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It contains extra information, high resolution zoomable views and transcriptions.

## **Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India'**

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/12/2171
<b>Date(s)</b>	4 Mar 1931-4 Jan 1935 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (65 folios)
<b>Copyright for document</b>	<u>Unknown</u>

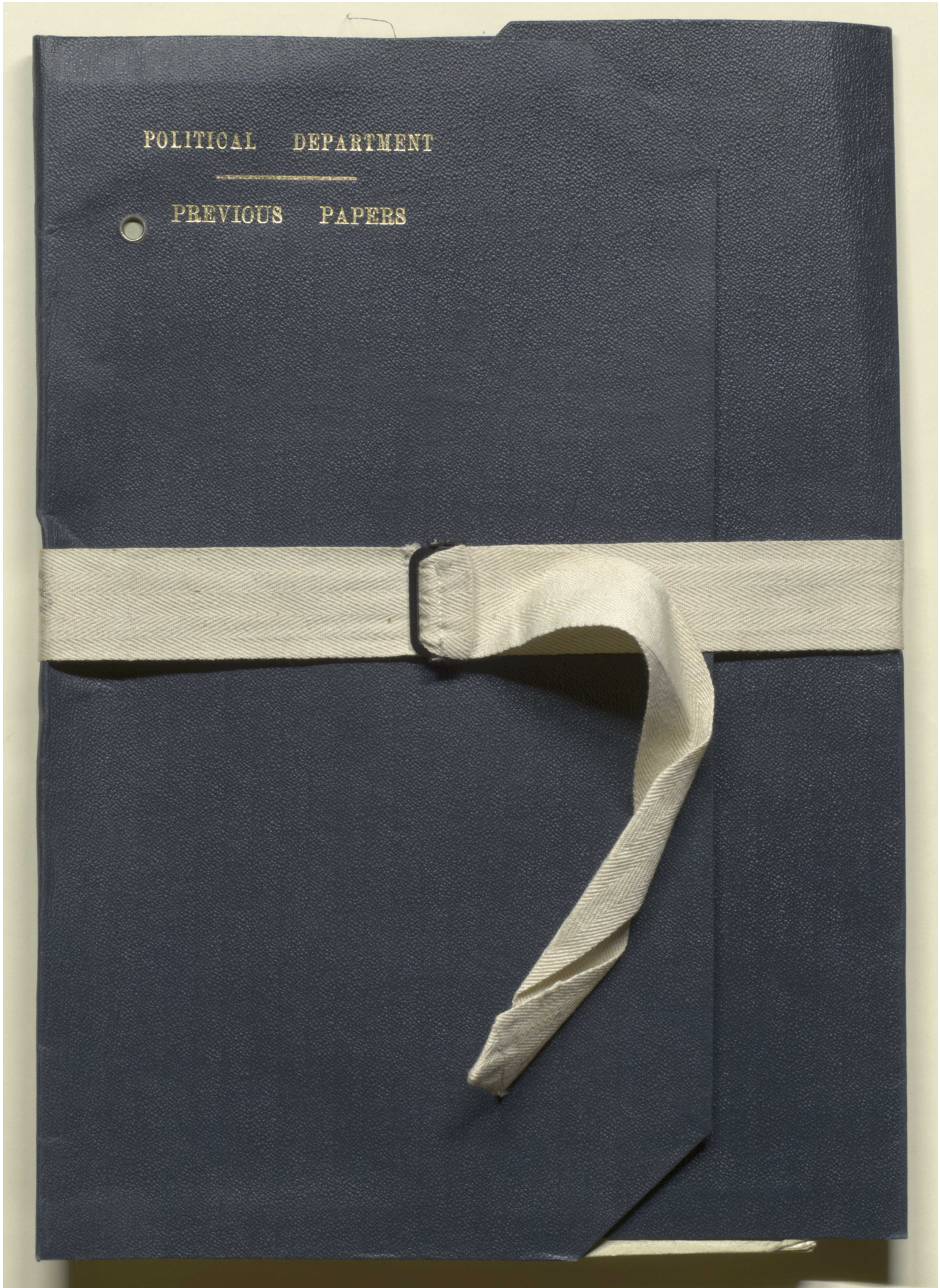


### **About this record**

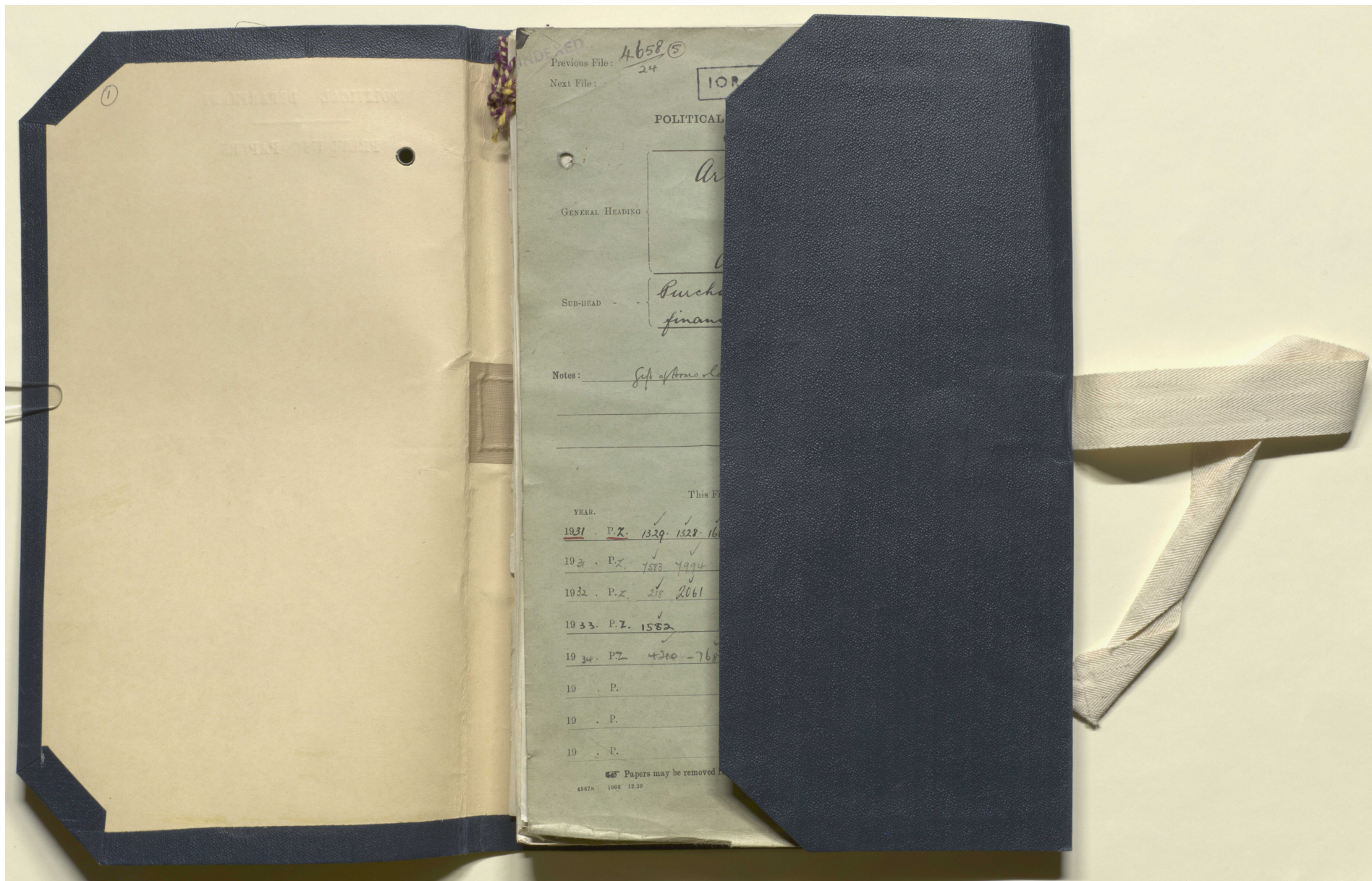
Correspondence regarding the provision of a £75,000 grant of assistance by the Government of India to the Afghan Government, and arrangements for the supply of arms and ammunition. The correspondents are: the Government of India's Foreign and Political Department; HM Envoy and Minister at Kabul (Richard Maconachie); the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; and the Afghan Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The file includes a divider which gives a list of correspondence references contained in the file by year. This is placed at the end of the correspondence (folio 2).

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [front] (1/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India'  
[front-i] (2/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India'  
[2r] (3/133)

①

INDEXED

Previous File: 4658 ⑤  
Next File: 24

IOR: PS/12/2171

No. 7  
File 2

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT.  
COLLECTION.

GENERAL HEADING: Arms & Ammunition.

SUB-HEAD: Afghanistan.  
Purchase of Arms by Afghan Govt from financial assistance granted by Govt.

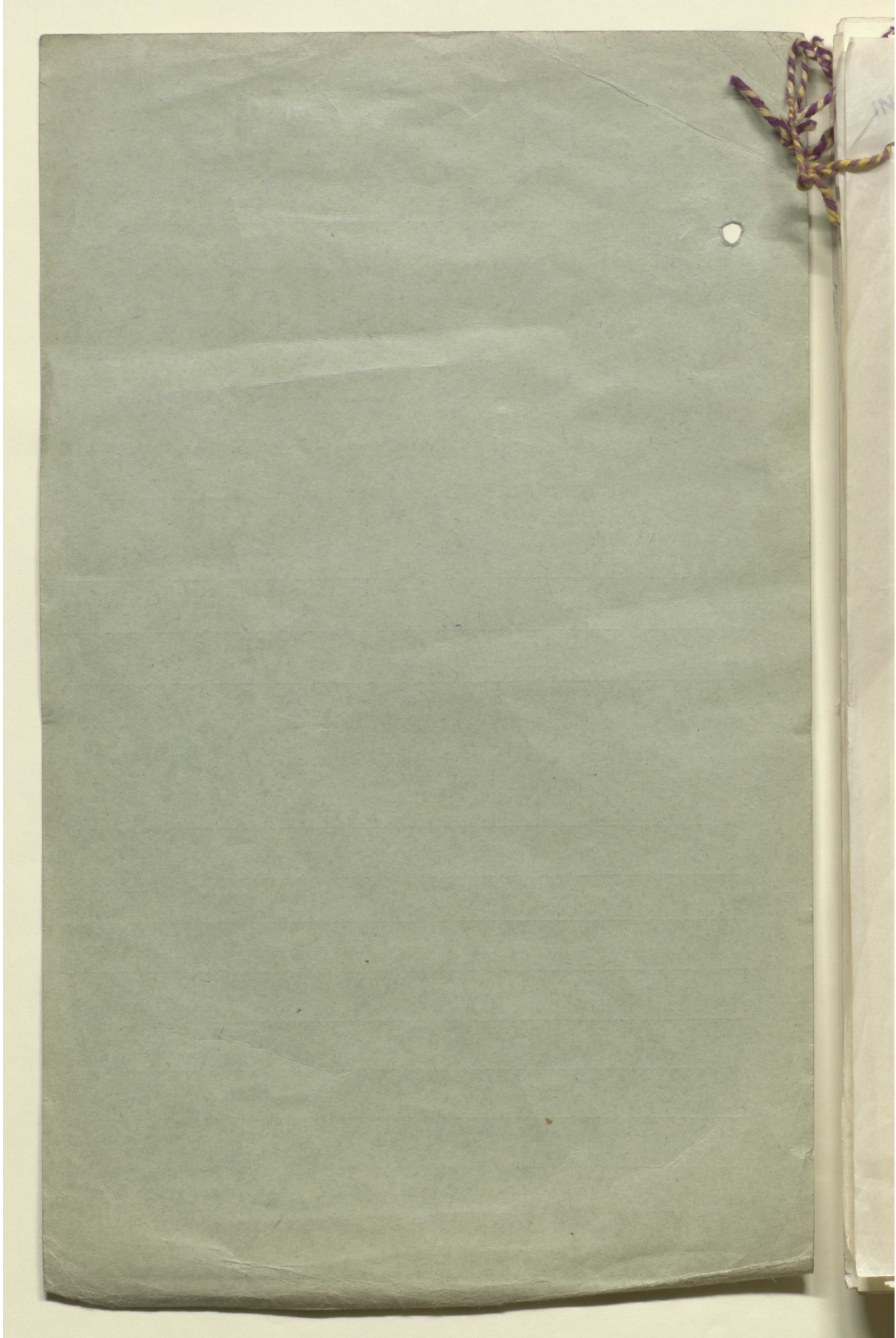
Notes: Gift of Arms loan of money. Call. 3/4

This File contains the following papers:—

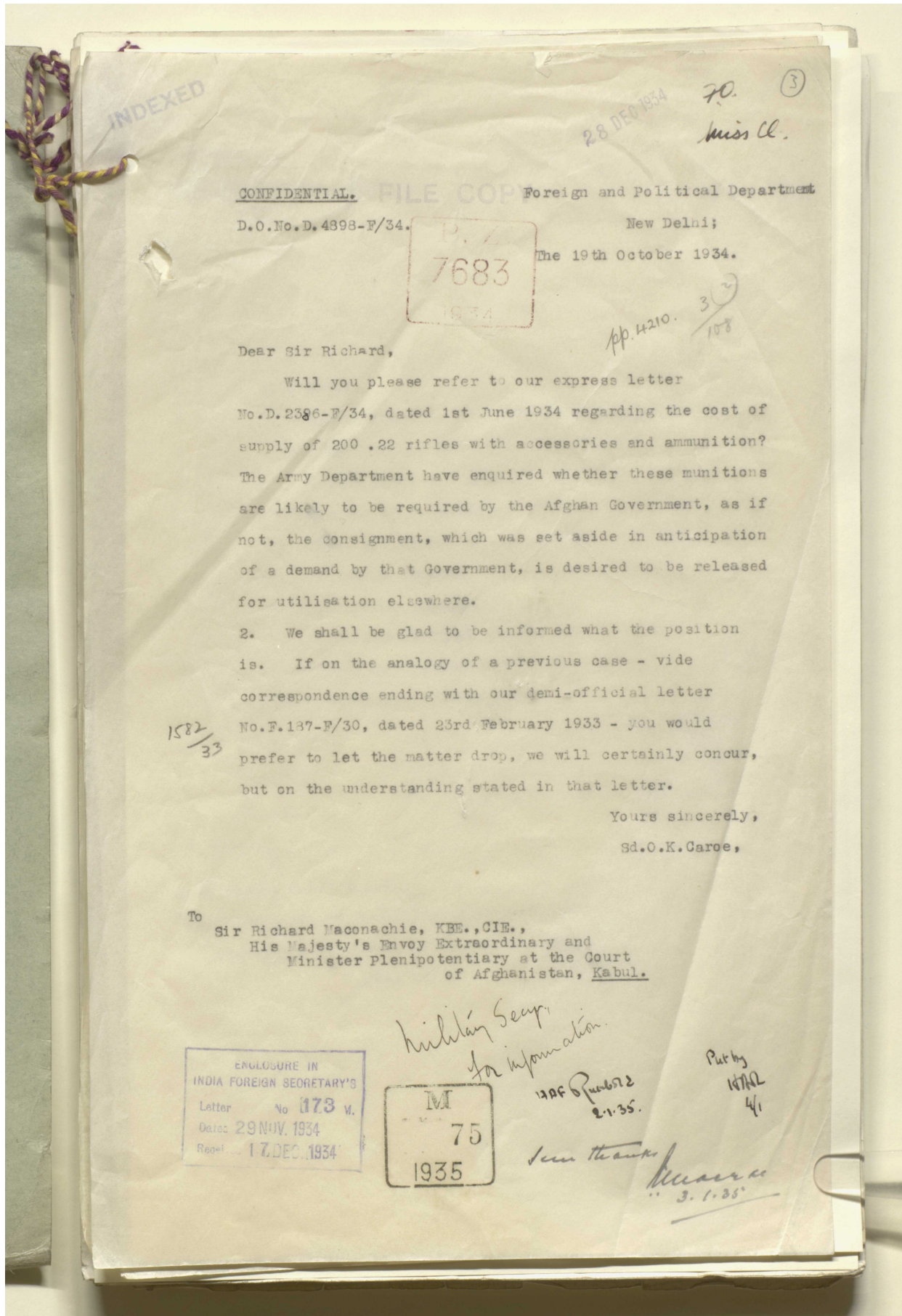
YEAR.												
1931	P.Z.	1329	1328	1669	1995	2002	2390	2374	2505	2984	3636	4144
1931	P.Z.	7573	7994									
1932	P.Z.	215	2061	564								
1933	P.Z.	1582										
1934	P.Z.	4240	7683									
19	P.											
19	P.											
19	P.											

Papers may be removed from or placed within this File only by the Political Registry.

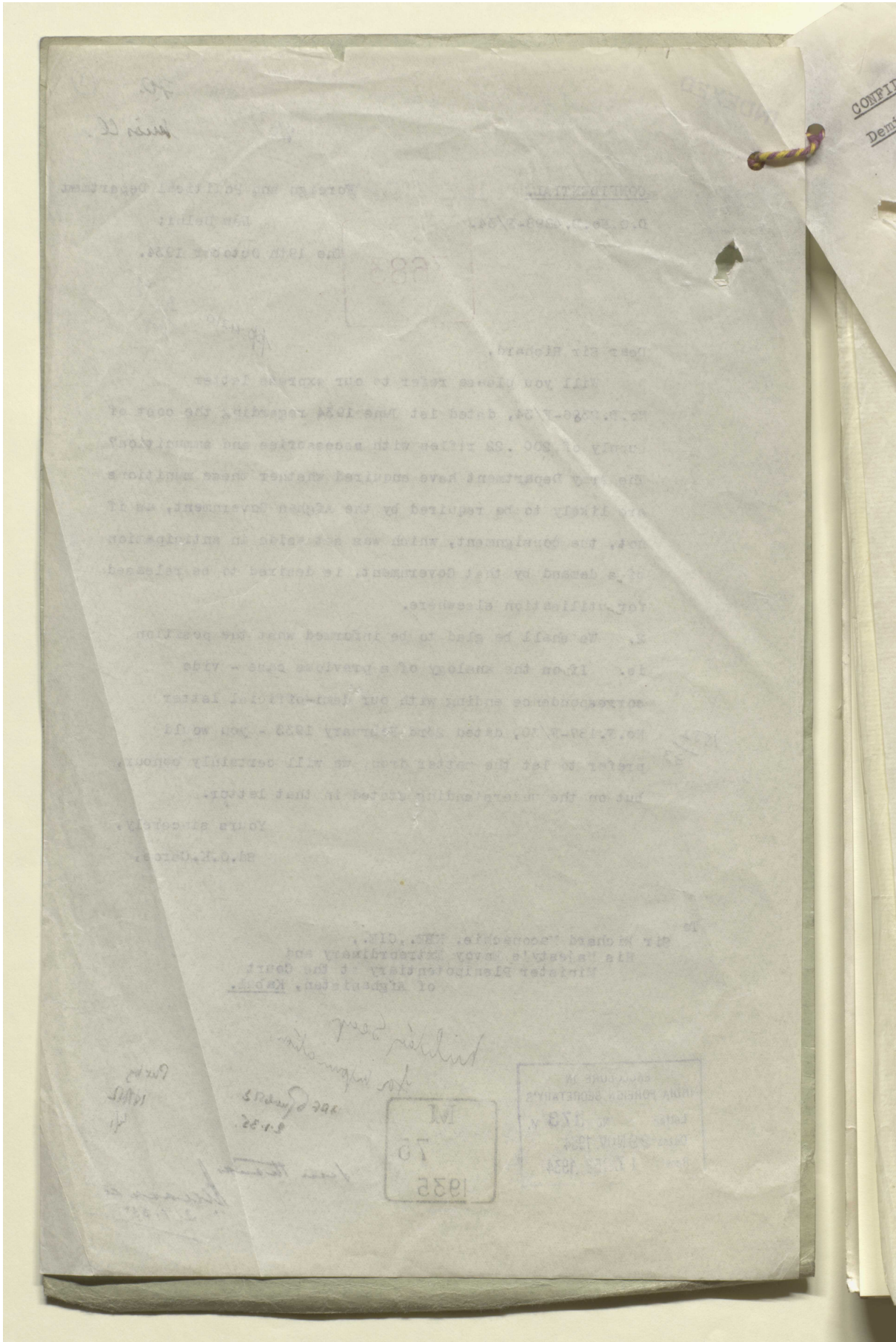
4870 1000 1230



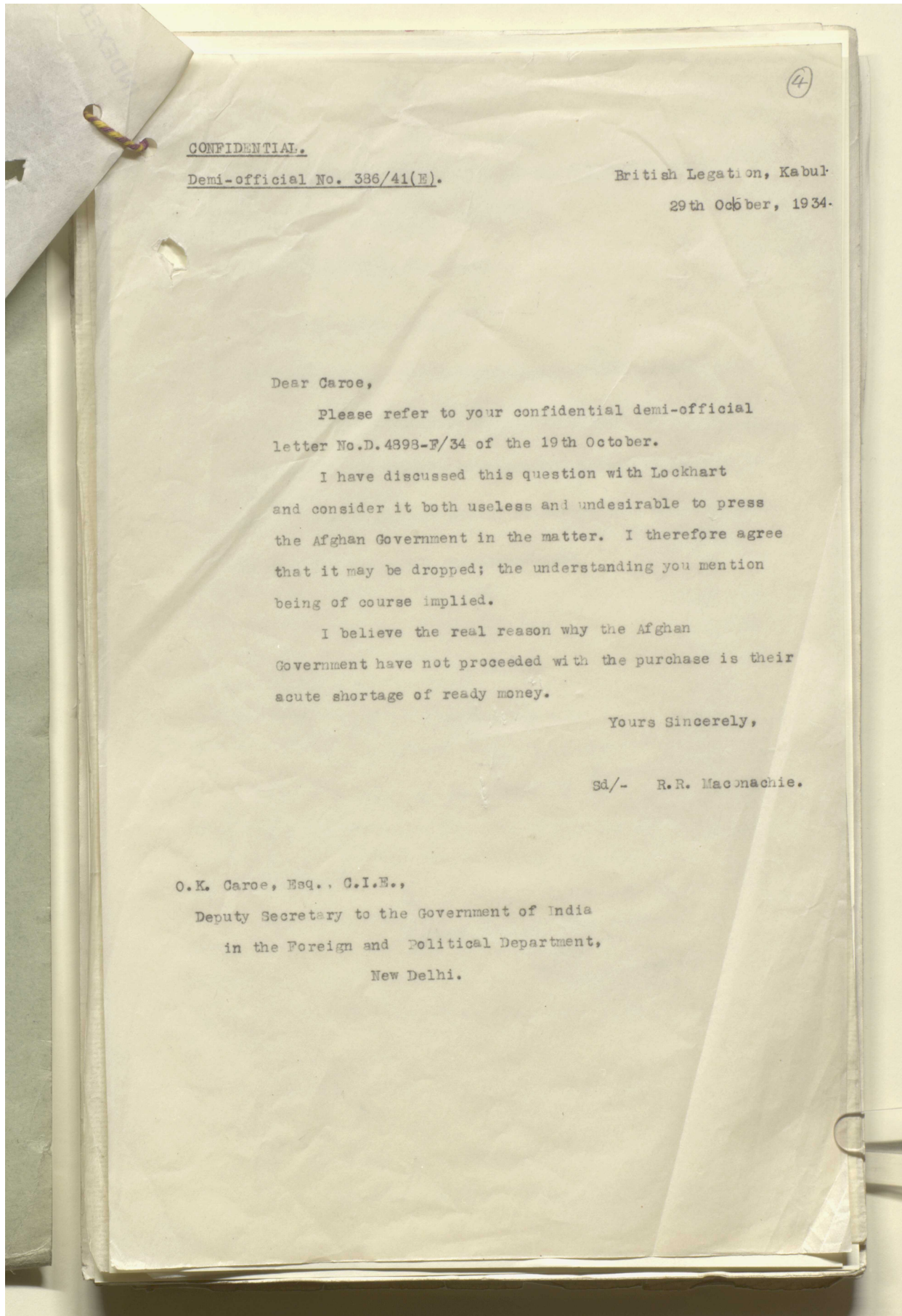
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [3r] (5/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [3v] (6/133)

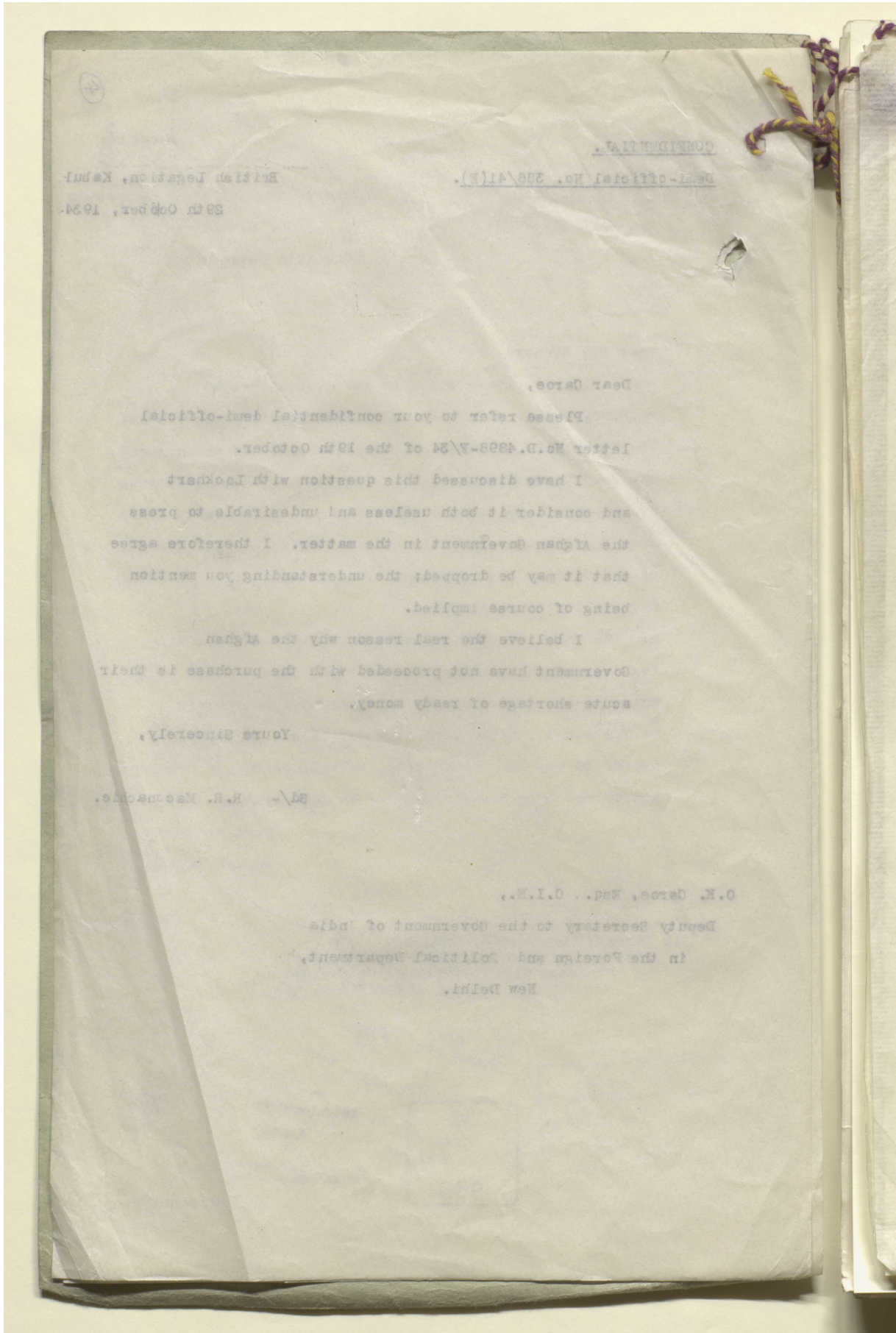


Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [4r] (7/133)

