral status. I am glad that your Government is thinking on similar lines and

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has taken a flexible position involving constructive consultations. It would interest me to know the Soviet response to your initiative.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Indira Gandhi)

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,
London