

WILLIAM P. ROGERS

March 9, 1982

To the Mayor:

I spoke this week to Mayor Helen Boosalis who suggested that I write you concerning Afghanistan Day. Congress has designated Sunday, March 21, as Afghanistan Day, joining with the European Parliament and other governments in the expression of support for the Afghan people.

President Reagan has told me of the importance he attaches to a widespread and meaningful expression of support by the American people on that day. I'm urging your cooperation. In so doing, I have the support of former Presidents Carter, Ford and Nixon, and of the other former Secretaries of State in addition to myself, Mr. Muskie, Mr. Vance, Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Rusk.

There are four significant points to make in recalling to the American people what is happening in Afghanistan:

-- The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan without provocation. They remain there with some 90,000 troops.

-- The Afghan people, almost to a man, are resisting the Soviet occupation. They are engaged in an uncompromising fight for their freedom and independence.

-- The Afghan people are paying a terrible price for their resistance. There are about 2 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan; almost one Afghan in five is a refugee.

-- The Soviets are paying a political and military price for their violation of every standard of international behavior. Events such as Afghanistan Day remind the Soviet government and the Soviet people of the overwhelming global opposition to their invasion. Such a show of international solidarity heartens the Afghan Freedom Fighters. There is also good reason to believe that Afghan resistance played a role in deterring the Soviets from attacking Poland.

In the time between now and March 21, I hope all Americans will do what they can to bring to the attention of others the message about Afghanistan Day and to join in commemorating the event. I hope that you, in your official capacity and through your personal influence, will join in that effort.

Inquiries can be directed to my office at the Old Executive Office Building, Washington, D. C., (Telephone: (202) 395-4996) or at my law office through Anthony F. Essaye (Telephone: (202) 331-7760).

I would appreciate it if you could let me know what measures you decide to take in connection with Afghanistan Day.

Sincerely,

William F. Rogers

5-91B
Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, trans-
mitting comm. from William P. Rogers Re:
Afghanistan Day, March 21, 1982.

In City Council,

March 9, 1982