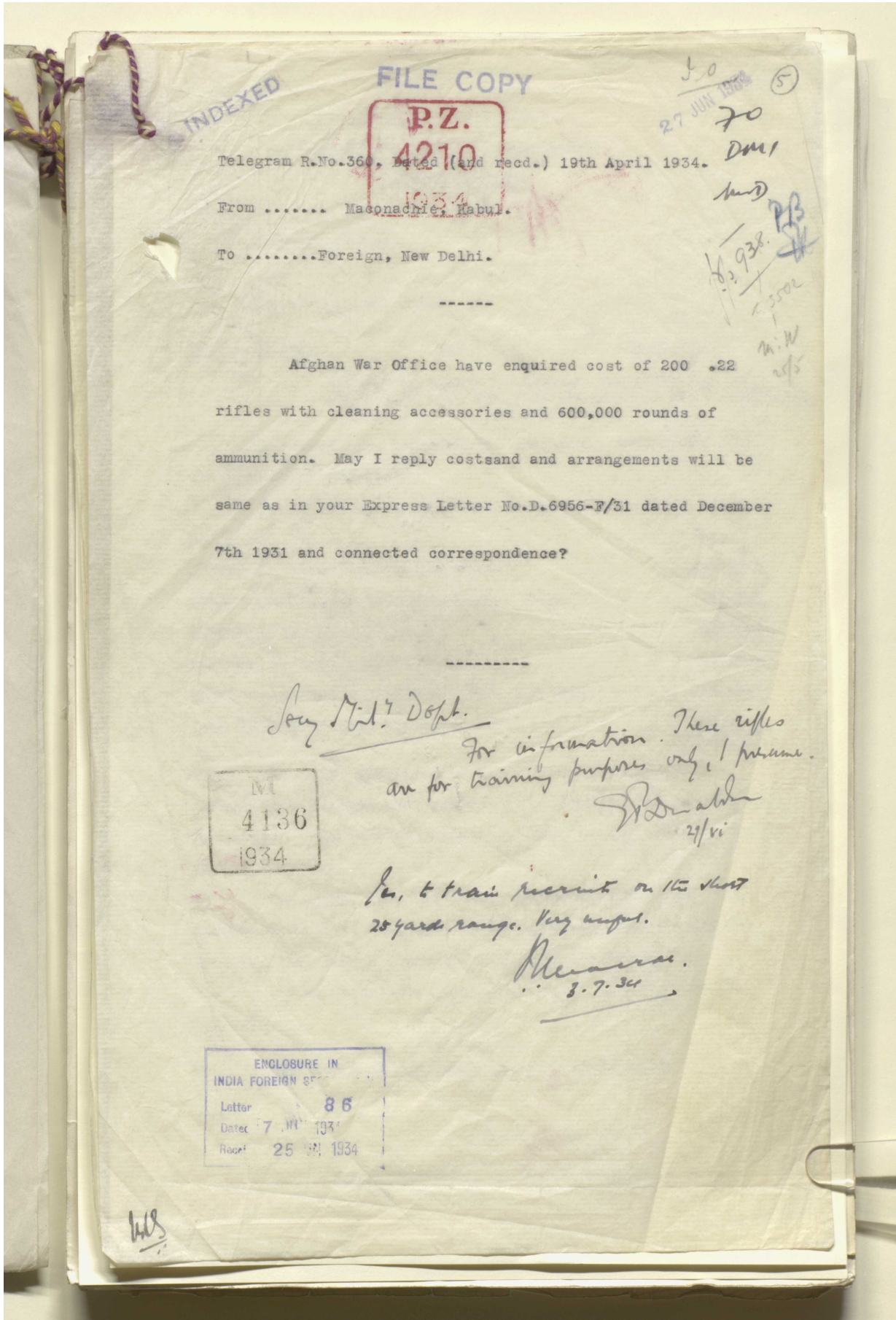




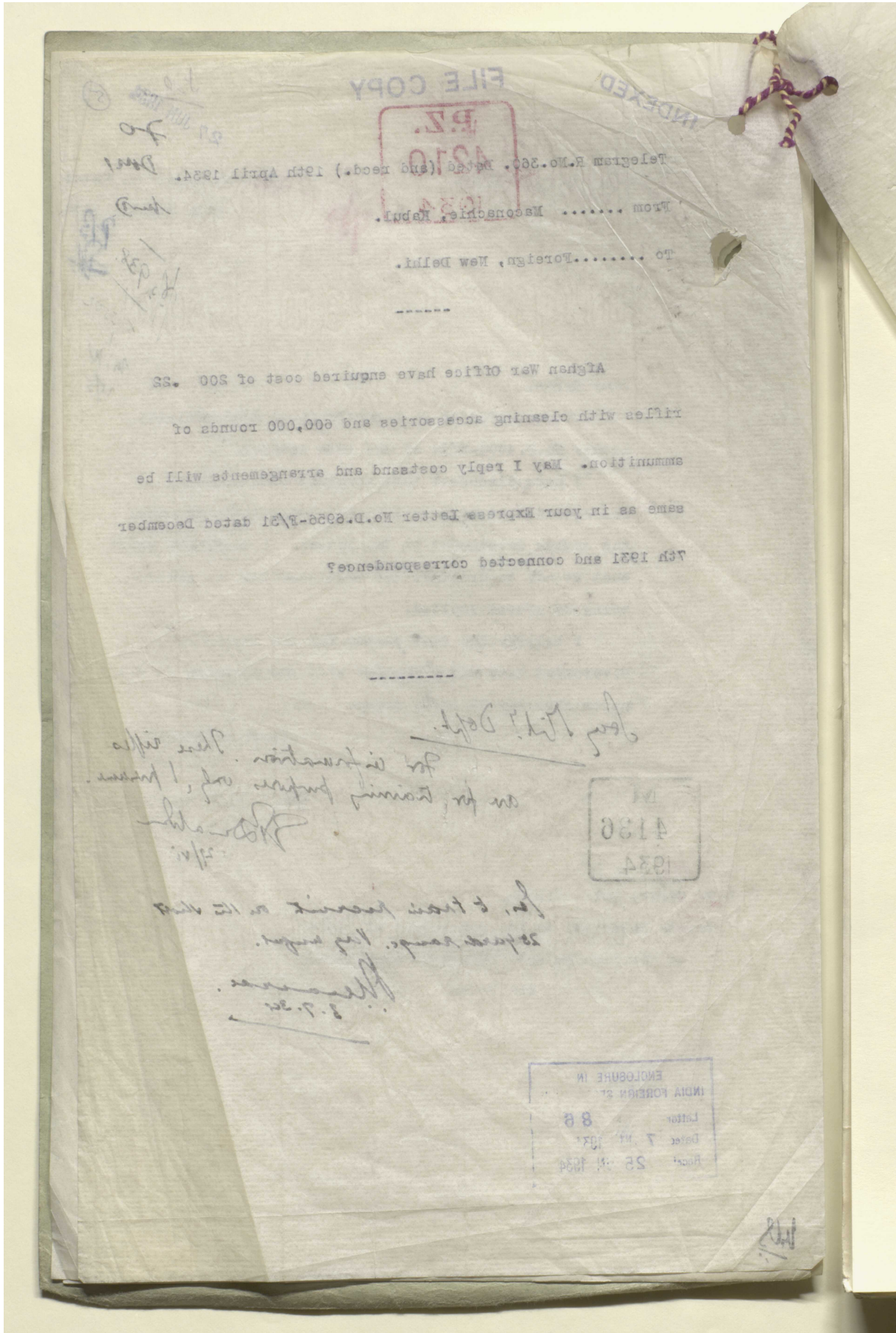
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [4v] (8/133)



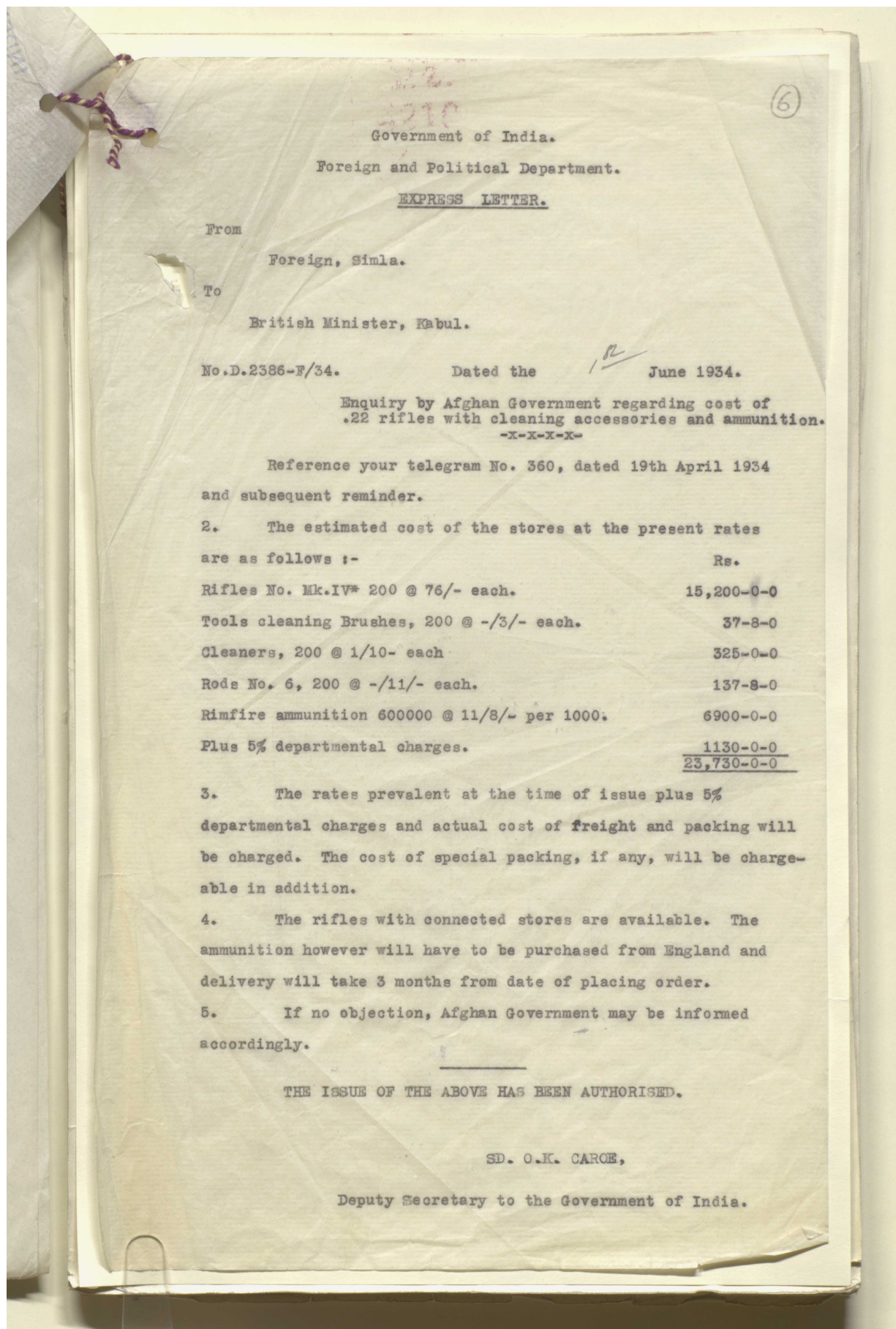
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [5r] (9/133)



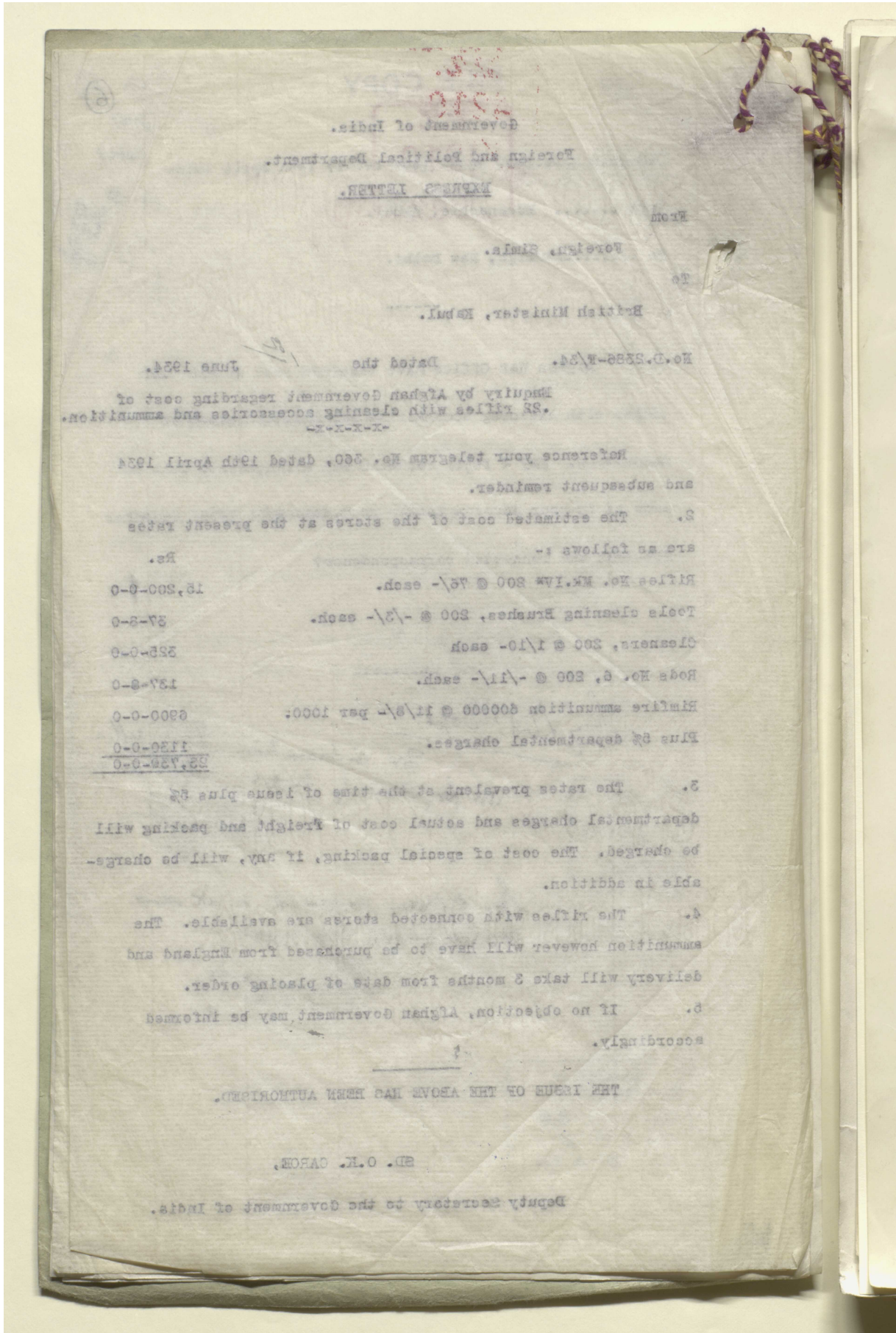
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [5v] (10/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [6r] (11/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [6v] (12/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [7r] (13/133)

(7)

Notes.

Register No.  
**P.2**  
*1582*  
*33*

**SECRET.**  
**POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.**

---

Dated 19 . . . . .  
Rec. . . . .

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary . . . . .	30.3.	<i>ms</i>	<i>Afghanistan</i> <hr/> <i>Sale of arms to the Afghan Govt.                      by the Govt. of India.</i>
Secretary of State . . . . .			
Committee . . . . .	1.4	<i>W</i>	
Under Secretary . . . . .			
Secretary of State . . . . .			

Copy of 1582 to *D. M. Khan* 30/3/33

FOR INFORMATION.

The Govt. explain that ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> enquiry which Major Russell made to the Afghan Govt. at their request in October last was not with a view to the disposal of surplus arms advantageously but because they wanted to know where they stood as regards <sup>5000</sup> the 5000 units of which Sir R. Macdonald wrote in his letter to the Afghan M. F. A. d. 11th ~~April~~ <sup>May 1931</sup> (PZ 3636/31).

In the circumstances explained by the Minister the Govt. agree to let the matter drop, but point out that in that case they may not be able to produce arms for the Afghan Govt. at short notice if required.

*Act Secy* For information *J. B. Swales*  
18.iii.33

Seen thanks *[Signature]*  
30.3.33

M  
2288  
1933

SEEN

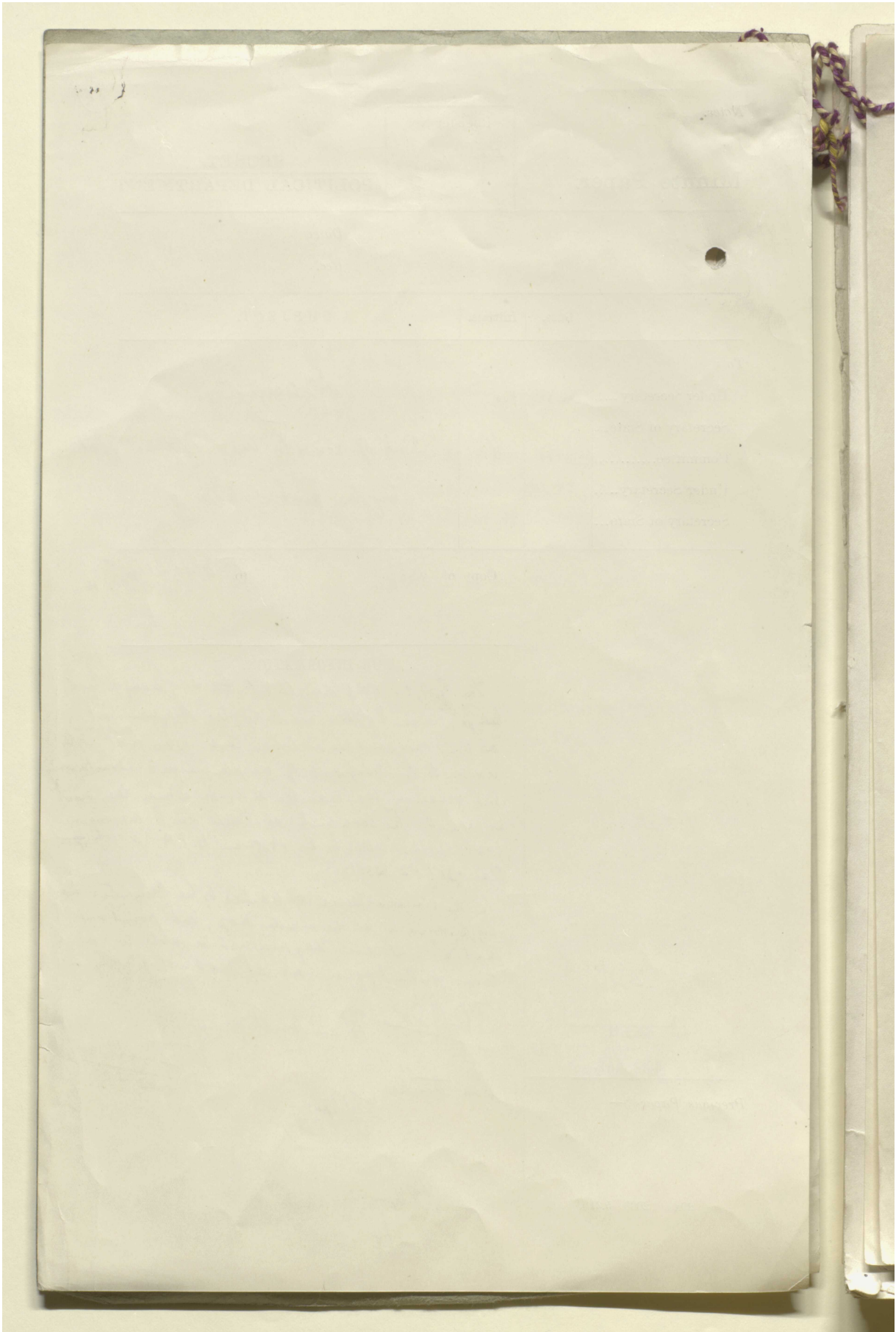
POLITICAL COMMITTEE

6 APR 1933 APR 1933

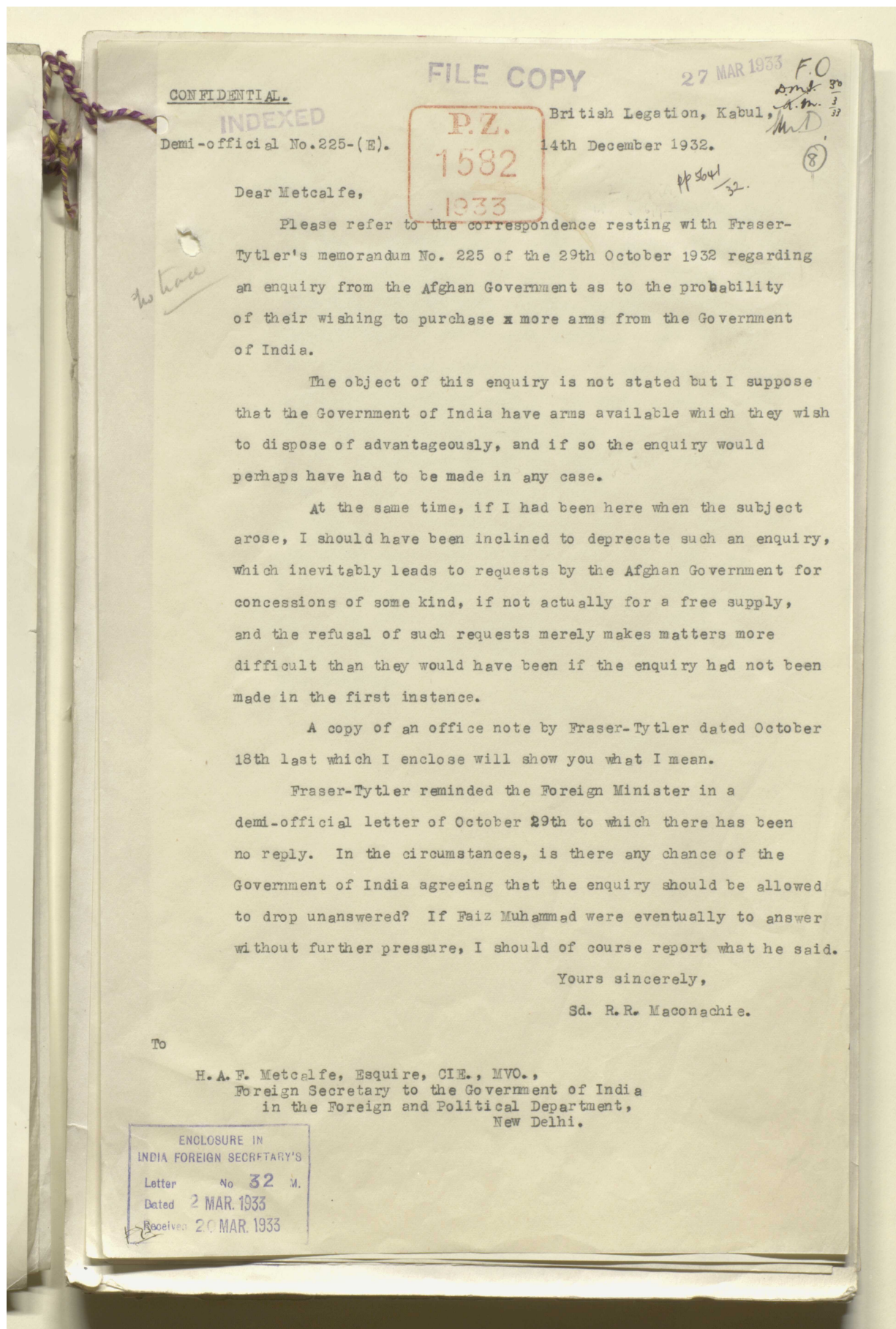
Previous Papers :-

29A 2000 5.31

*3/4* *5/4* *5/4* *5/4*

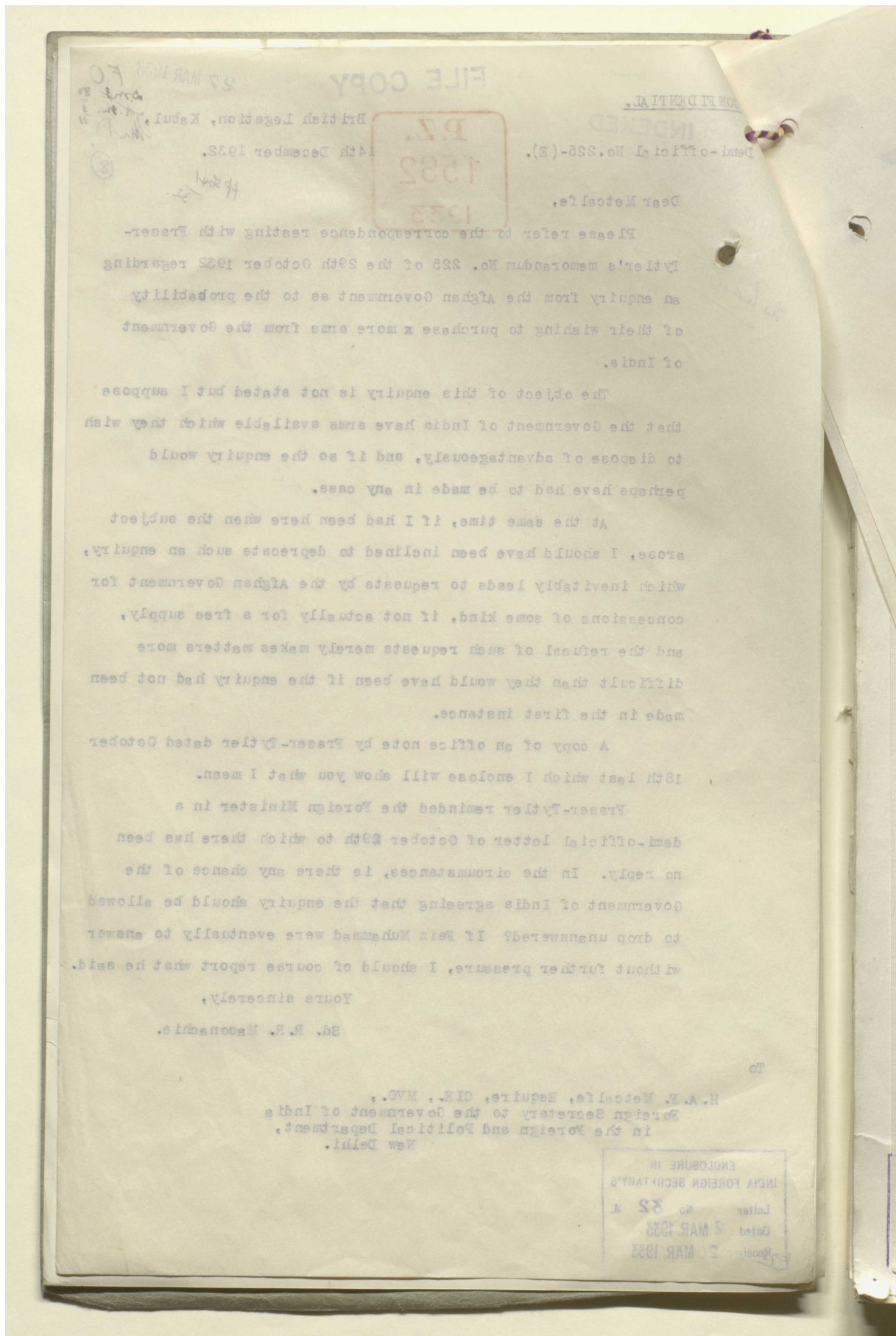


Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [8r] (15/133)

