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Central Intelligence Agency

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CIANESA

82-10076 M 18 February 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Geoffrey Kemp
Senior Staff Adviser for the Middle East
NSC Staff

FROM:

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Afghan Refugee Morale

In view of your concern, expressed in our meeting on 8 February 1982, about reports of low morale in Afghan refugee camps, I thought you might have special interest in the attached cable [REDACTED]. Its authors recently discerned many problems in the camps but--in the last paragraph of a long, rather rambling message--reported reasonably high morale in relation to continuing the fight against the Russians.

[REDACTED] has provided the following comment:

"Although the currently widespread interest in Afghanistan is bringing international aid sufficient for Pakistan to support a refugee population of more than 2 million, there are grounds for long-term concern. Problems have surfaced between refugees and the local population and, as the war in Afghanistan drags on, the situation is becoming more volatile. Pre-existing tribal and religious rivalries have been exacerbated by competition for scarce resources like firewood and water, and the Pakistan's Frontier Corps has been forced to squelch fights in some villages. Much of the quarreling is endemic to the North West Frontier--the British had to keep order between tribes--but a large, permanent refugee presence in an area short of economic resources is almost certain eventually to pose a significant problem for the Government of Pakistan."

[REDACTED]

Attachment: a/s

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[REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Afghan Refugee Morale [REDACTED]

Distribution:
Orig - Addec

Orig: [REDACTED]

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