

Euro Council  
14/12

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For your information. Apologies  
for the copy: *JH*

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cc Mr J Holmes (Private Office)  
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— No. 10 (Mr Coles)

Sir J Bullard

EUROPEAN COUNCIL 3/4 DECEMBER: AFGHANISTAN

1. The Secretary of State was briefed to propose at the Foreign Ministers' meeting, 23 November, that Afghanistan should be discussed at the European Council on 3/4 December and referred to in the communiqué. Unfortunately an opportunity to do so did not arise. We nevertheless think that the Council should refer to Afghanistan if this can be arranged on this late date.

BACKGROUND

The draft is raised with the Political Directors in the margins of the European Council meeting 3/4 December and the attached passage recommended for inclusion in the communiqué.

BACKGROUND

3. Any omission of Afghanistan in the communiqué could be taken as a sign of declining interest. This would be most unwelcome when the UN General Assembly has just voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Pakistani draft resolution on Afghanistan (114-21-13). We have seen no evidence to substantiate recent press speculation that Andropov may be more flexible over Afghanistan, and the EC needs to reaffirm its views.

4. The attached draft is based on the passage on Afghanistan in the EC conclusions on political cooperation, 28/30 March.

1 December 1982

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With the recent overwhelming vote at the UNGA in mind, the European Council considers it right to draw particular attention once more to the tragic situation in Afghanistan which has suffered nearly three years of military occupation. Soviet forces now total some 100,000 men; repression of the civilian population continues unabated. The massive exodus of refugees, who already number more than one fifth of the population, represents an increasing humanitarian and social problem.

In the view of the European Council, it is more necessary than ever to hasten the search for a political solution to the Afghanistan problem. This can only be on the basis of the complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops and respect for the independence, sovereignty and non-alignment of Afghanistan.

The Council strongly reaffirms the desire of the Ten to contribute to an acceptable settlement. It denounces again the negative attitude of the Soviet Union in rejecting successively the proposals made by the Ten, the Non-aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Council strongly urges consideration of their proposals of 30 June 1981 for a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict. These remain on the table and offer a reasonable and practicable way forward if the political will exists. They seek to bring about the cessation of external

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intervention and the establishment of safeguards to prevent such interventions in the future, and take into full account the legitimate interests of the area.

The Council welcomes the nomination by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a Personal Representative for the Afghan question, and continue to follow with interest the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative.

WITH THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AFGHANISTAN IN MIND, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL CONSIDERS IT RIGHT TO DRAW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE TRAGIC SITUATION OF THAT COUNTRY, NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR OF MILITARY OCCUPATION. THE SOVIET EXPEDITIONARY FORCE HAS RECENTLY BEEN STRENGTHENED; REPRESSION OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION CONTINUES WITHOUT RESPITE; AND EVERY DAY ADDS TO THE TOTAL OF REFUGEES, WHO ALREADY NUMBER SOME 3 MILLION, OR ONE IN FIVE OF THE POPULATION.

IN THE VIEW OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, IT IS MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER TO HASTEN THE SEARCH FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE AFGHANISTAN PROBLEM. THIS CAN ONLY BE ON THE BASIS OF THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOVIET TROOPS AND RESPECT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-ALIGNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN.

THE COUNCIL STRONGLY REAFFIRMS THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF LUXEMBOURG AND LONDON, AND THE DESIRE OF THE TEN TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO THE LIMIT OF THEIR POWERS TO AN ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT. IT DENOUNCES THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN REJECTING SUCCESSIVELY THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE TEN, THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE COUNCIL WELCOMES THE NOMINATION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OF A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE AFGHAN QUESTION, AND HOPES THAT THIS INITIATIVE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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