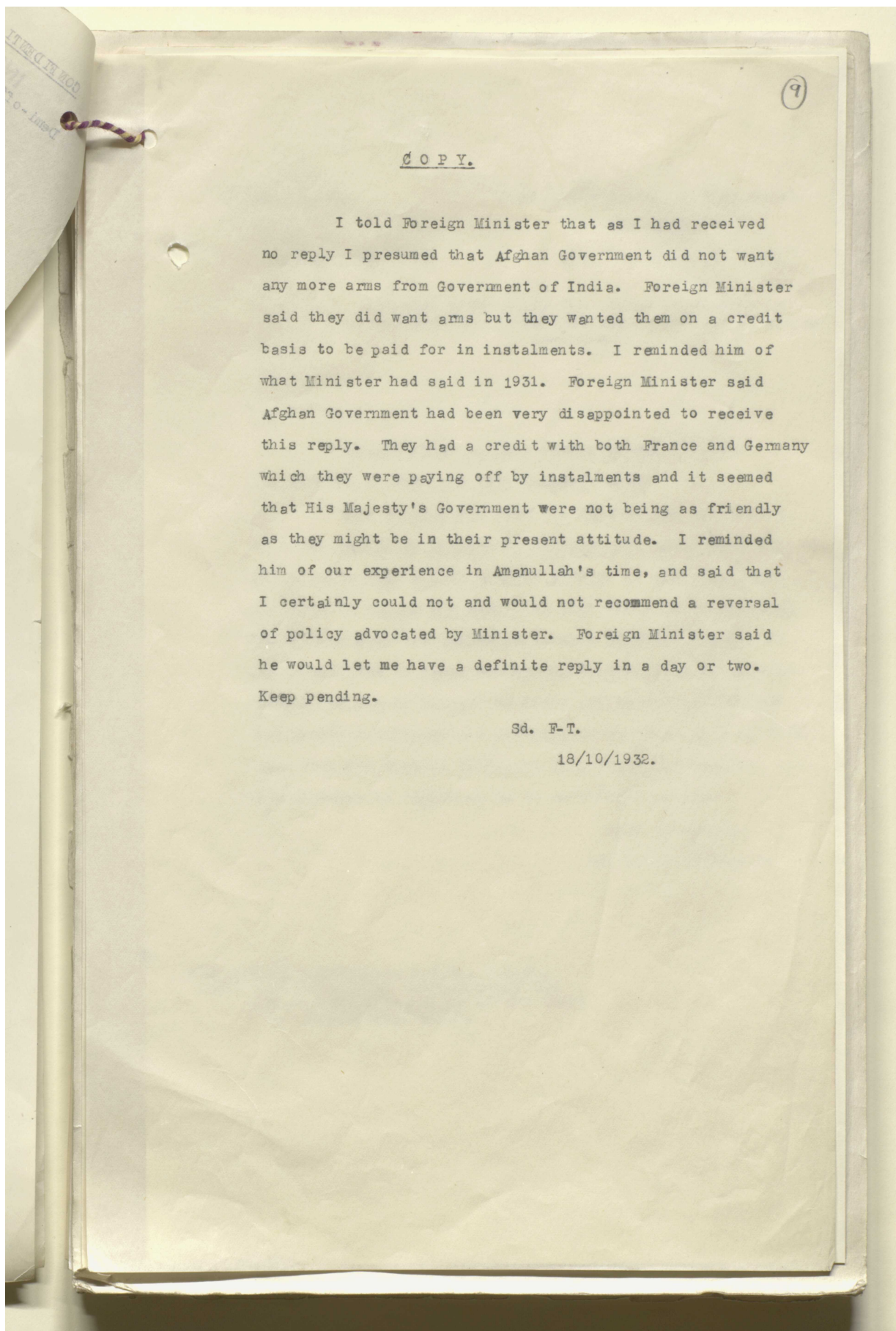




Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [8v] (16/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [9r] (17/133)



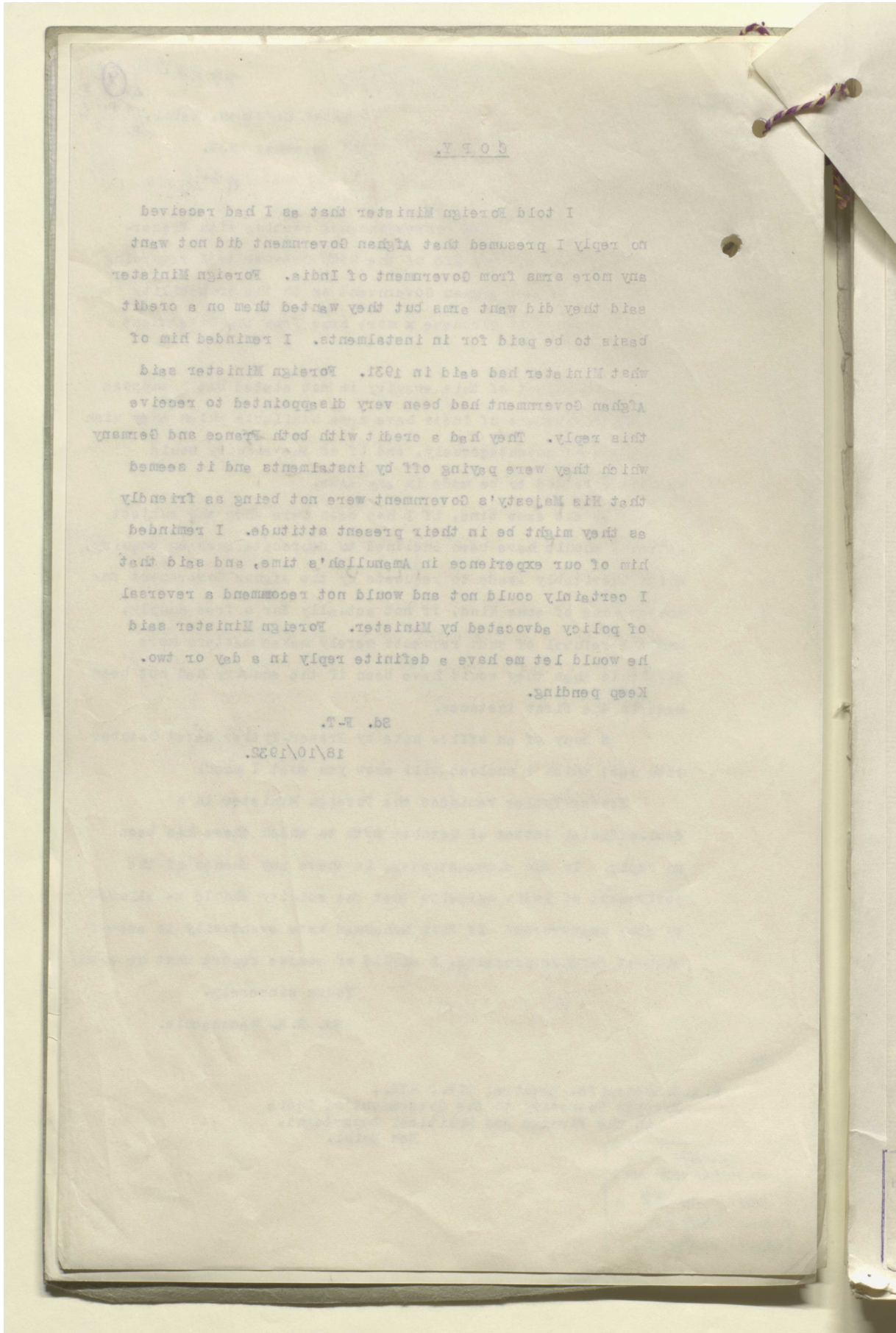
C O P Y .

I told Foreign Minister that as I had received no reply I presumed that Afghan Government did not want any more arms from Government of India. Foreign Minister said they did want arms but they wanted them on a credit basis to be paid for in instalments. I reminded him of what Minister had said in 1931. Foreign Minister said Afghan Government had been very disappointed to receive this reply. They had a credit with both France and Germany which they were paying off by instalments and it seemed that His Majesty's Government were not being as friendly as they might be in their present attitude. I reminded him of our experience in Amanullah's time, and said that I certainly could not and would not recommend a reversal of policy advocated by Minister. Foreign Minister said he would let me have a definite reply in a day or two. Keep pending.

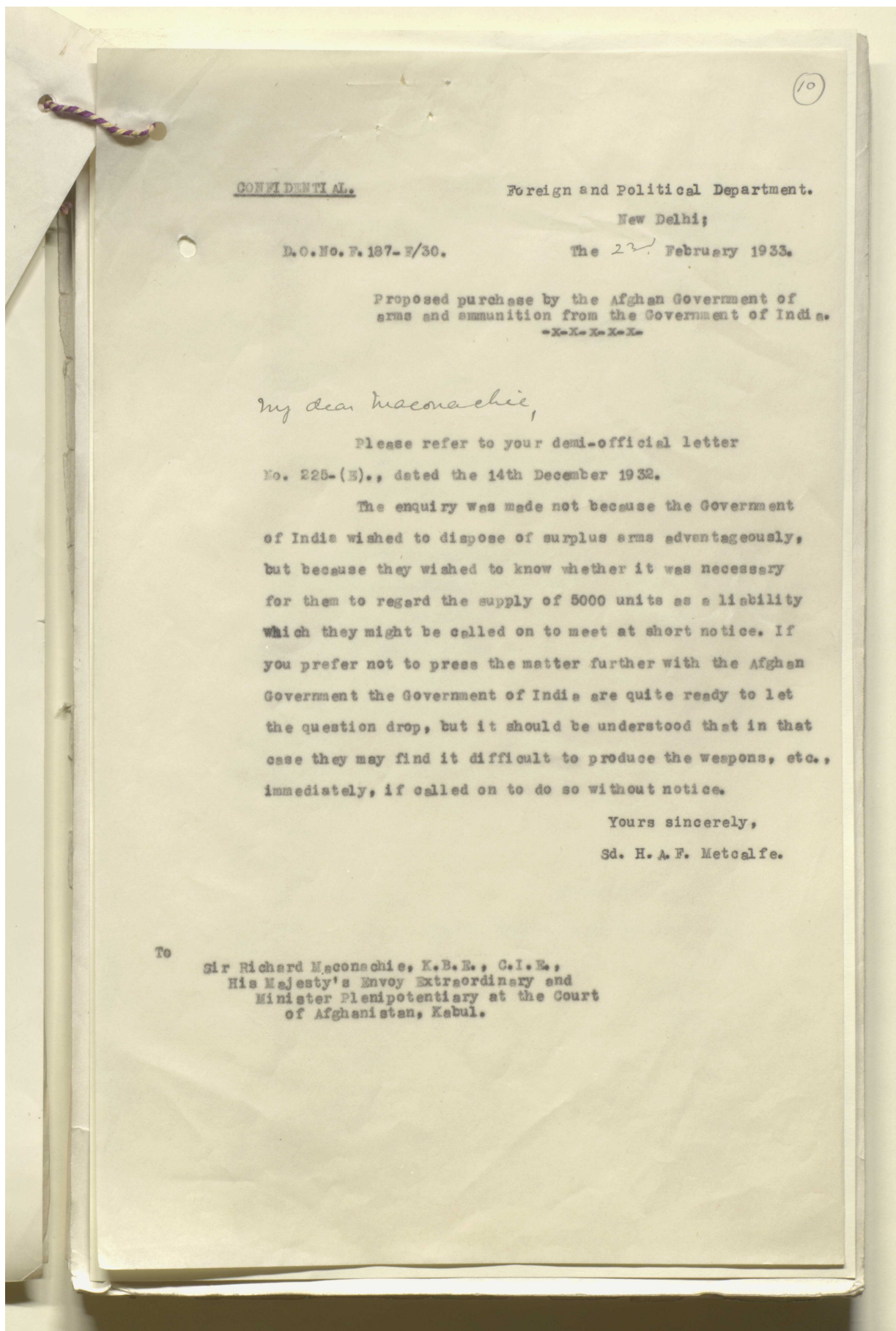
Sd. F-T.

18/10/1932.

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [9v] (18/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [10r] (19/133)



CONFIDENTIAL.

Foreign and Political Department.

New Delhi;

D.O.No. F. 187- F/30.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1933.

Proposed purchase by the Afghan Government of  
arms and ammunition from the Government of India.  
-X-X-X-X-X-

*My dear Maconachie,*

Please refer to your demi-official letter  
No. 228-(B)., dated the 14th December 1932.

The enquiry was made not because the Government  
of India wished to dispose of surplus arms advantageously,  
but because they wished to know whether it was necessary  
for them to regard the supply of 5000 units as a liability  
which they might be called on to meet at short notice. If  
you prefer not to press the matter further with the Afghan  
Government the Government of India are quite ready to let  
the question drop, but it should be understood that in that  
case they may find it difficult to produce the weapons, etc.,  
immediately, if called on to do so without notice.

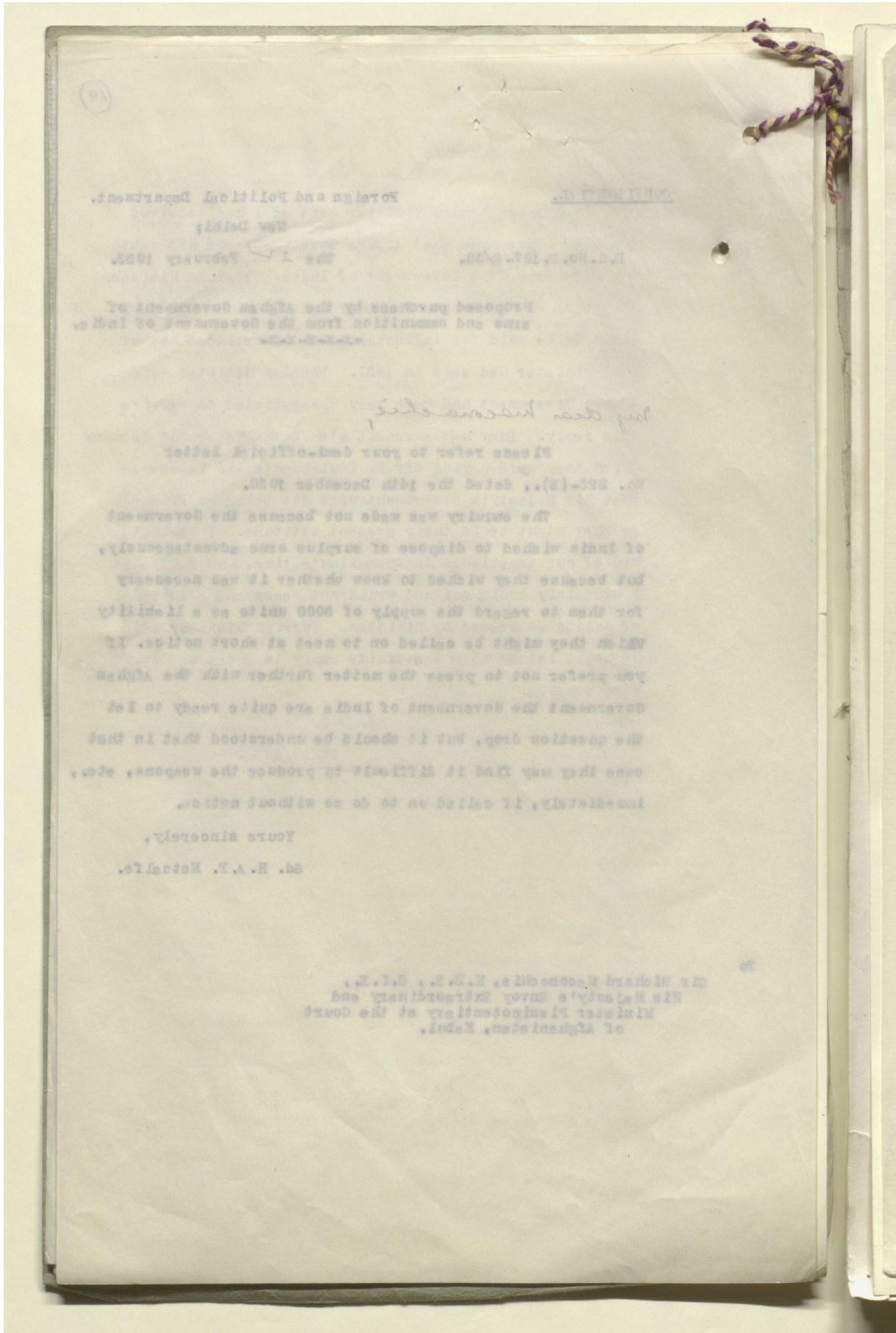
Yours sincerely,

Sd. H. A. F. Metcalfe.

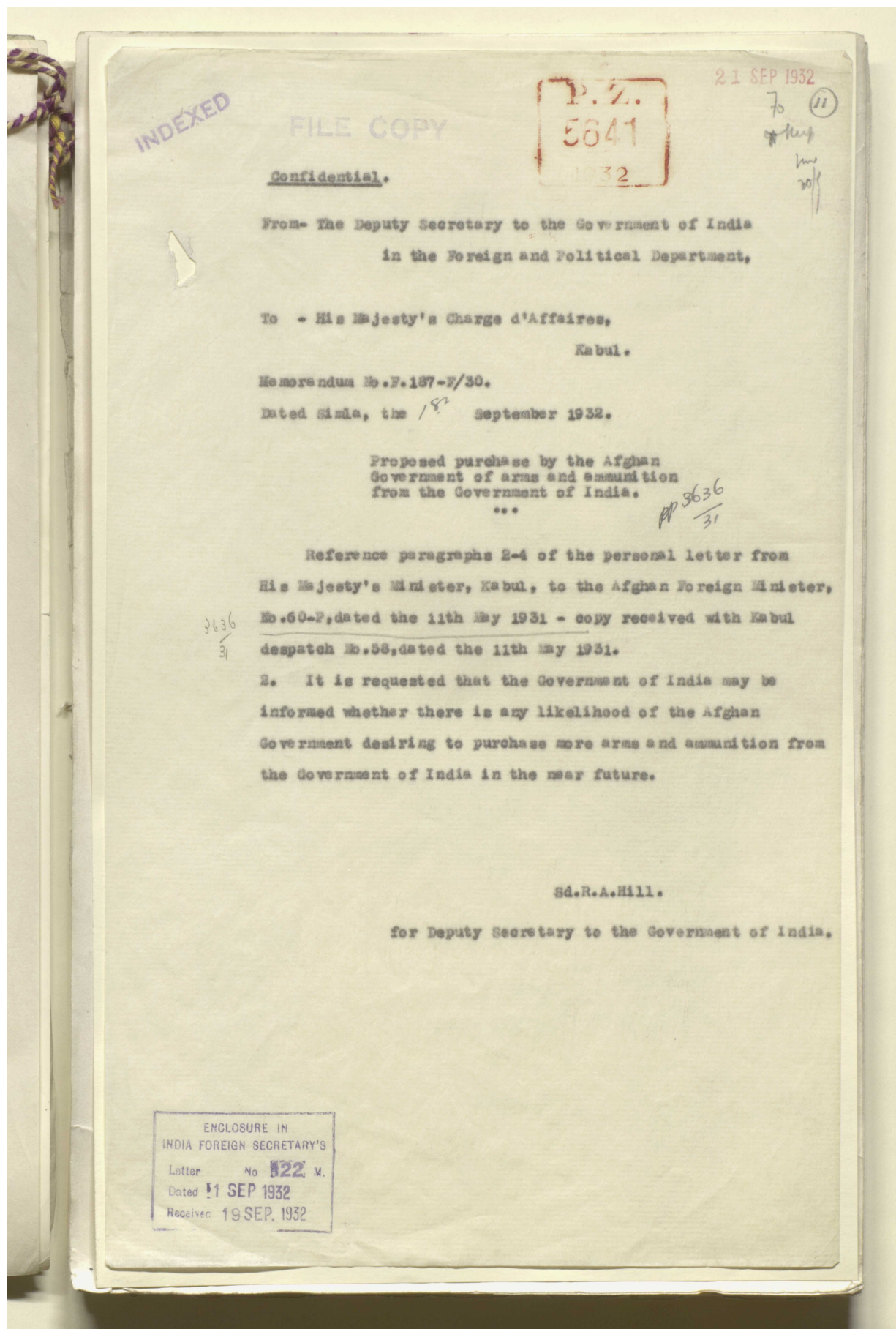
To

Sir Richard Maconachie, K.B.E., C.I.E.,  
His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and  
Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court  
of Afghanistan, Kabul.

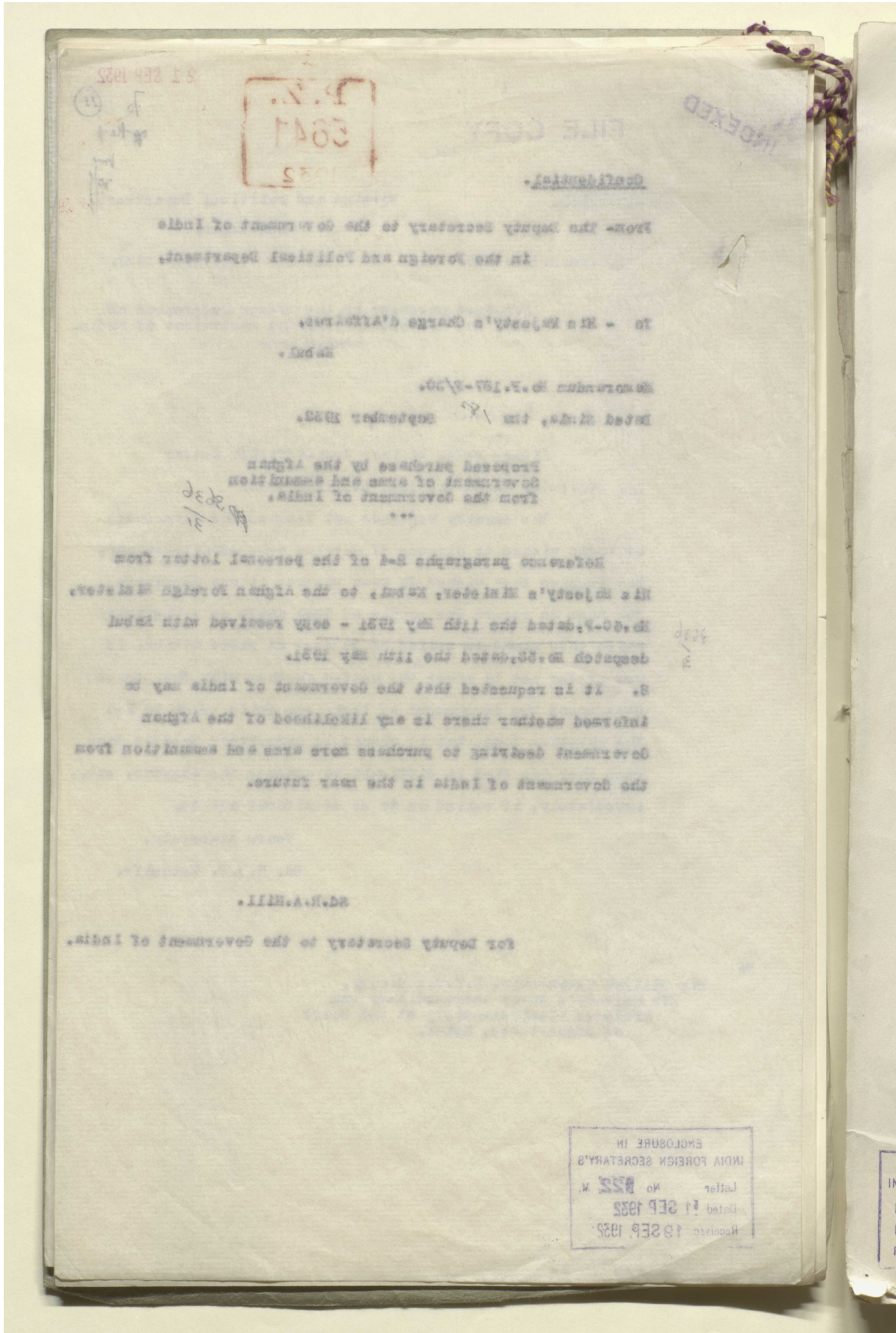
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [10v] (20/133)



