

Ismat U. Nawabi, M.D.
6323 7th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11220

October 15, 2001

Secretary of State Collin Powell
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At the threat of the U.S. air strikes it was estimated that 2 million Afghan civilians had abandoned their homes and were headed for the borders of Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan. When the air strikes were felt to be imminent millions more were on the move. From the pictures of Jalalabad one would not be surprised to see higher numbers.

These civilians are likely to have nothing if and when they come back to their homes. To people driven from their homes into the desert and hills, food drops and medical kits are little comfort. The question is why are millions Afghan citizens being punished after suffering 22 years of devastation by civil war and four years of draught? These people are neither terrorist nor do they harbor them.

The Afghan people were the ones who were left at the mercy of foreigners twice. Of one they rid themselves, on the others they have become dependent. Power, now they have none, and how much of will they have left to free themselves, only Almighty God knows.

It must be noted that those who invited foreign intervention into Afghanistan have blended themselves so perfectly into the background that no one is aware of them or their activities.

If the Northern Alliance is let loose on the nation it could be a blood bath. One must know that sooner or later the tide will change, and the majority in the south will again dominate, then there will be another blood bath.

Sir, there must be a better way to eradicate terrorism as the present process can only breed more terrorism. This is what your office can achieve. Terrorism bred terrorism, terrorism breed's terrorism. We have seen it happen. Something must be done to save the lives and dignity of a nation that made sacrifices for their freedom as they did for the free world. The present generation is the children of those brave people. Bombing them and driving into the hills is not a solution.

What is happening in Afghanistan contradicts what America stands for and what our religions teach. Our goal must be that the nations of the world must love us. Less than that should not be acceptable.

Now that the United States is determined not to turn its back on Afghanistan, it must make sure that in time, a system is in place that represents all segments of the Afghan society. A government installed from outside will not do nor will the aggregate of those who brought this tragedy on the Afghan people. Every area of Afghanistan must feel part of the whole as it is allowed to enjoy its regional freedom. The people of Afghanistan must choose who their representatives will be. Not people from outside.

The United States must give to the rest of the world what it has chosen for itself at home. A just system will not be only remembered for generations to come but will serve as an example for the rest of the world to follow.

America would then have succeeded.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ismat U. Nawabi".

Ismat U. Nawabi, M.D.