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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 12, 1983

Dear Messrs. Omar, Djamily and Yussuf:

This letter is in response to the issues which you raised at our meeting in Los Angeles in October. On the issue of resettlement assistance for Afghani refugees in Southern California, I have contacted the Department of State and have been advised of the following.

Afghani, as well as other refugees, are initially received and placed in the United States by private voluntary agencies who receive funds for this purpose under cooperative agreements with the Department of State. The voluntary agencies provide staff who themselves, or often with the help of volunteers, assist the refugees in "settling-in" to their new lives in America. Arrangements for initial food, clothing and shelter are included in this responsibility as are extensive counseling and referral services related to school registration, health screening and employment.

Refugees requiring public assistance may access the same programs that other legal residents of this country may utilize. These programs include cash assistance, medicaid and food stamps. In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services allocates money to the states to provide English language, vocational training and employment services to help refugees become, as quickly as possible, self-supporting and contributing members of the society.

With respect to assistance to Afghani refugees in Southern California, two voluntary agencies receive special matching grant funding from the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) which is earmarked for this ethnic group. These programs emphasize acculturation, employment counseling and English language classes. Additional specific information can be obtained from these agencies at the following locations:

The International Institute of Los Angeles
2121 West Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90057
Phone: (213) 264-6210

Catholic Community Services
Diocese of San Diego
4643 Mission Gorge Place
San Diego, CA 92120
Phone: (619) 287-9454

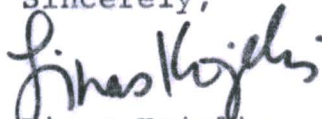
Also, a private, non-profit organization exists for the purpose of assisting Afghani immigrants in a variety of endeavors including the development of small business concerns. This contact is:

Mr. Noor Delawari
Afghanistan Freedom Organization
P. O. Box 9331
Glendale, CA 91206
Phone: (213) 952-4083

On the issue of U.S. assistance for the freedom fighters battling Soviet forces in Afghanistan, I have relayed your concerns to the appropriate officials in the National Security Council. Nonetheless, I believe the dialogue on this issue between Washington and the Afghani-American community could very well be improved. I am examining the possibilities of arranging a meeting between appropriate government representatives and members of the Afghani-American community to discuss this matter in detail. I will contact you again should such a meeting be arranged.

I trust this information will be useful to you.

Sincerely,



Linas Kojelis
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison

Mr. Mohammad Sarwar Omar
Mr. Aziz A. Djamily
Mr. Ahmed Zia Yussuf
1011 West Buffalo St.
Santa Ana, CA 92706



November 25, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Linas Kojelis
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison
The White House

FROM: James N. Purcell, Jr. ^{JP}
Director
Bureau for Refugee Programs

SUBJECT: Resettlement Assistance for Afghani Refugees
in Southern California

This is in response to your memorandum of October 24, 1983, concerning the availability of programs designed to assist Afghani refugees in adjusting to life in America, with specific attention to those residing in Southern California.

Afghani, as well as other refugees, are initially received and placed in the United States by private voluntary agencies who receive funds for this purpose under cooperative agreements with the Department of State. The voluntary agencies provide staff who themselves, or often with the help of volunteers, assist the refugees in "settling-in" to their new lives in America. Arrangements for initial food, clothing, and shelter are included in this responsibility as are extensive counseling and referral services related to school registration, health screening, and employment.

Refugees requiring public assistance may access the same programs that other legal residents of this country may utilize. These programs include cash assistance, medicaid and food stamps. In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services allocates money to the states to provide English language, vocational training and employment services to help refugees become, as quickly as possible, self-supporting and contributing members of the society.

If you require additional specific information about any of these programs, I would recommend you contact the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) which is located in Room 1332 of the Switzer Building, 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201.

cf-

With respect to assistance to Afghani refugees in Southern California, two voluntary agencies receive special matching grant funding from the ORR which is earmarked for this ethnic group. These programs emphasize acculturation, employment counseling, and English language classes. Additional specific information can be obtained from these agencies at the following locations:

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also ~~Finally~~, a private, non-profit organization exists for the purpose of assisting Afghani immigrants in a variety of endeavors including the development of small business concerns. This contact is:

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Phone: (213) 952-4083

cc: *W. Phillip Hawkes*
Director, ORR

Afghanistan.

- In Afghanistan → need tools of war. guns/attacks.
- more & better. to meet the present demand.
- Sov's kill 1 mill. Afghans.
- all ~~the~~ families lose.
- Weinberger ~~was~~ there.
& was Shultz, Both were & ~~afghan~~ Shultz are in Afghanistan.
Need the tools of war.
- 88-90% what they get from Afghanistan. logistical support. Communications & short wave.
- 10 million Afghan.
 - 4 - Pak.
 - 1 - Iran
 - 1 - Arab.
- 9 + million. pro west.
- 500 - 1K - axe handles
- 15 K Afghan in US, 5K in Calif.

→ The State helps → Afghan refugee
resettlement programs.

→ Very good ↗

→ Refugees mostly in Pakistan. Quota to
come to U.S. is very low.

→ No hospitals in Pakistan &
Afghanistan.

→ We need center in U.S. ↗

→ \$7 million from ~~state~~ state
for refugee resettlement

→ Proper person → contacting back.

Mohammad Sarwar Omar

1011 West Buffalo St.

Santa Ana Ca 92706

Te 714 667 6097

AZIZ. A. DSAMILY 676-4248

11429 TRURO AVE HAWTHORNE ^{Calif}
90250

Ahmed Zia YUSSUF

211 S. Birch St, Santa Ana CA 9270

Tel (714) 836-7480

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 24, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES N. PURCELL, DIRECTOR, BUREAU FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS

FROM:

LINAS KOJELIS

Linas Kojelis

SUBJECT:

Resettlement Assistance for Afghani Refugees in Southern California

During a recent trip to Los Angeles, I met with a small delegation of both Afghan-Americans and recent Afghan immigrants. In our discussions, they expressed concern over the lack of refugee resettlement programs for Afghan refugees. According to the delegation, there are about 5,000 such refugees in Southern California. As I am not an expert in these matters, I could only respond by promising to look into this matter by contacting appropriate officials in Washington.

I would appreciate knowing what, if any, programs are available to assist these refugees in adjusting to life in America. Also, if possible, I would appreciate being informed of any specific individuals or offices in Southern California which could be contacted directly by the Afghan community.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 25, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Linas Kojelis
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison
The White House

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Director
Bureau for Refugee Programs

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