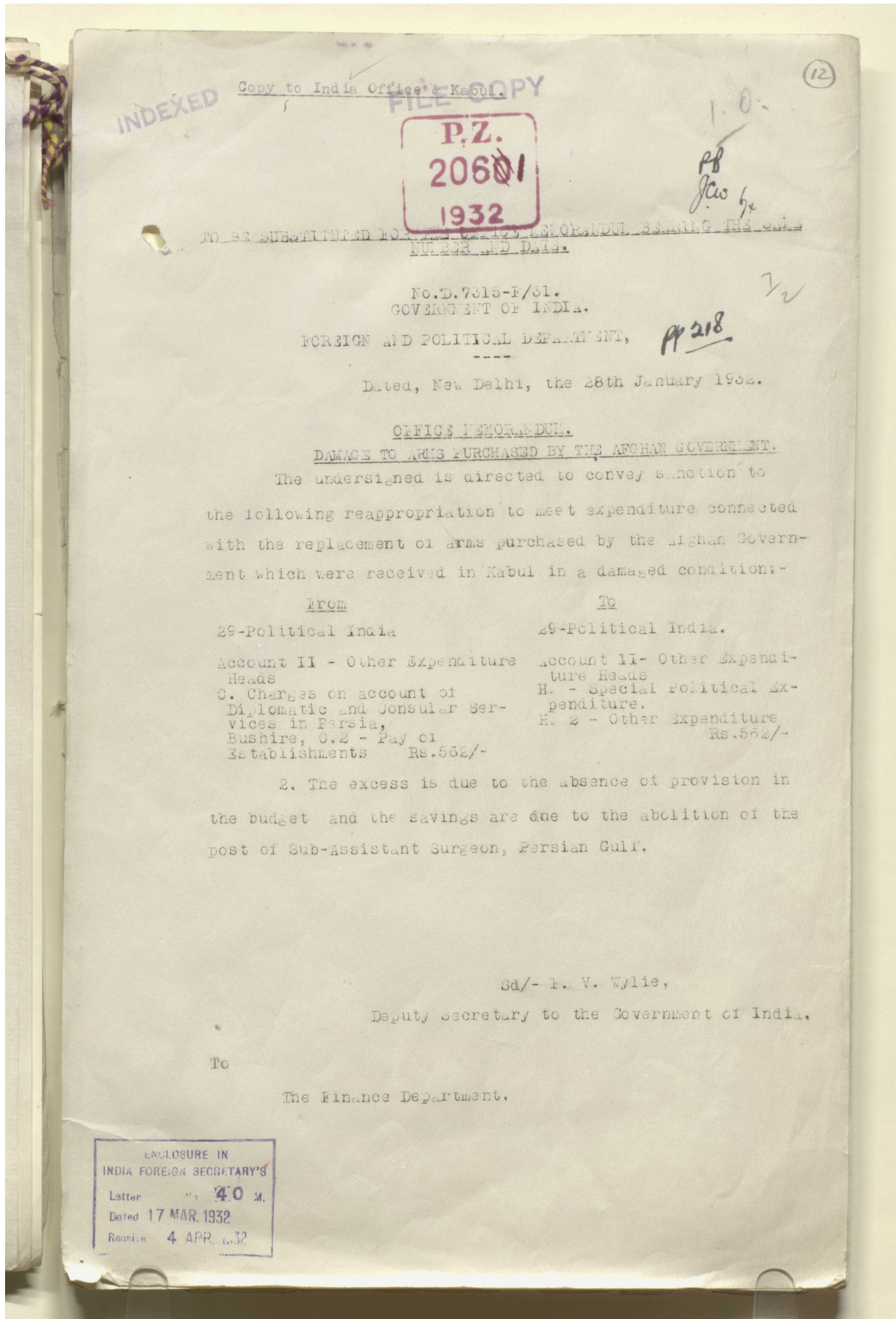
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [11r] (21/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [11v] (22/133)

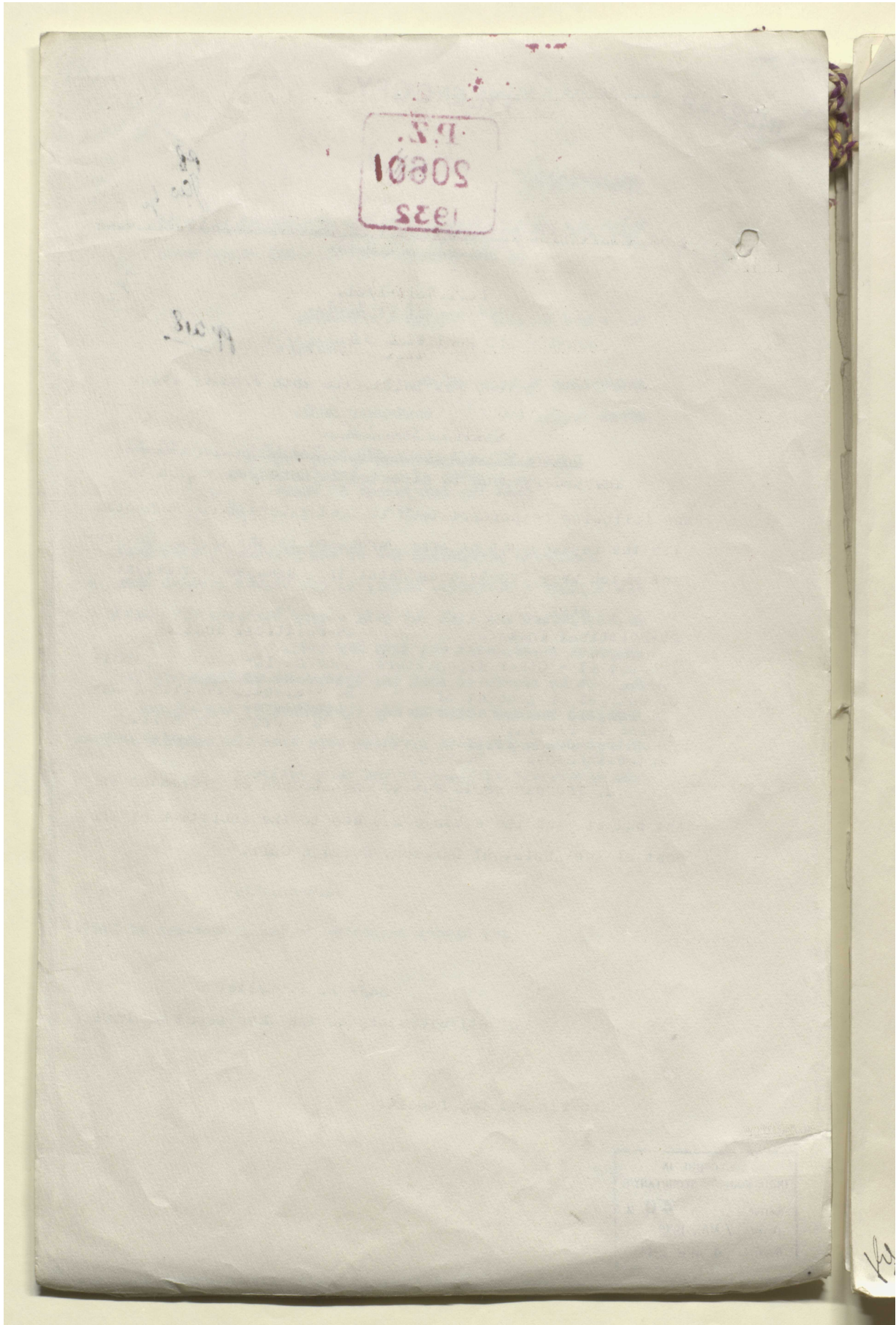


Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [12r] (23/133)

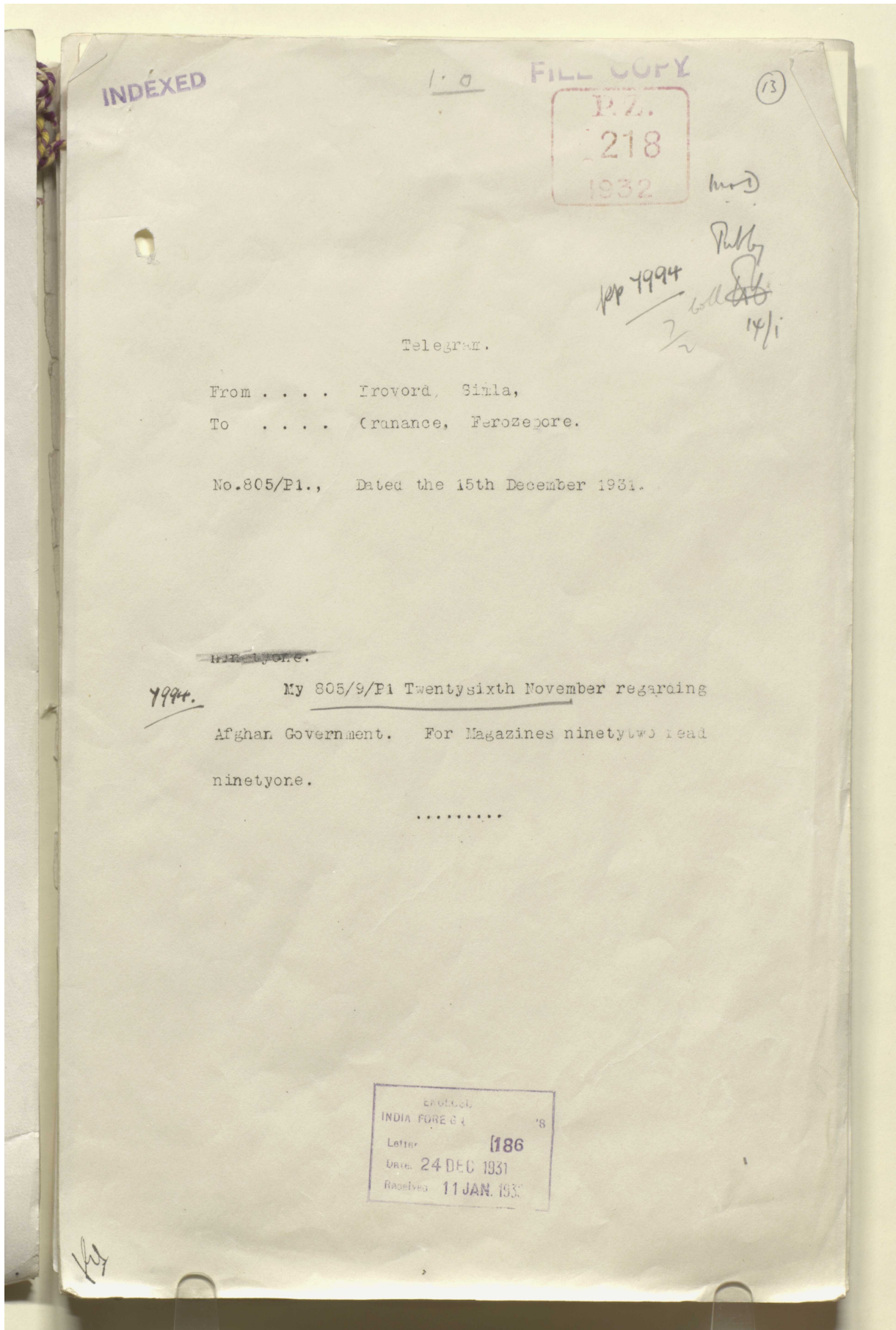


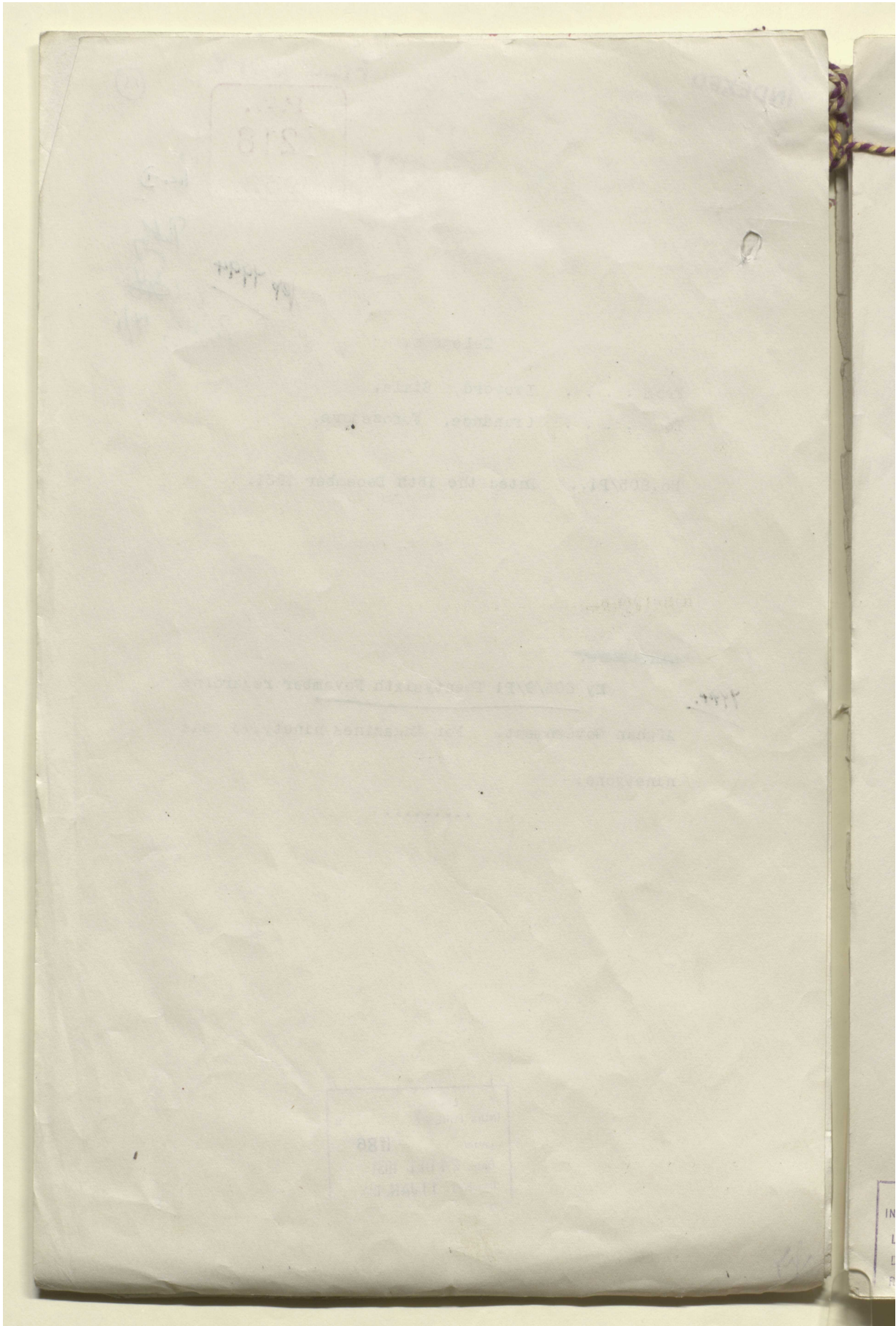


Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [12v] (24/133)

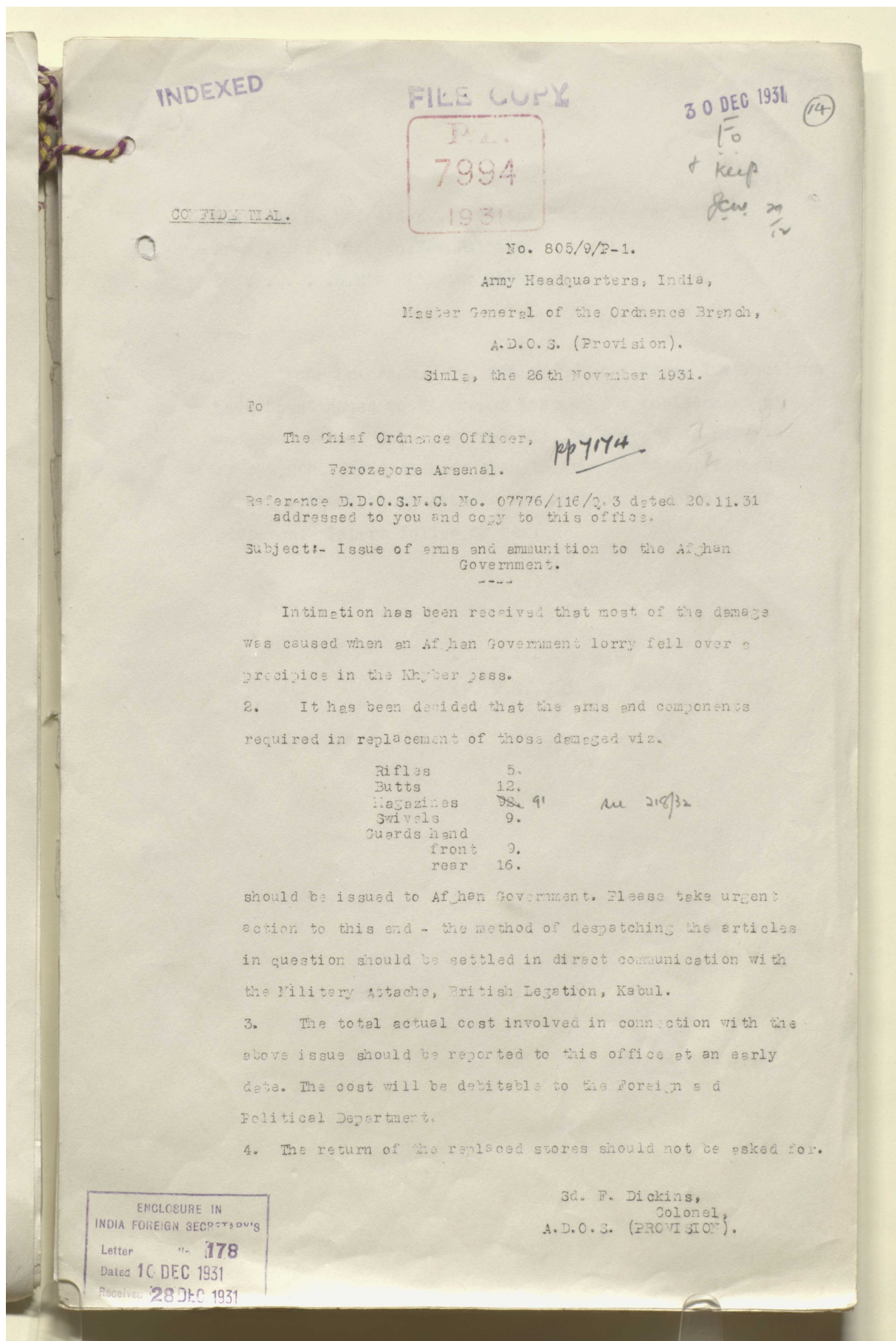


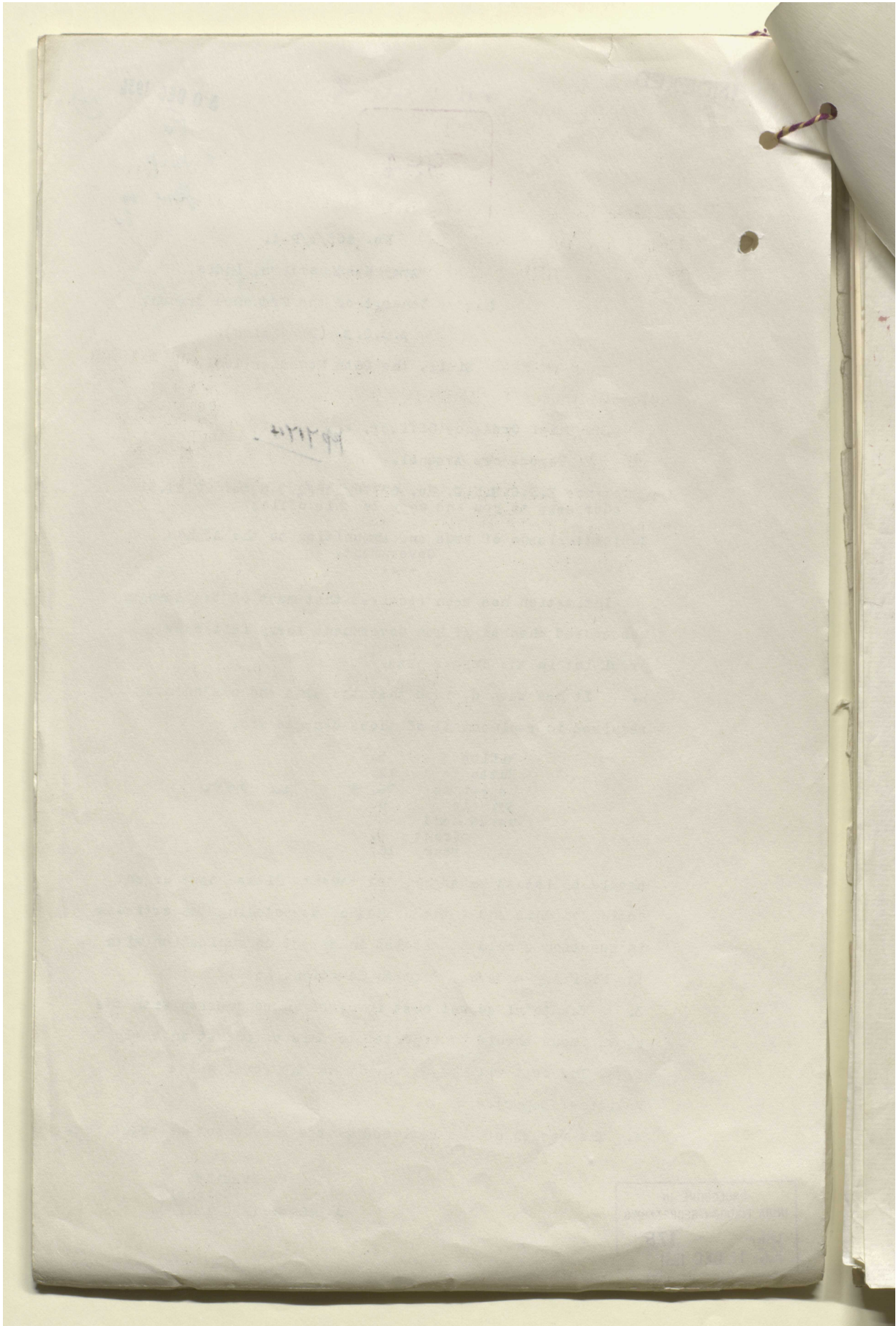
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [13r] (25/133)





Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [14r] (27/133)





Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [15r] (29/133)

(15)

414.

Telegram R. No. 414-K., dated the 8th December 1931.

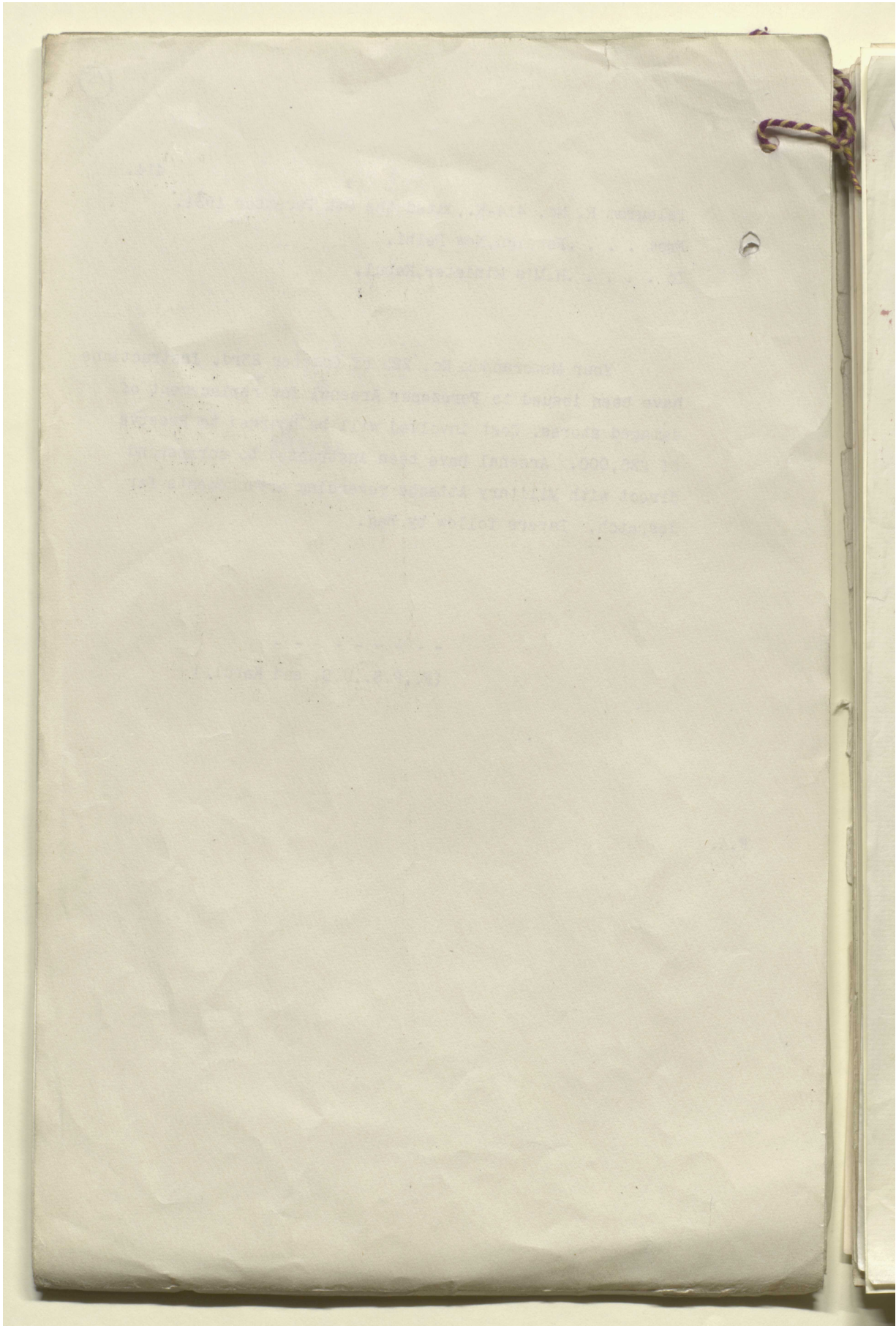
From . . . . Foreign, New Delhi.

To . . . . H.M's Minister, Kabul.

Your Memorandum No. 225 of October 23rd. Instructions have been issued to Ferozepur Arsenal for replacement of damaged stores. Cost involved will be charged to Reserve of £25,000. Arsenal have been instructed to correspond direct with Military Attache regarding arrangements for despatch. Papers follow by bag.

-----  
(F., F.S., U.D. and Kabul.)

F.A.



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [16r] (31/133)

**INDEXED**  
**CONFIDENTIAL.**

No. 152.

P.O.  
7583  
1931

KABUL,  
10th November, 1931.

His Majesty's Minister

presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the undermentioned paper.

12.12.31  
Special  
(16) D. P. / AM / W. S.  
P. H. / J. / H. / H.

pp 412-4  
3636

Reference to previous correspondence.

