



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 February 1981

Mr. Brown.

Thank you for your letter of 16 January.

The regime in Afghanistan was installed as a result of the Soviet invasion and has been kept in power by the presence of some 85,000 Soviet troops. The opposition of the Afghan people to the regime is demonstrated by the continuing fighting in nearly every province of Afghanistan and by the massive exodus of refugees (now about 1.4 million) to Pakistan.

I have no intention of inviting Mr. Babrak Karmal to London.

The resolution of the United States General Assembly of 20 November 1980, supported by 111 countries including the United Kingdom but not the Soviet Union, called for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. I very much hope that the UN Secretary-General will soon appoint a representative to promote a solution, and that that representative will secure an undertaking from the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops as the resolution requires. So far the Soviet Union has made no commitment in that respect. The absence of such a commitment is the main obstacle to a solution to the problems brought about by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Ron Brown, Esq., M.P.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

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cc 720

Afghanistan.

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