5636  
Kabul despatch No.58, dated 11th May, 1931.

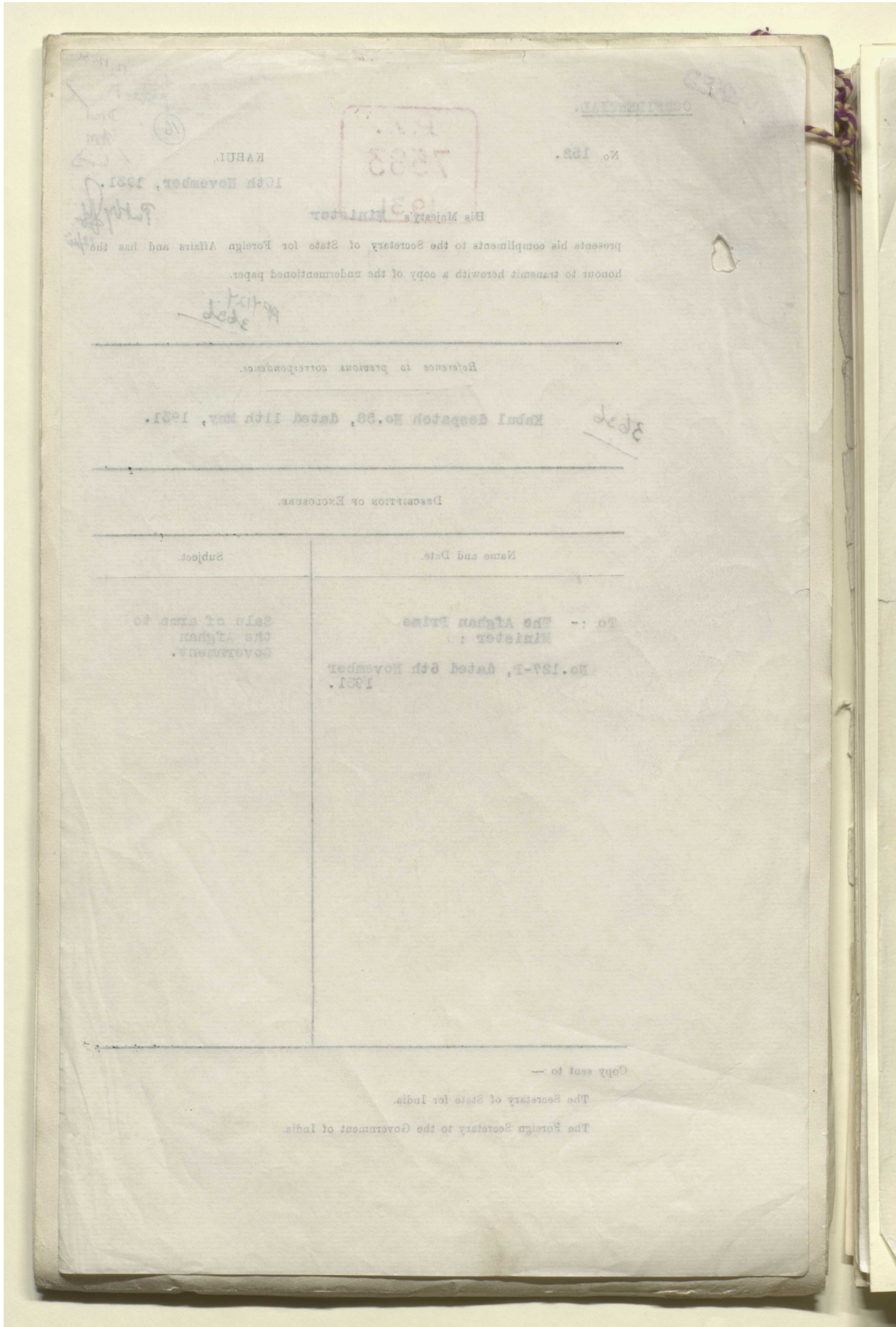
DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURE.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To :- The Afghan Prime Minister : No.127-P, dated 6th November 1931.	Sale of arms to the Afghan Government.

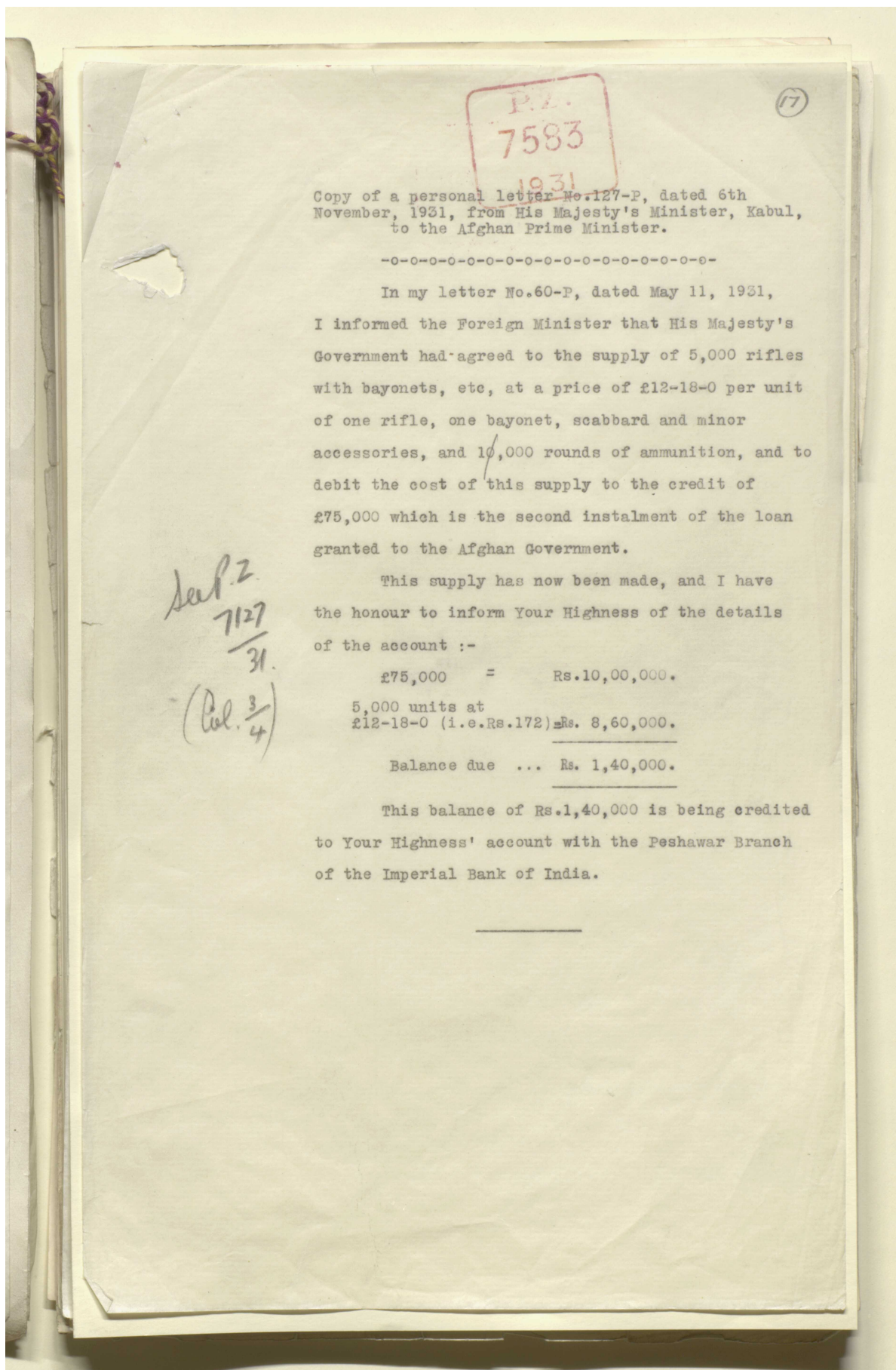
Copy sent to :-  
The Secretary of State for India.  
The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India.



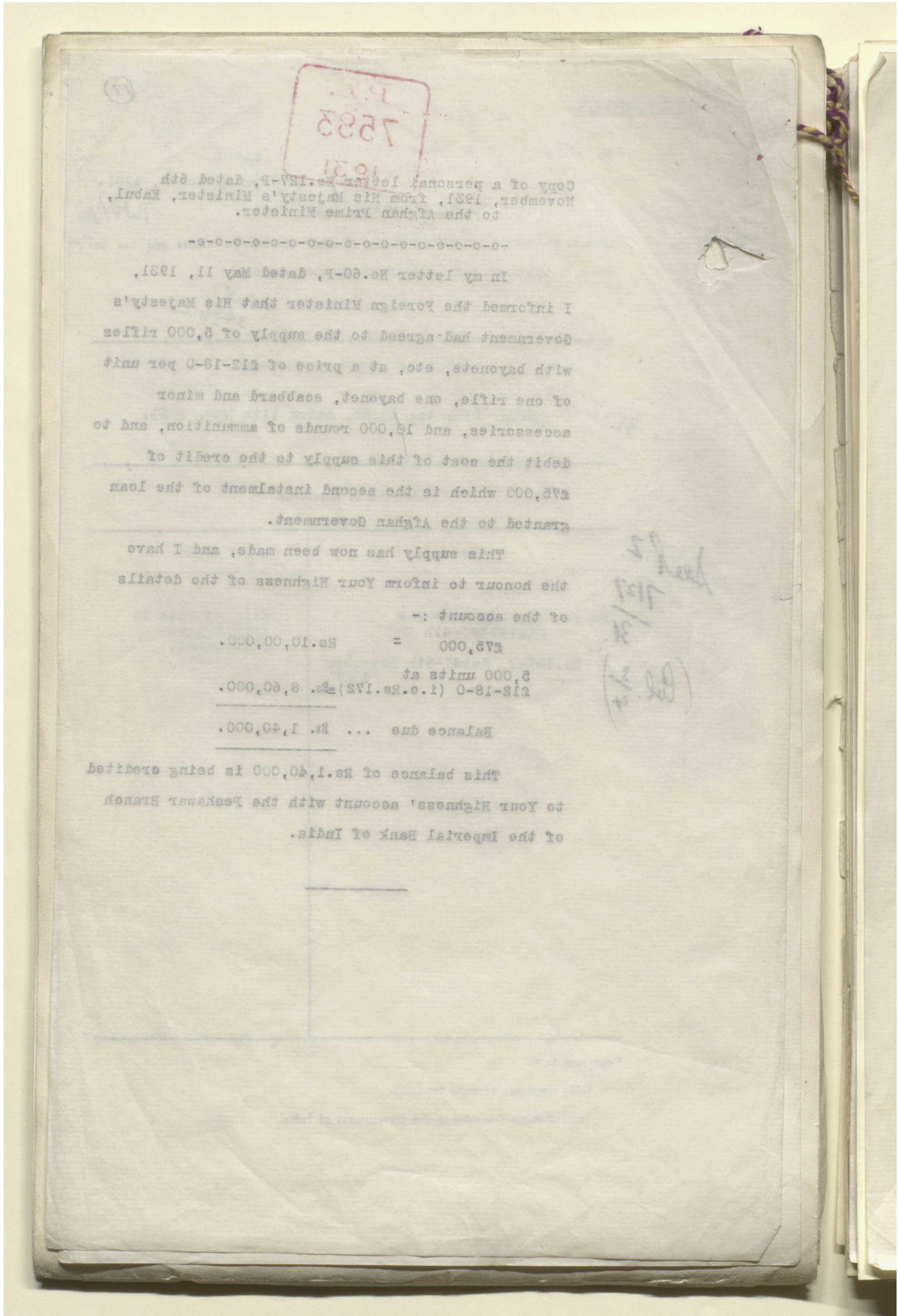
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [16v] (32/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [17r] (33/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [17v] (34/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [18r] (35/133)

INDEXED

19 NOV 1931 P.O.  
Sum D.M.I.  
Keep

7174 (18)

No. 138

KABUL, 23rd October 1931.

His Majesty's **Minister, Kabul**

presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the undermentioned paper.

pp. 2002 2/2

Reference to previous correspondence.

\*\*\*\*\*

DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURE.

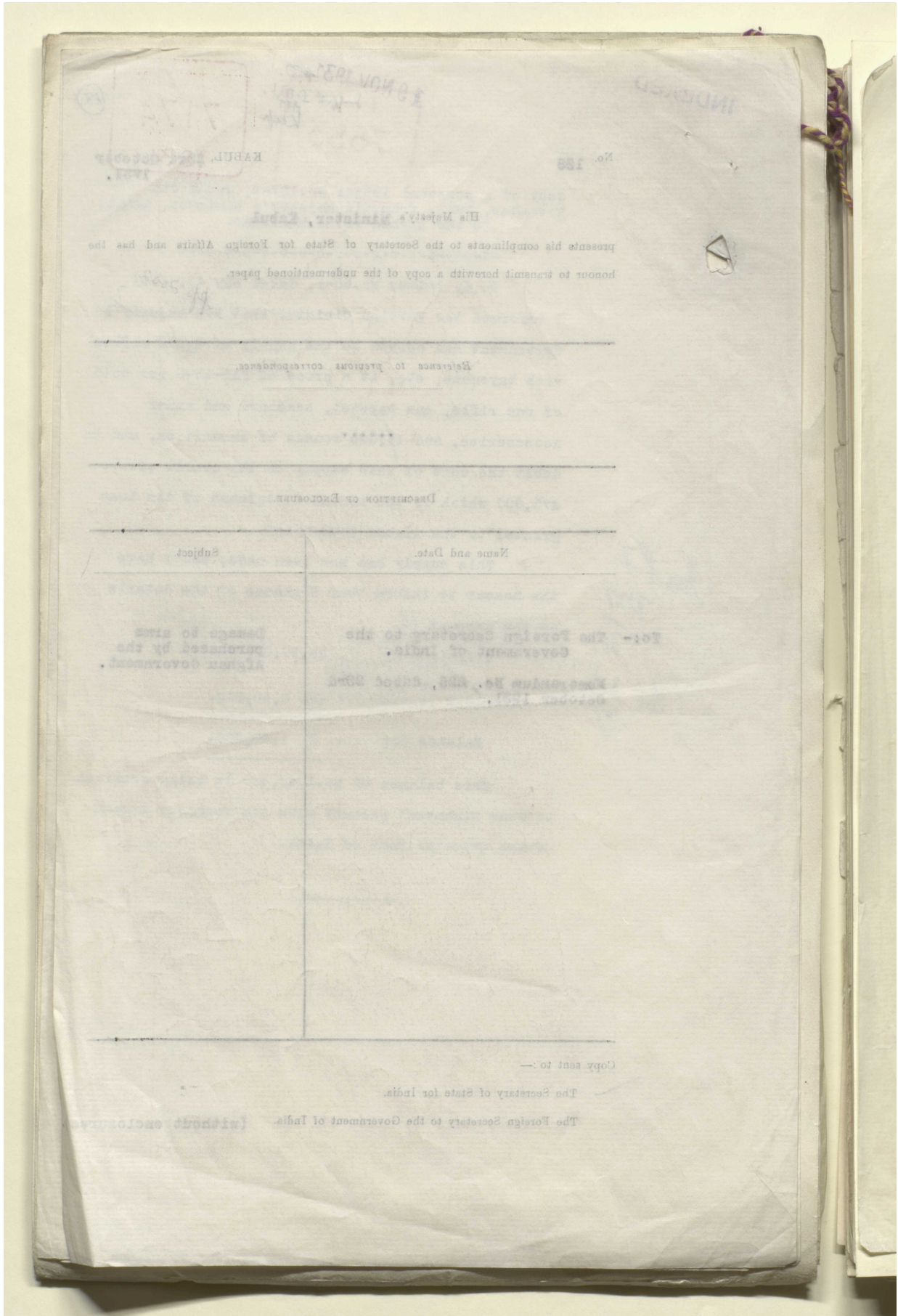
Name and Date.	Subject.
To:- The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India. Memorandum No. 225, dated 23rd October 1931.	Damage to arms purchased by the Afghan Government.

Copy sent to :-

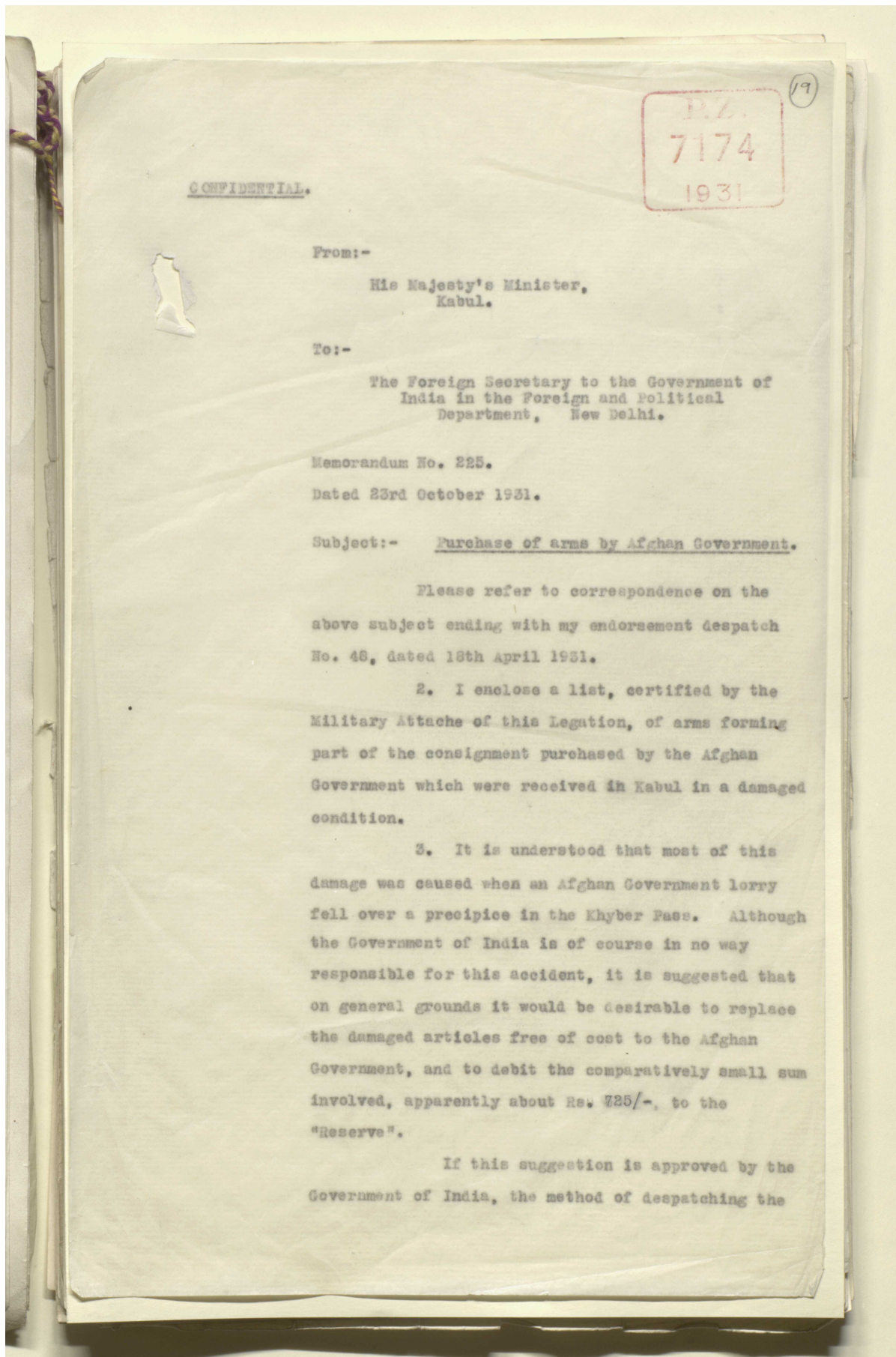
The Secretary of State for India.

The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India. (without enclosures)

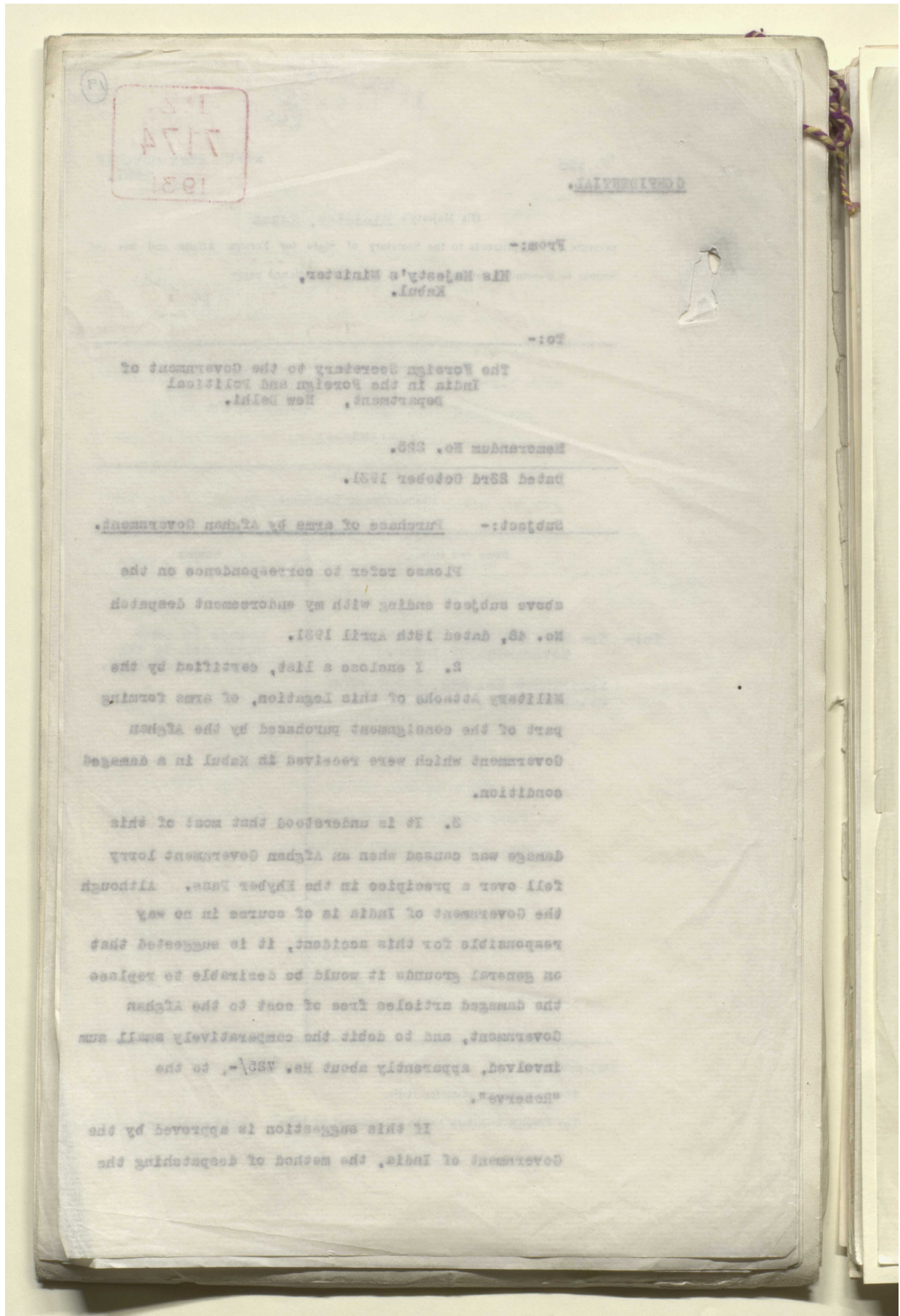
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [18v] (36/133)



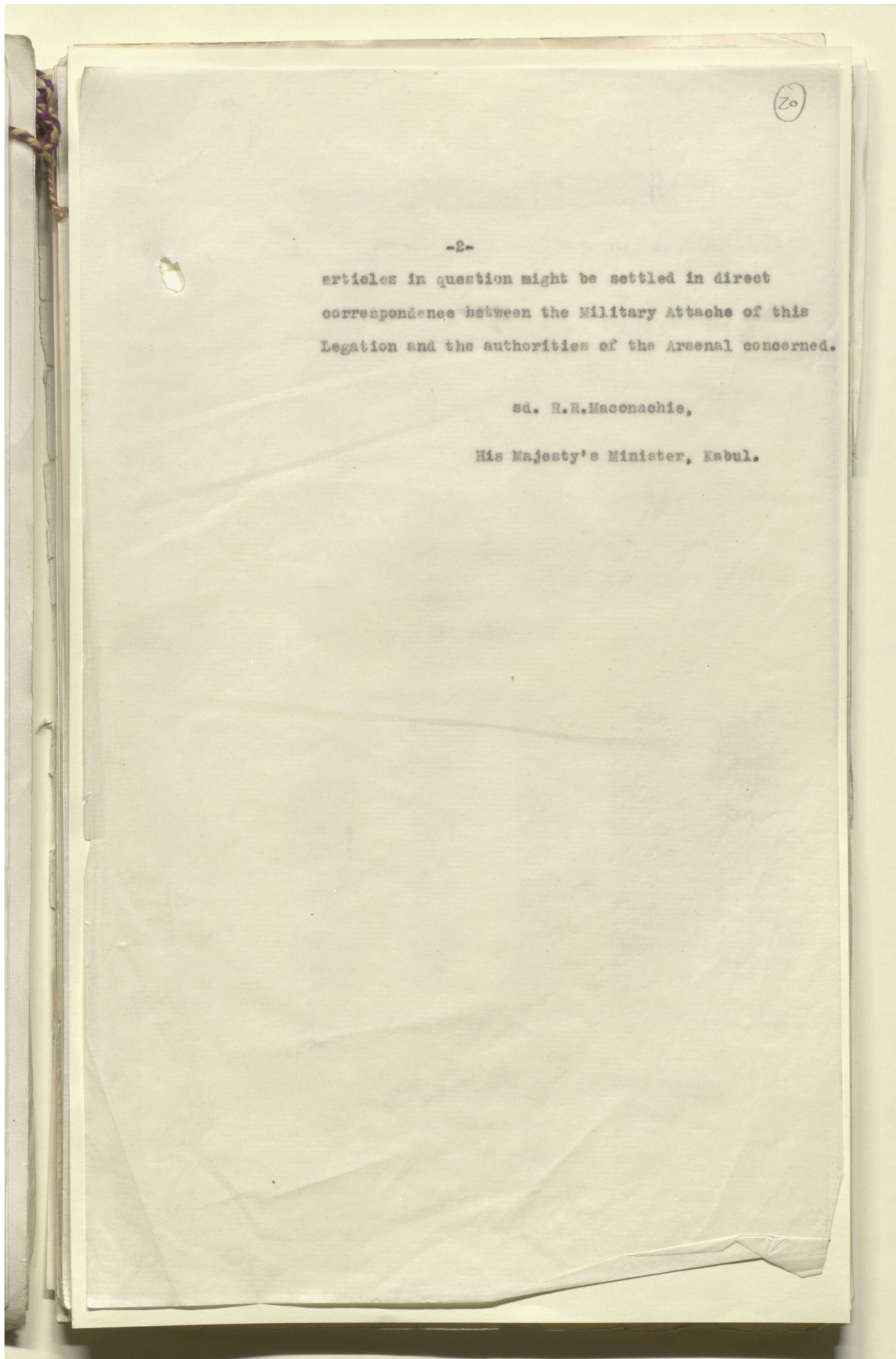
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [19r] (37/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [19v] (38/133)

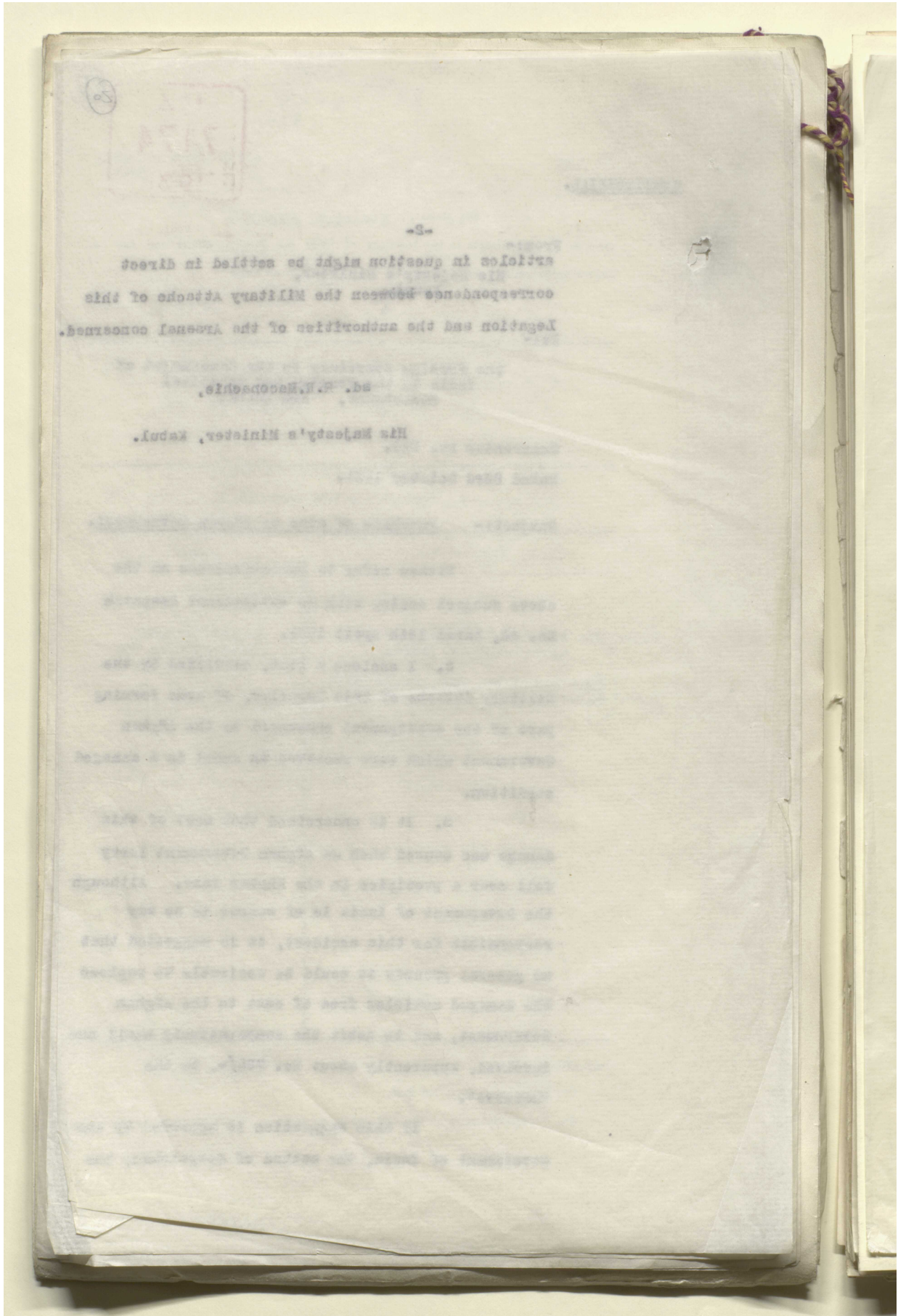


Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [20r] (39/133)





Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [20v] (40/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [21r] (41/133)

21

Arms purchased by the Afghan Government from  
the Government of India, April, 1931.

1. Statement showing rifles damaged in transit to  
Kabul.

(a) Butts damaged. (10)

P.7392. K.4206. E.2095. U.17383. Z.2688.  
3360. O.89505. V.36210. B.17886. D.8602.

(b) Broken forehead guards. (8).

U.8417. O.4919. A.27972. A.29470. W.9650.  
44495. B.44633. 63327.

(c) Broken rearhand guards. (14)

4185. A.59656 F.94865. R.3907. R.612.  
Q.8130. B.47868 509. 48023. M.5059.  
W.13111. A.8906. B.4446. E.3639.

(d) Broken lower sling swivels (7).

S.1500. Y.45748. E.4078. H.8308. D.74706.  
48233. A.99855.

(e) Upper sling swivels (2)

N.8506. B.65655.

(f) Magazines damaged (85).

A.69125. B.62495. O.94311. Z.51845. K.50569.  
K.17119. M.2749. A.48602. B.28310. P.9467.  
C.18503. B.56052. M.8188. P.3448. A.86857.  
K.86058. A.26772. A.32787. A.55591. A.25765.  
W.38344. B.39519. V.7978. A.81242. B.5108.  
47541. J.34408. H.5022. B.28957. P.6594.  
O.75260. A.91211. A.85051. K.63667. F.294.  
E.56904. B.3977. S.676. O.79968. D.4424.  
B.25063. B.18896. A.37293. A.6140. B.18280.  
D.35392. A.83573. I.50829. B.32224. G.3900.  
O.2869. B.18805. K.27264. R.433. H.12458.  
D.71470. Y.58156. B.25699. B.92843. A.57840.  
11850. B.25063. B.24384. B.6129. B.8249.  
B.69807. X.7265. H.26926. O.72820. O.34661.  
W.219. J.4713. A.72685. B.16836. B.8413.  
G.54835. R.6167. D.3057. C.2986. R.1117.  
S.34873. H.9407. Z.33314. A.56315.

(g) Magazine damaged and rearhand guard broken. (1).

80770.

(h) Butt, stock and magazine damaged. Rifles  
unserviceable and require replacement (4).

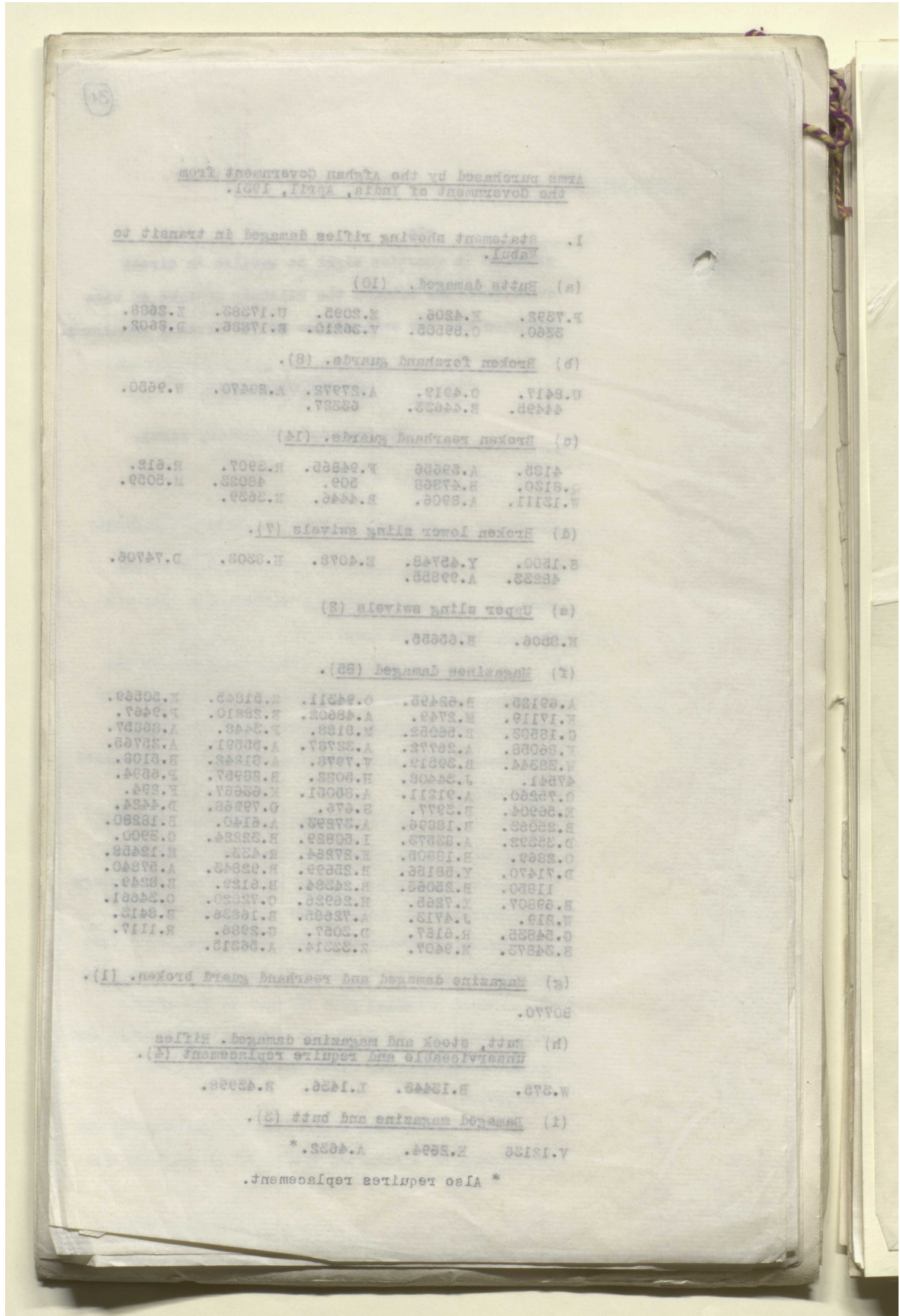
W.375. B.13443. I.1436. B.43998.

(i) Damaged magazine and butt (3).

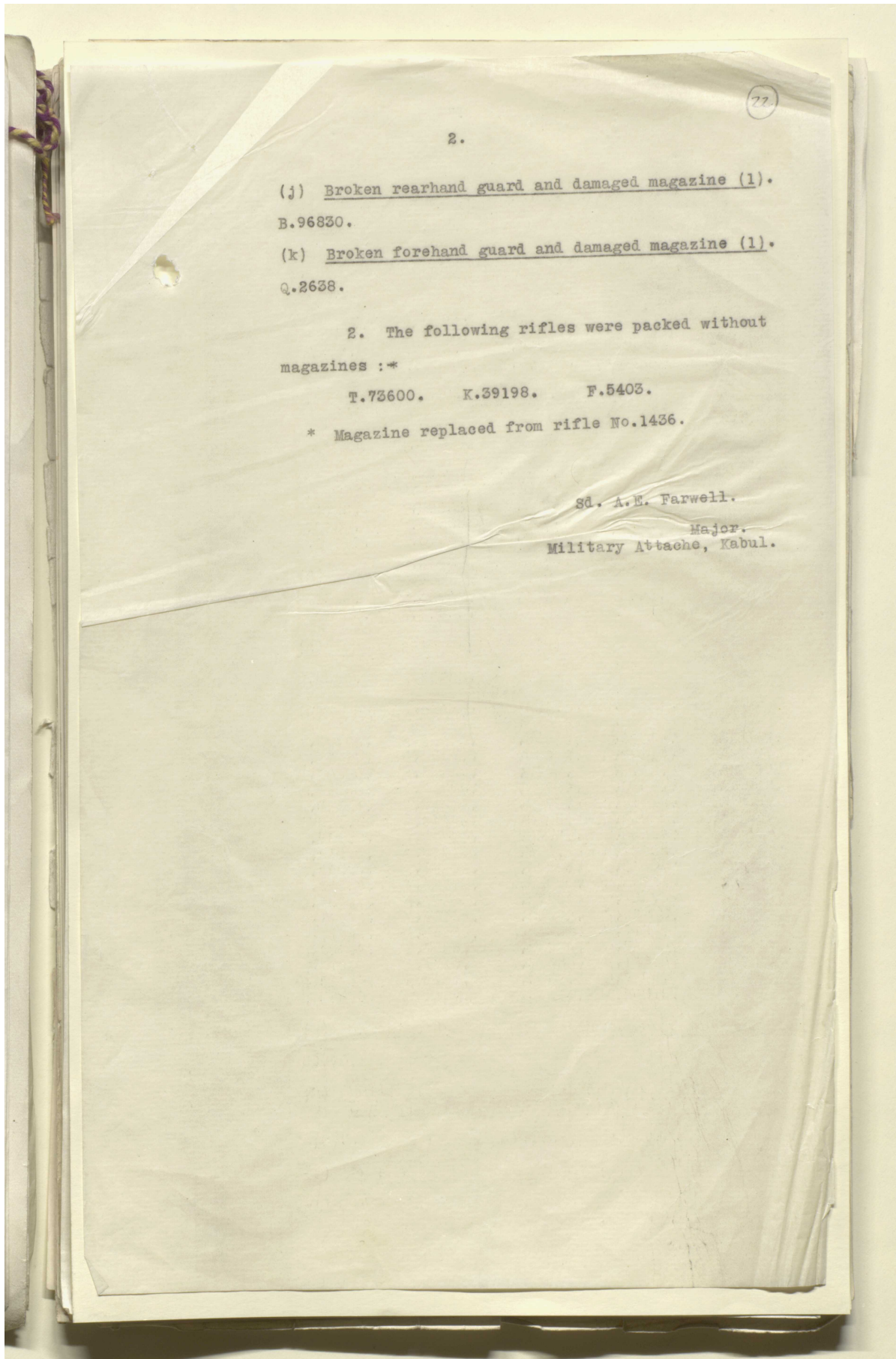
V.12136 E.2694. A.4632.\*

\* Also requires replacement.

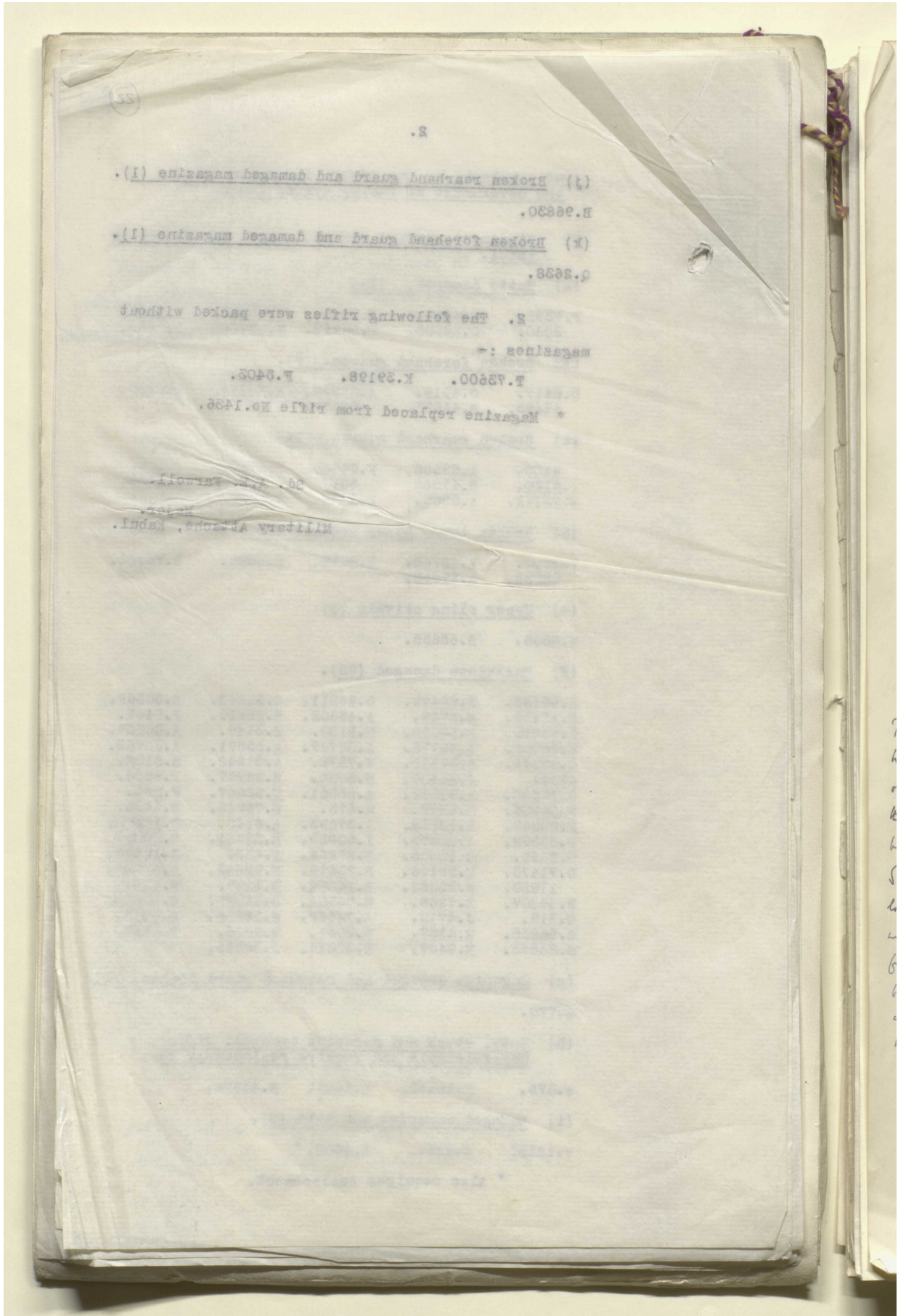
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [21v] (42/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [22r] (43/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [22v] (44/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [23r] (45/133)

(23)

Notes.

<p><b>Minute Paper.</b></p>	<p>Register No. <b>P.2</b> <b>3636/31</b></p>	<p><b>SECRET.</b> <b>POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.</b></p>
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Dated 11. 5. 1931  
Rec. 9. 6. 1931

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			<i>Afghanistan.</i>
Under Secretary .....	13. 6.	<i>JS</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sale of arms to the Afghan Govt. by the G.I.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Notes exchanged with the Afghan M.F.A.</i></p>
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	26	<i>JS</i>	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of 3636 sent to D.M.I. & A.M. 10/6

FOR INFORMATION.

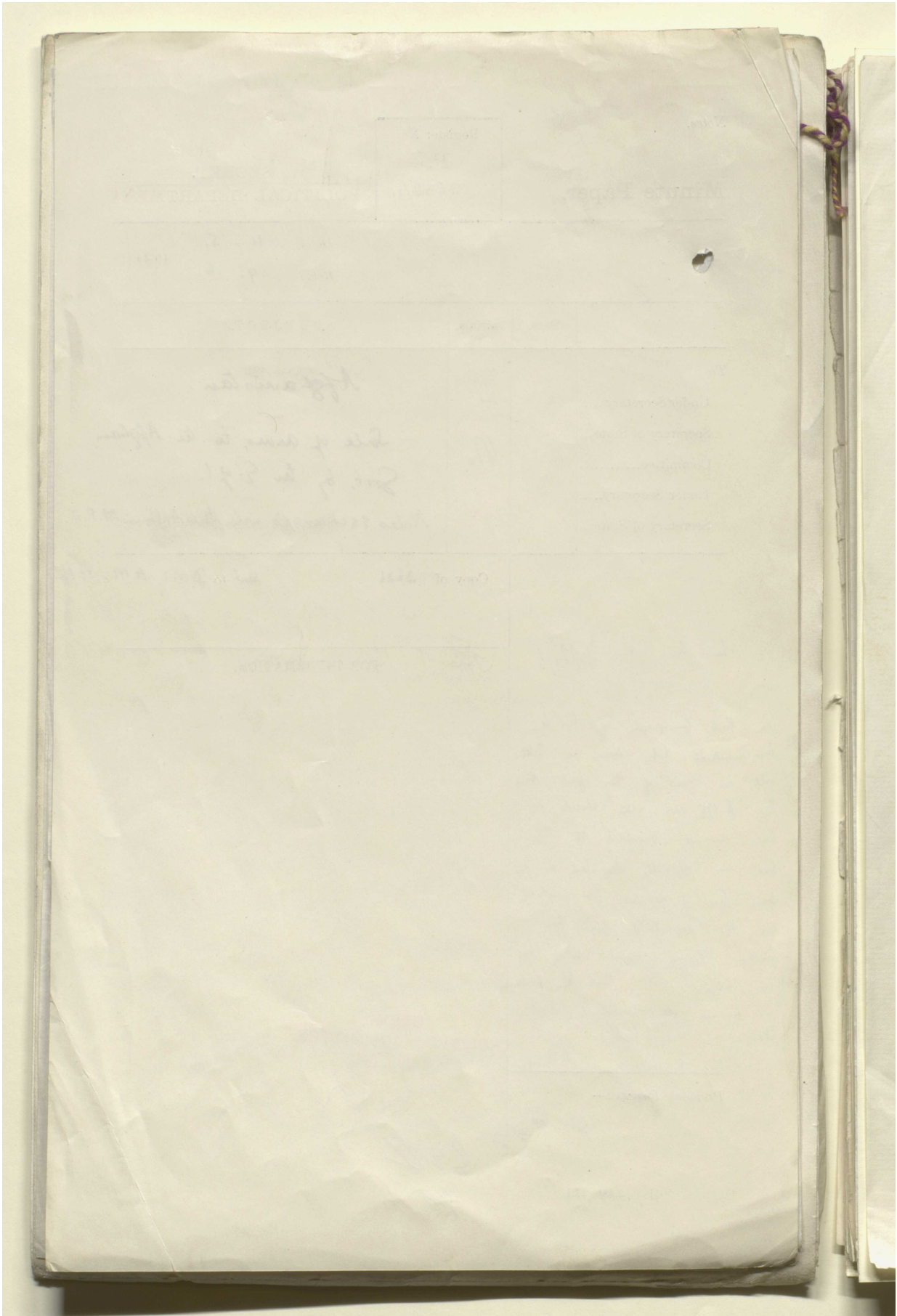
*See Mr. Khan 10/26/6*

The last paragraph of Sir K. Macmahon's note seems a little odd in view of the fact that the £175,000 note which has been recently provided for Afghan Govt. was officially described as a loan free of interest (or perhaps was the precedent for this further Afghan request which has been rejected?). But the purchase is perhaps not considered worth keeping up at Kabul. L.S.K.

SEEN  
POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
6 JUL 1931

Previous Papers :-  
*see 6/28/30/6*  
*see 6/7*  
*see 6/6*  
*see 6/6*

5041 2000 1.31



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [24r] (47/133)

**INDEXED**

10 JUN 1931

No. 58.

KABUL, 11th May 1931.

24

His Majesty's Minister

presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the undermentioned paper.

Reference to previous correspondence.

Kabul despatch No.48, dated 18th April 1931.

DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURE.

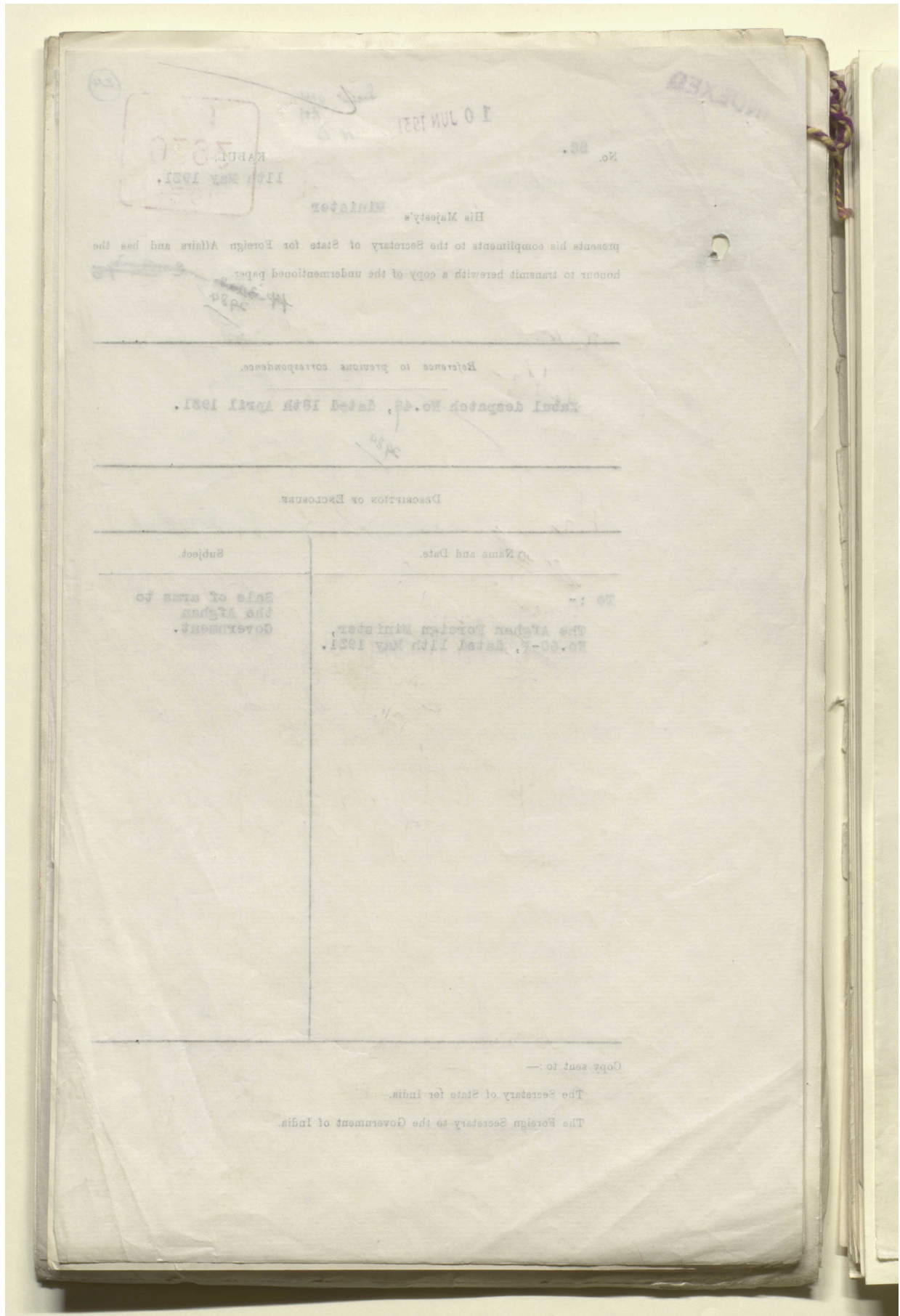
Name and Date.	Subject.
To :- The Afghan Foreign Minister, No.60-P, dated 11th May 1931.	Sale of arms to the Afghan Government.

Copy sent to :-

The Secretary of State for India.  
The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India.



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [24v] (48/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [25r] (49/133)

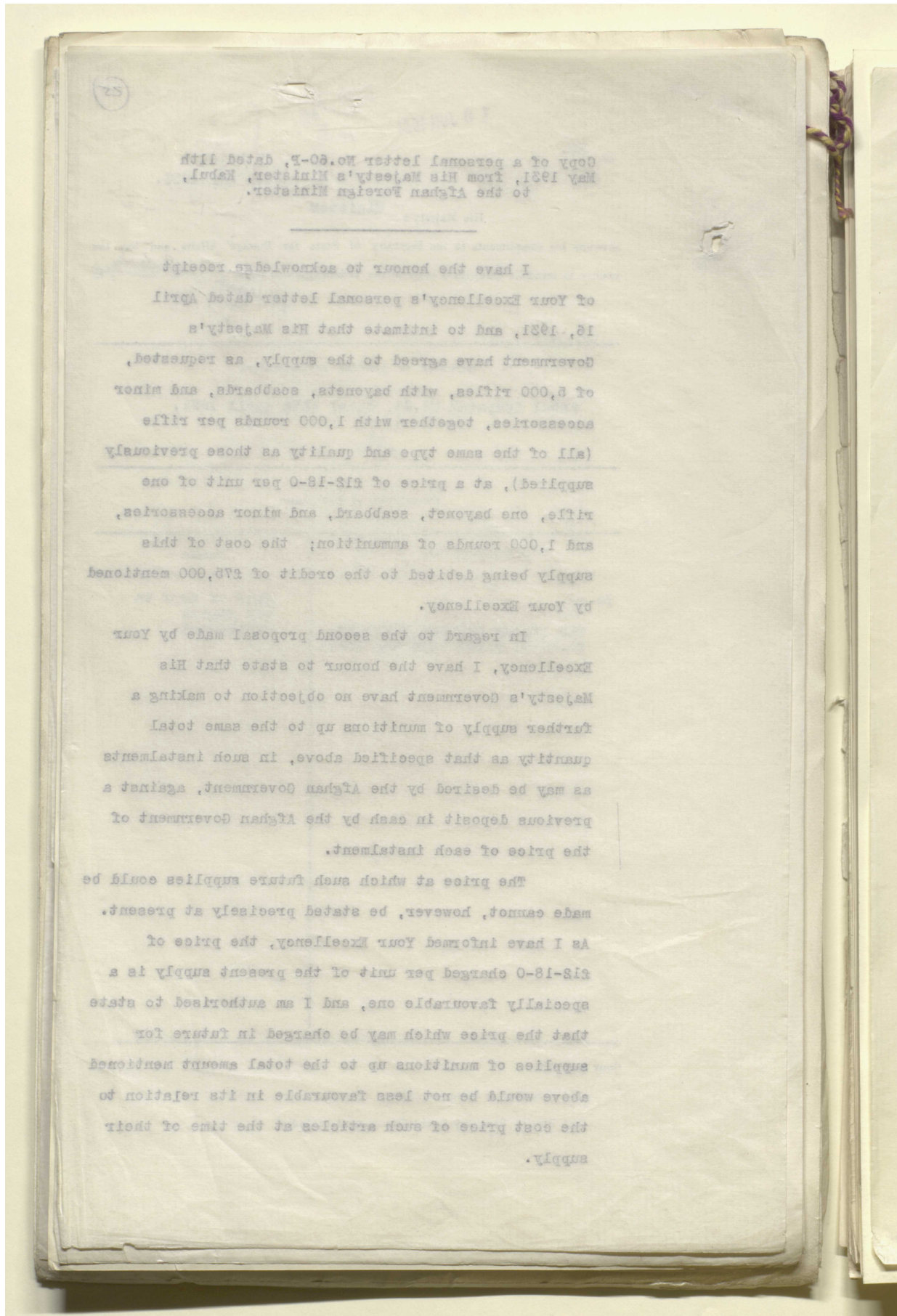
25  
Copy of a personal letter No.60-P, dated 11th May 1931, from His Majesty's Minister, Kabul, to the Afghan Foreign Minister.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's personal letter dated April 16, 1931, and to intimate that His Majesty's Government have agreed to the supply, as requested, of 5,000 rifles, with bayonets, scabbards, and minor accessories, together with 1,000 rounds per rifle (all of the same type and quality as those previously supplied), at a price of £12-18-0 per unit of one rifle, one bayonet, scabbard, and minor accessories, and 1,000 rounds of ammunition; the cost of this supply being debited to the credit of £75,000 mentioned by Your Excellency.

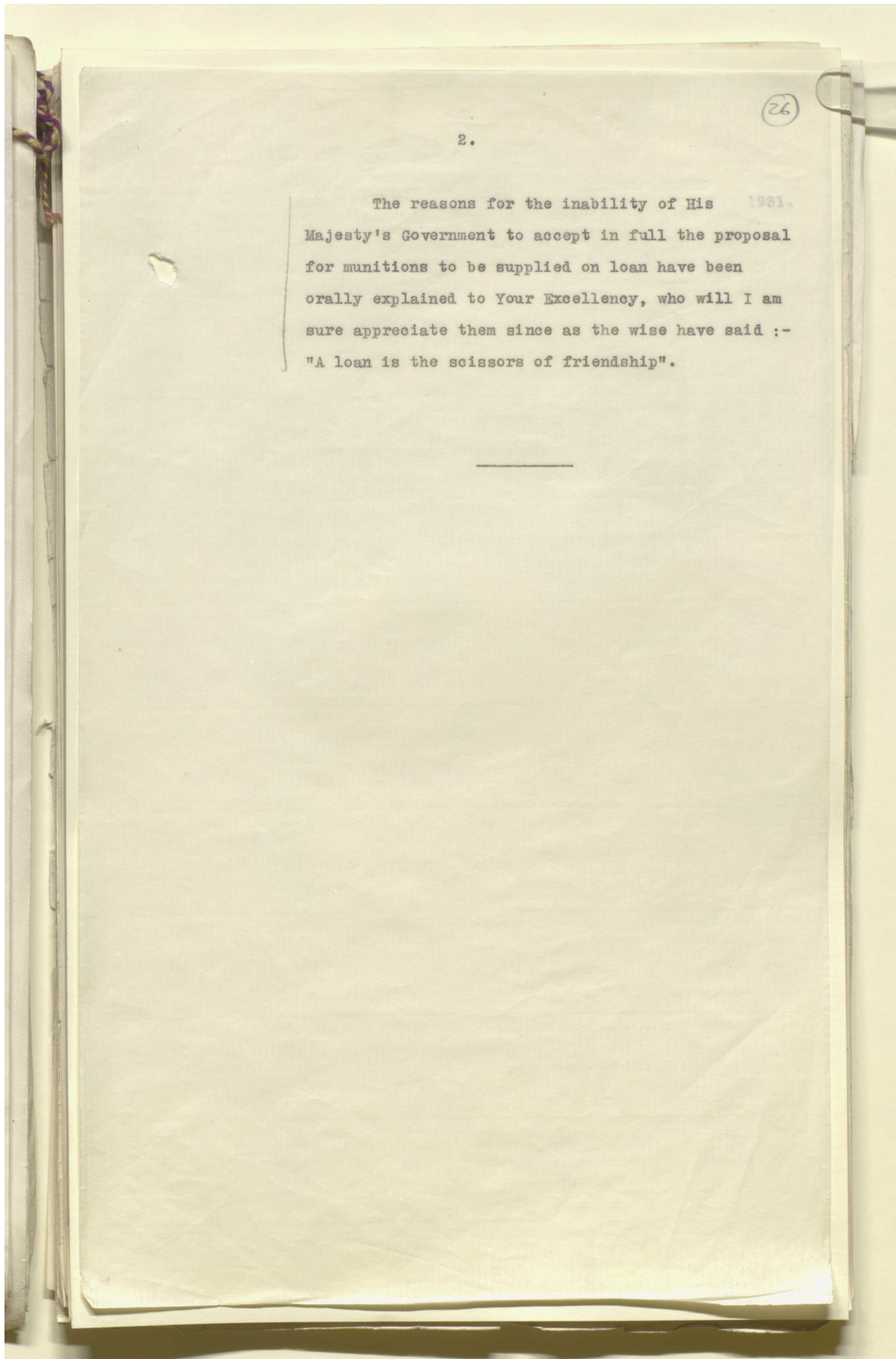
In regard to the second proposal made by Your Excellency, I have the honour to state that His Majesty's Government have no objection to making a further supply of munitions up to the same total quantity as that specified above, in such instalments as may be desired by the Afghan Government, against a previous deposit in cash by the Afghan Government of the price of each instalment.

The price at which such future supplies could be made cannot, however, be stated precisely at present. As I have informed Your Excellency, the price of £12-18-0 charged per unit of the present supply is a specially favourable one, and I am authorised to state that the price which may be charged in future for supplies of munitions up to the total amount mentioned above would be not less favourable in its relation to the cost price of such articles at the time of their supply.

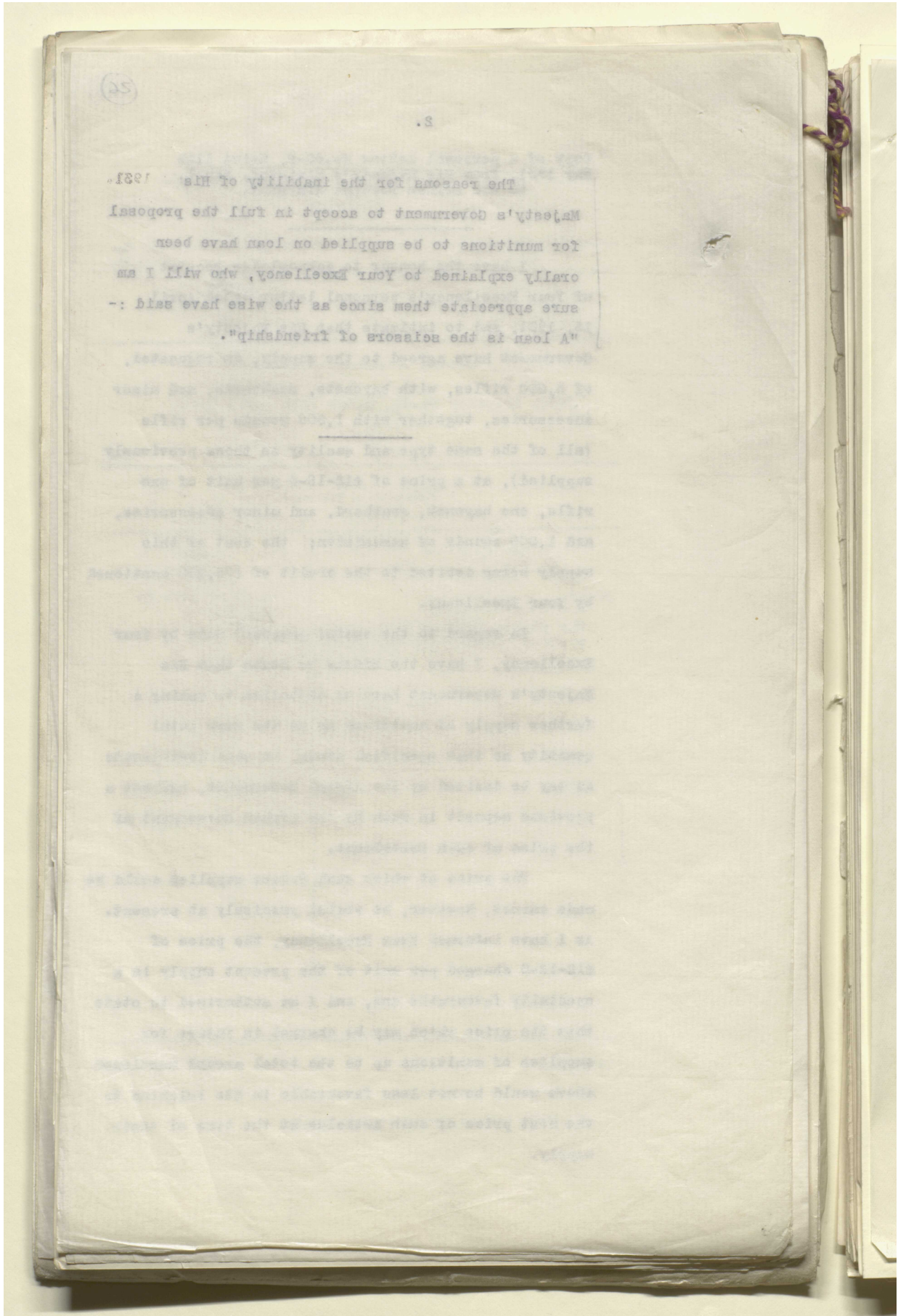
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [25v] (50/133)



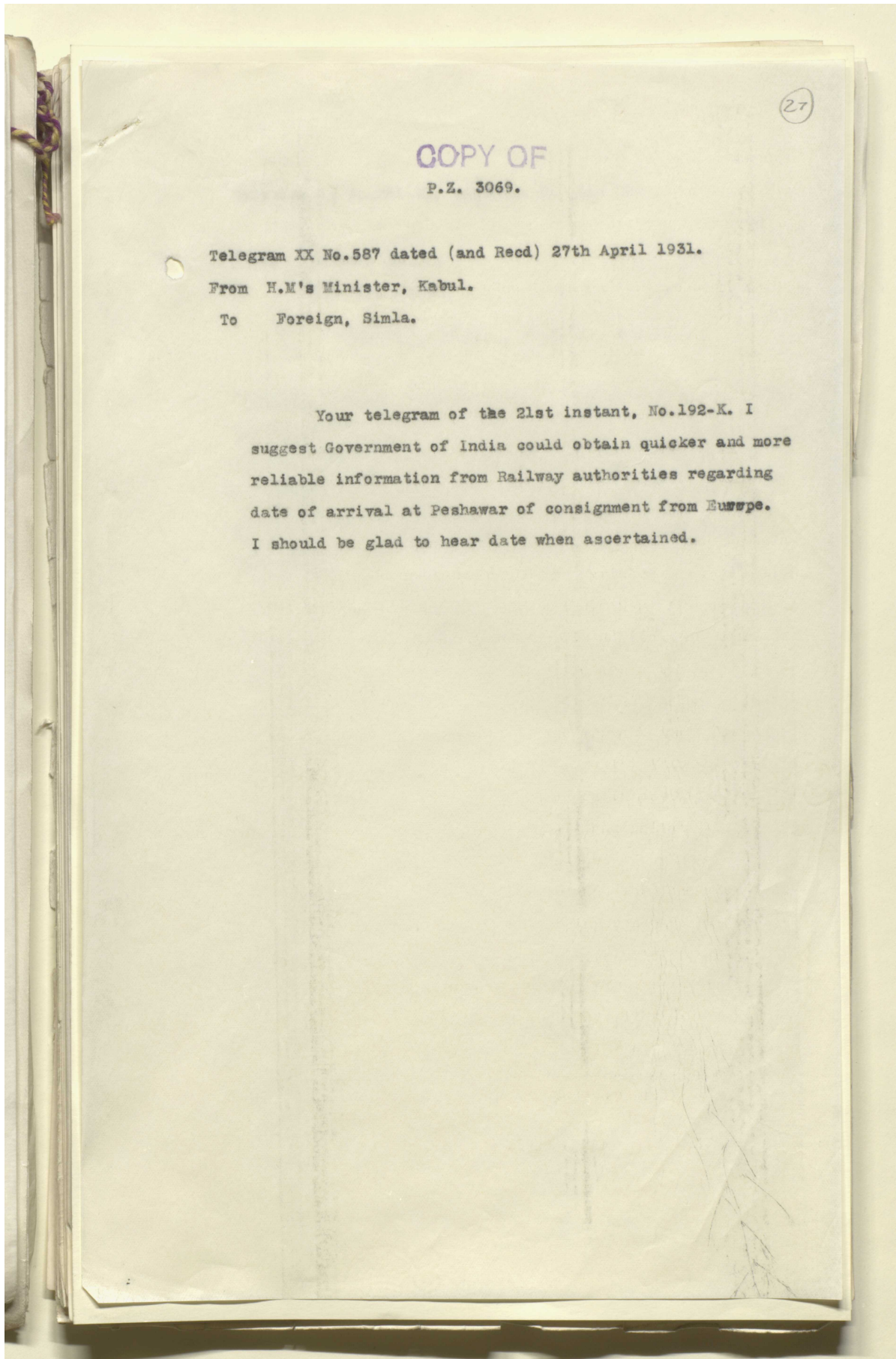
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [26r] (51/133)



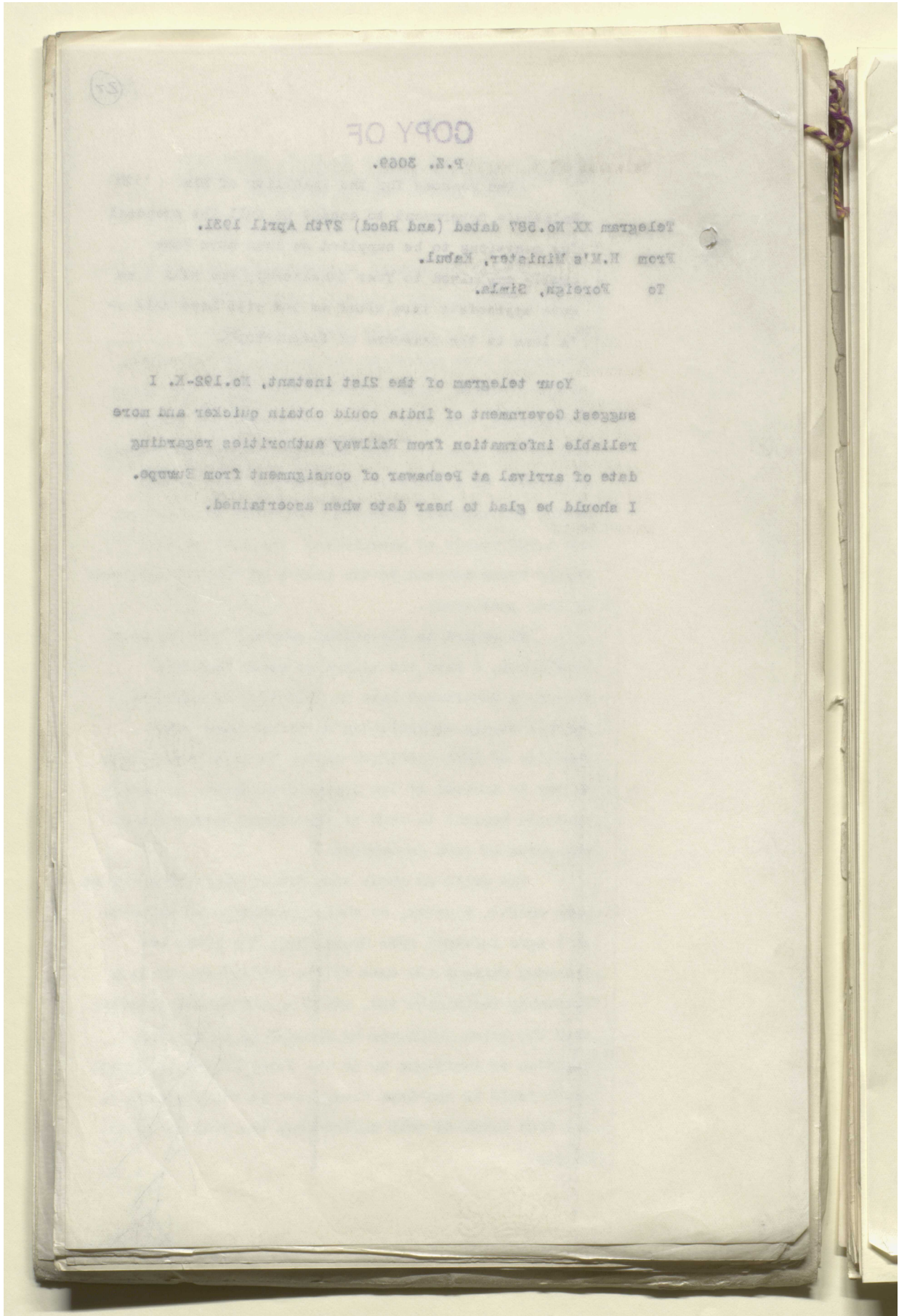
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [26v] (52/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [27r] (53/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [27v] (54/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [28r] (55/133)

28

Telegram XX No.224-K., dated the 2nd May 1931.

From, Foreign, Simla.

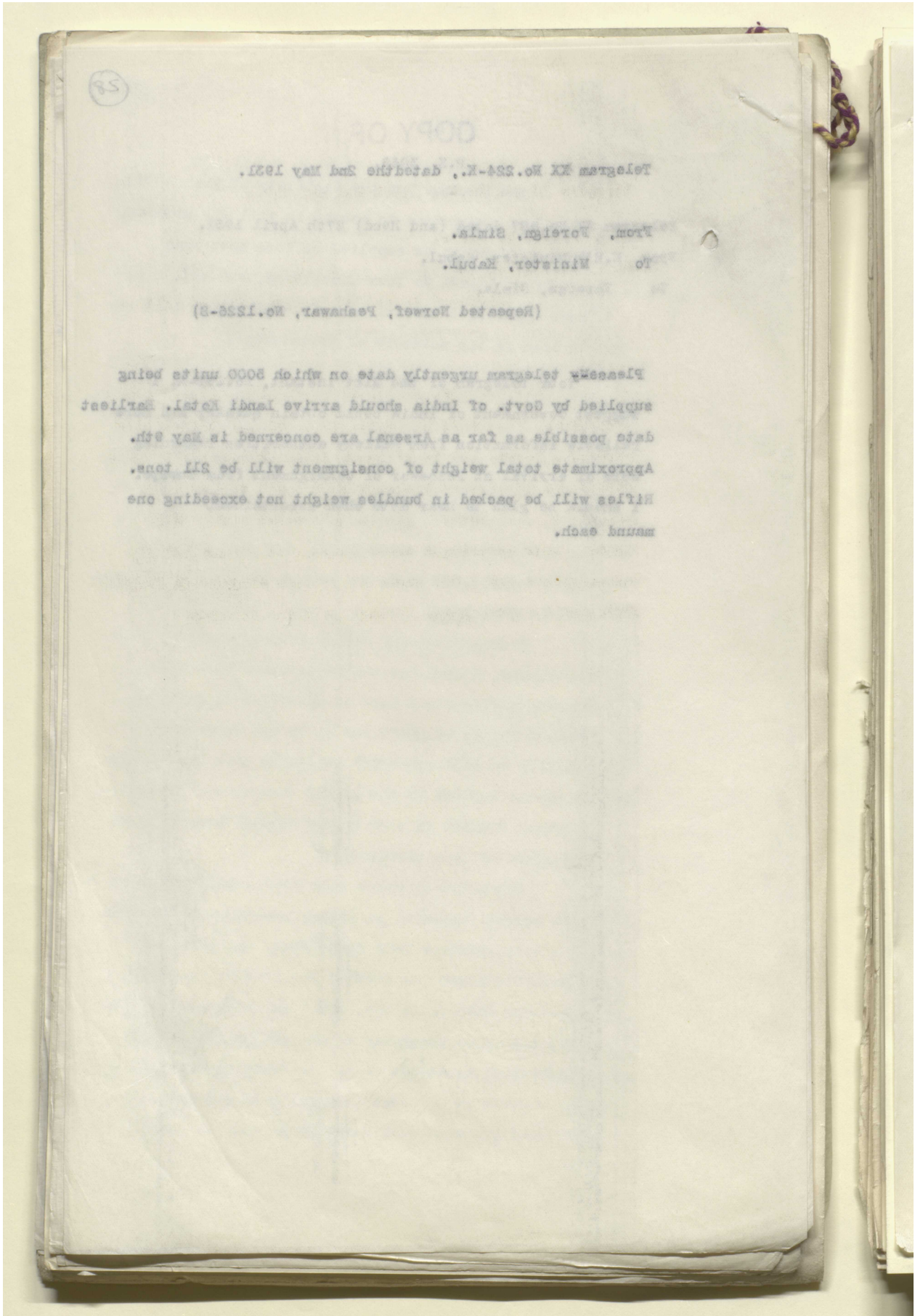
To Minister, Kabul.

(Repeated Norwef, Peshawar, No.1226-S)

Please My telegram urgently date on which 5000 units being supplied by Govt. of India should arrive Landi Kotal. Earliest date possible as far as Arsenal are concerned is May 9th. Approximate total weight of consignment will be 211 tons. Rifles will be packed in bundles weight not exceeding one maund each.



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [28v] (56/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [29r] (57/133)

(29)

Telegram XX No.223-K., dated 2nd May 1931.

From Foreign, Simla,

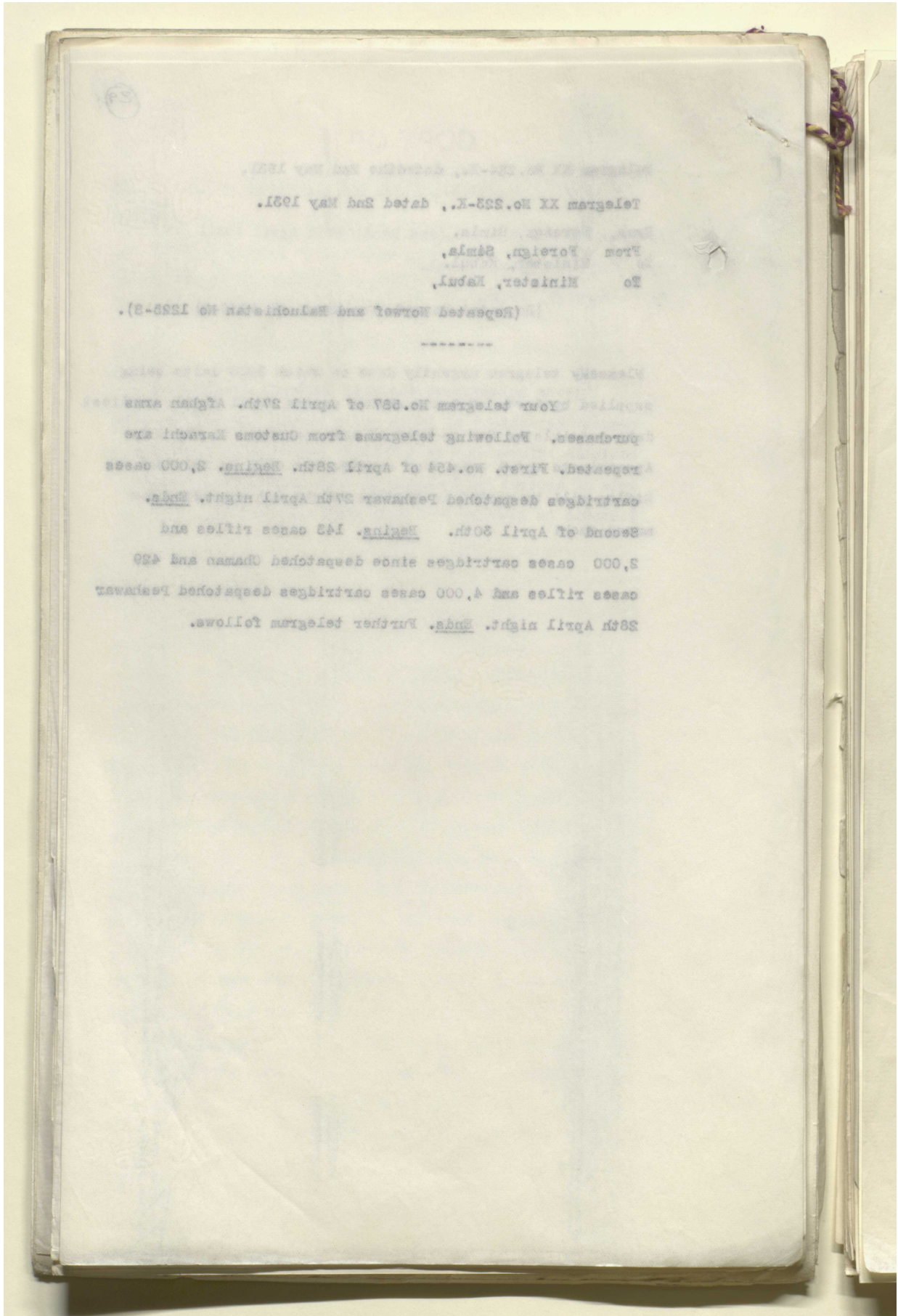
To Minister, Kabul,

(Repeated Norwef and Baluchistan No 1225-3).

-----

Your telegram No.587 of April 27th. Afghan arms purchases. Following telegrams from Customs Karachi are repeated. First. No.454 of April 28th. Begins. 2,000 cases cartridges despatched Peshawar 27th April night. Ends. Second of April 30th. Begins. 143 cases rifles and 2,000 cases cartridges since despatched Chaman and 429 cases rifles and 4,000 cases cartridges despatched Peshawar 28th April night. Ends. Further telegram follows.

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [29v] (58/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [30r] (59/133)

12 MAY 1931

P. Z. 2384 1931

KABUL. April 18, 1931.

H 2505

(30)

M D

Gol 7/2

INDEXED

No. 48.

His Majesty's **Minister**

presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the undermentioned paper.

---

*Reference to previous correspondence.*

---

2390 "Katodon" telegram 79, dated April 17, 1931.

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DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURE.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p>From:-</p> <p>The Afghan Foreign Minister, dated April 16, 1931.</p>	<p>Sale of arms to the Afghan Government.</p>

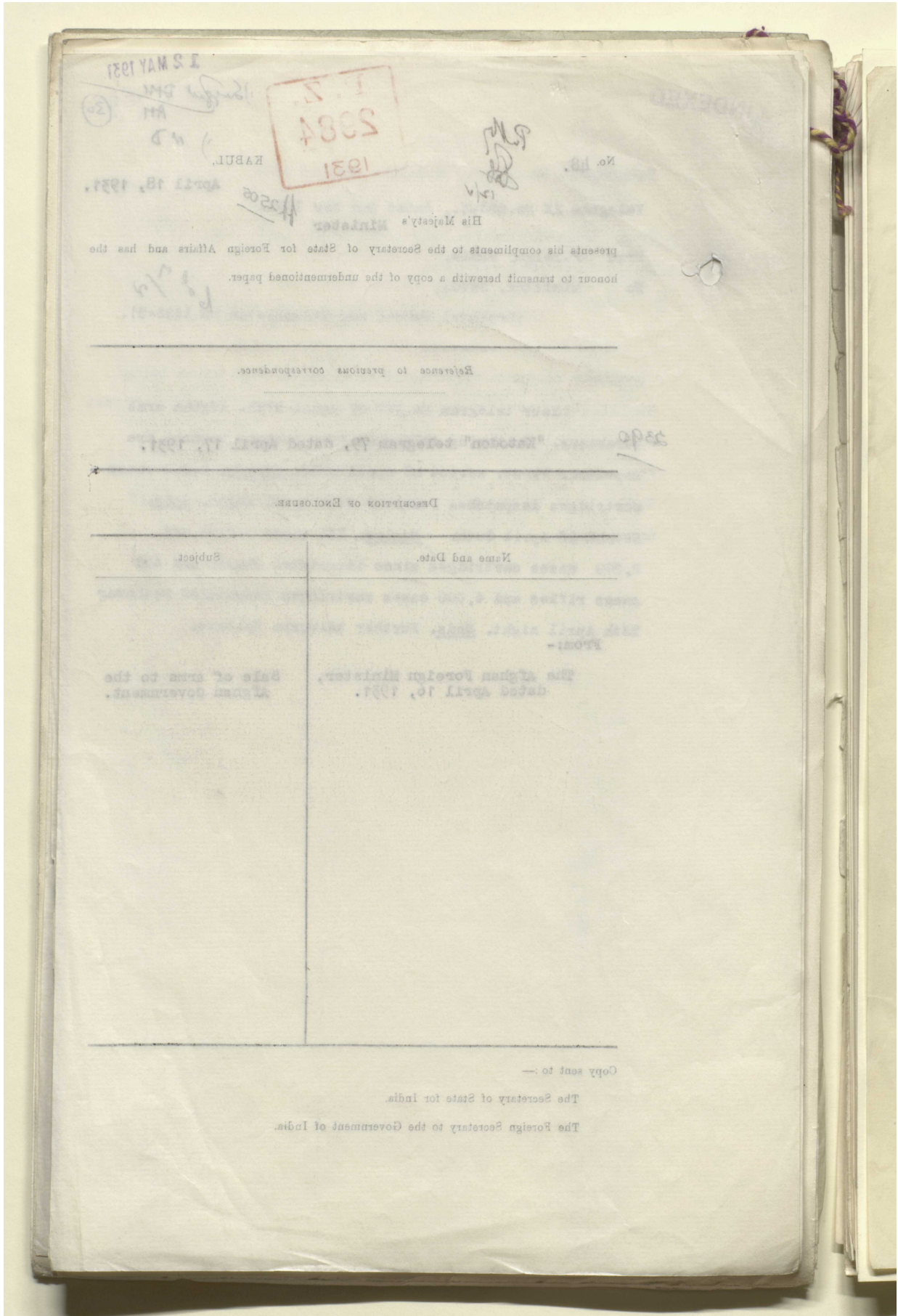
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Copy sent to :-

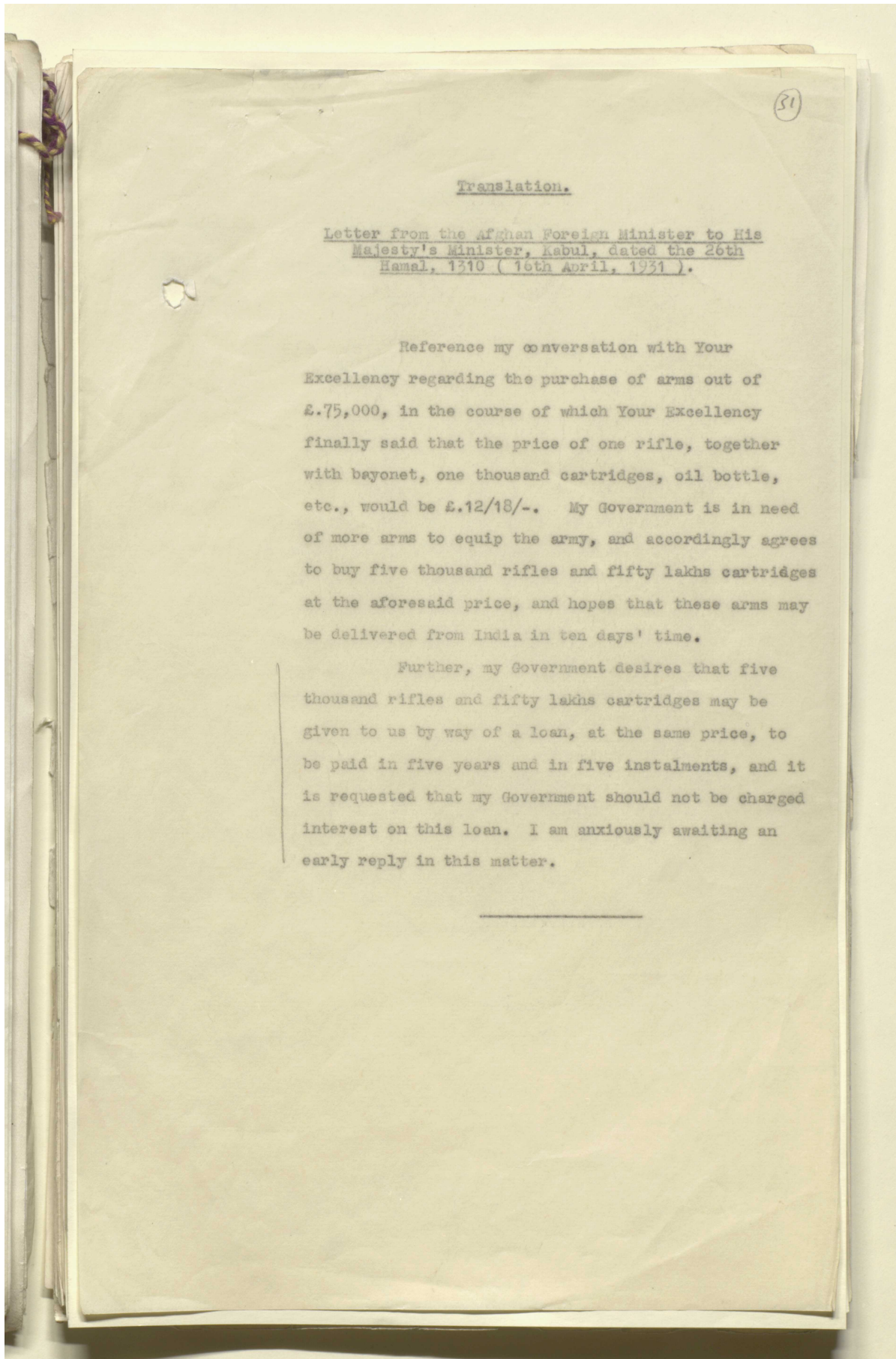
The Secretary of State for India.

The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India.

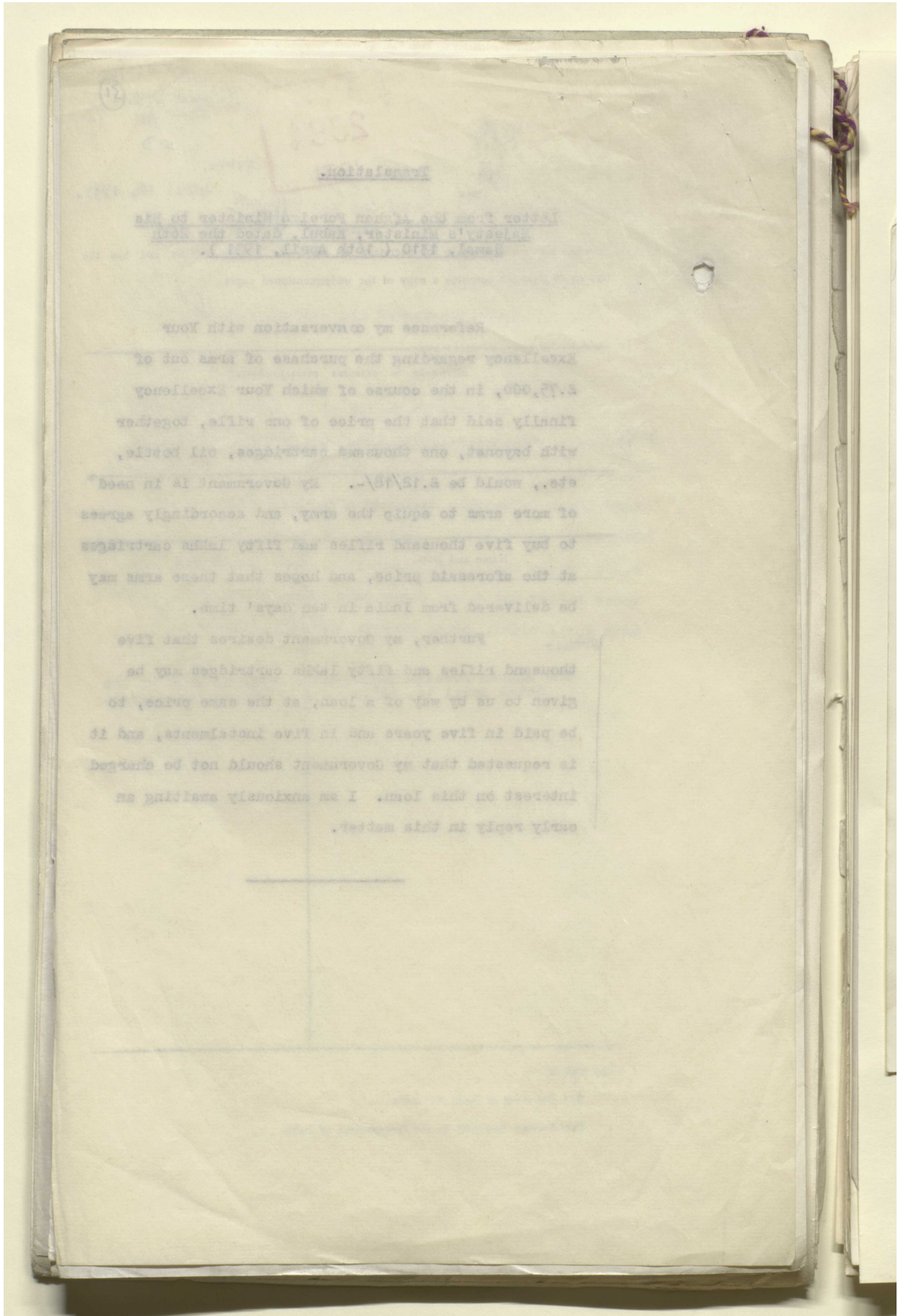
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [30v] (60/133)



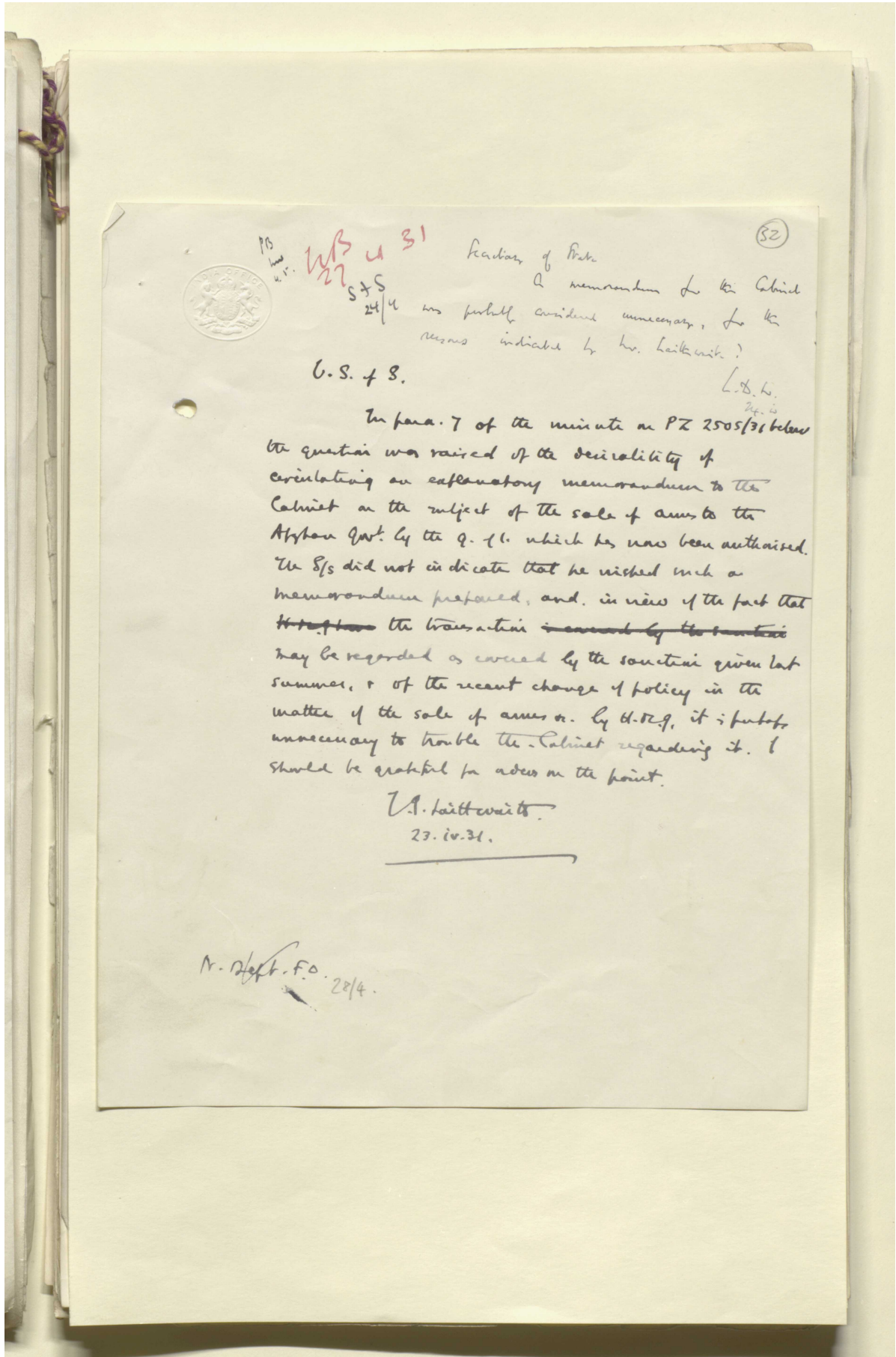
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [31r] (61/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [31v] (62/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [32r] (63/133)



PS  
S+S 24/4  
27. iv. 31  
Factor of Post  
A memorandum for the Cabinet  
was perhaps considered unnecessary, for the  
reasons indicated by Mr. Laitterwaite?  
L. B. L.  
24. iv.

G. S. & S.

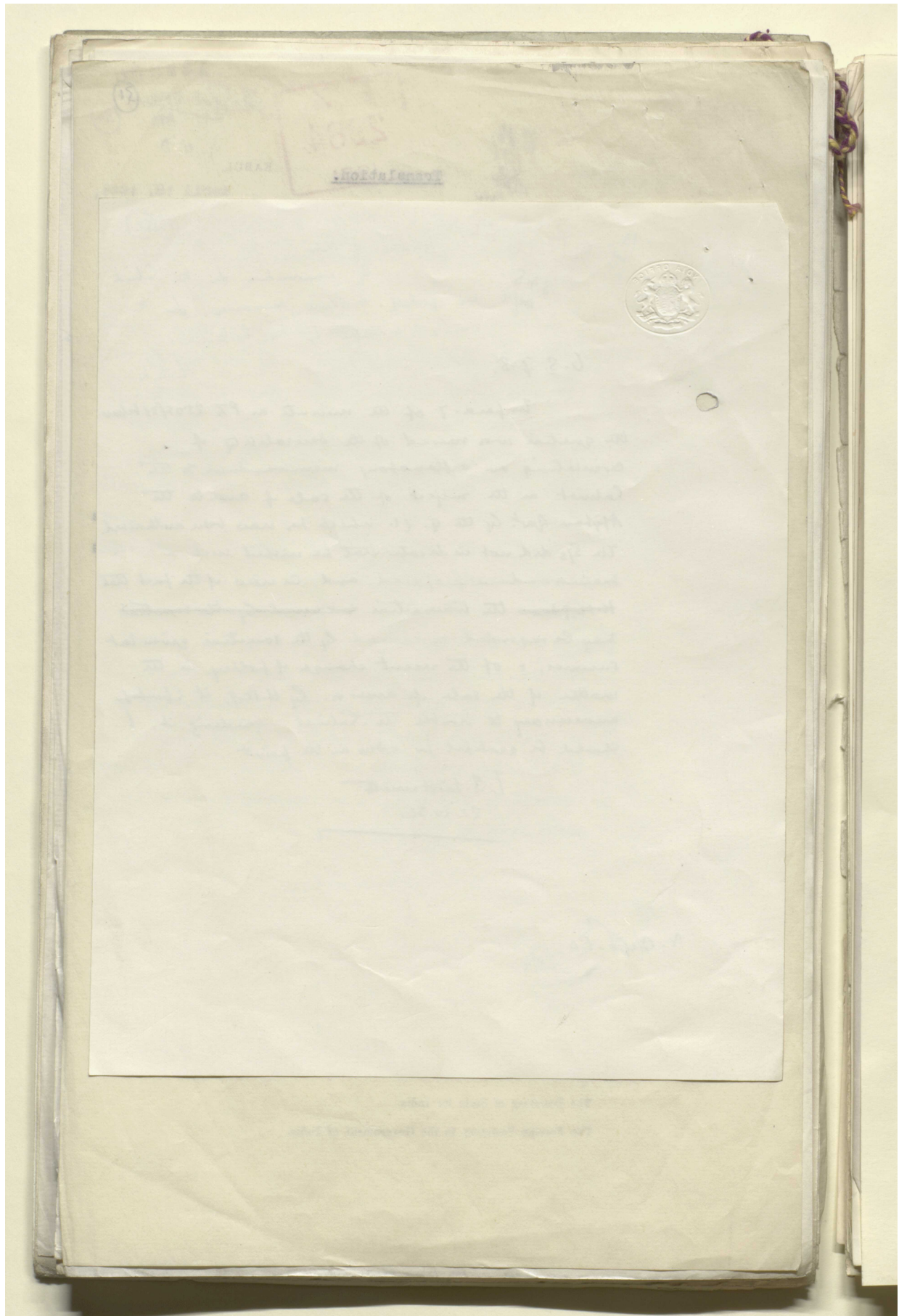
In para. 7 of the minute on PZ 2505/31 below  
the question was raised of the desirability of  
circulating an explanatory memorandum to the  
Cabinet on the subject of the sale of arms to the  
Afghan Govt. by the G. & S. which has now been authorised.  
The G. & S. did not indicate that he wished such a  
memorandum prepared, and, in view of the fact that  
~~the transaction is covered by the sanction~~  
may be regarded as covered by the sanction given last  
summer, & of the recent change of policy in the  
matter of the sale of arms on. by H. S. G., it is perhaps  
unnecessary to trouble the Cabinet regarding it. I  
should be grateful for advice on the point.

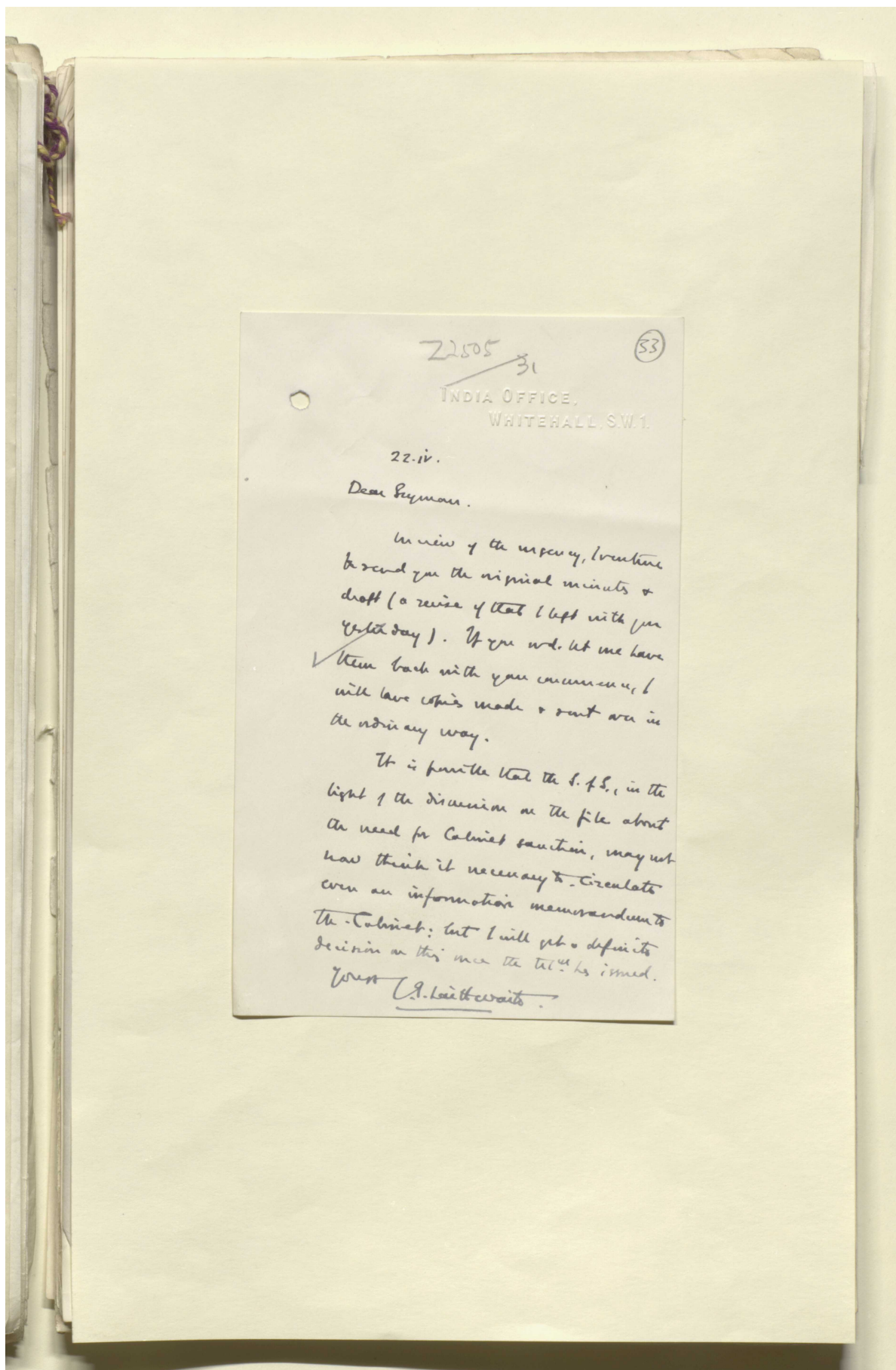
V. A. Laitterwaite  
27. iv. 31.

N. Dept. F.O. 27/4.



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [32v] (64/133)





22505 31

(53)

INDIA OFFICE,  
WHITEHALL, S.W. 1.

22. iv.

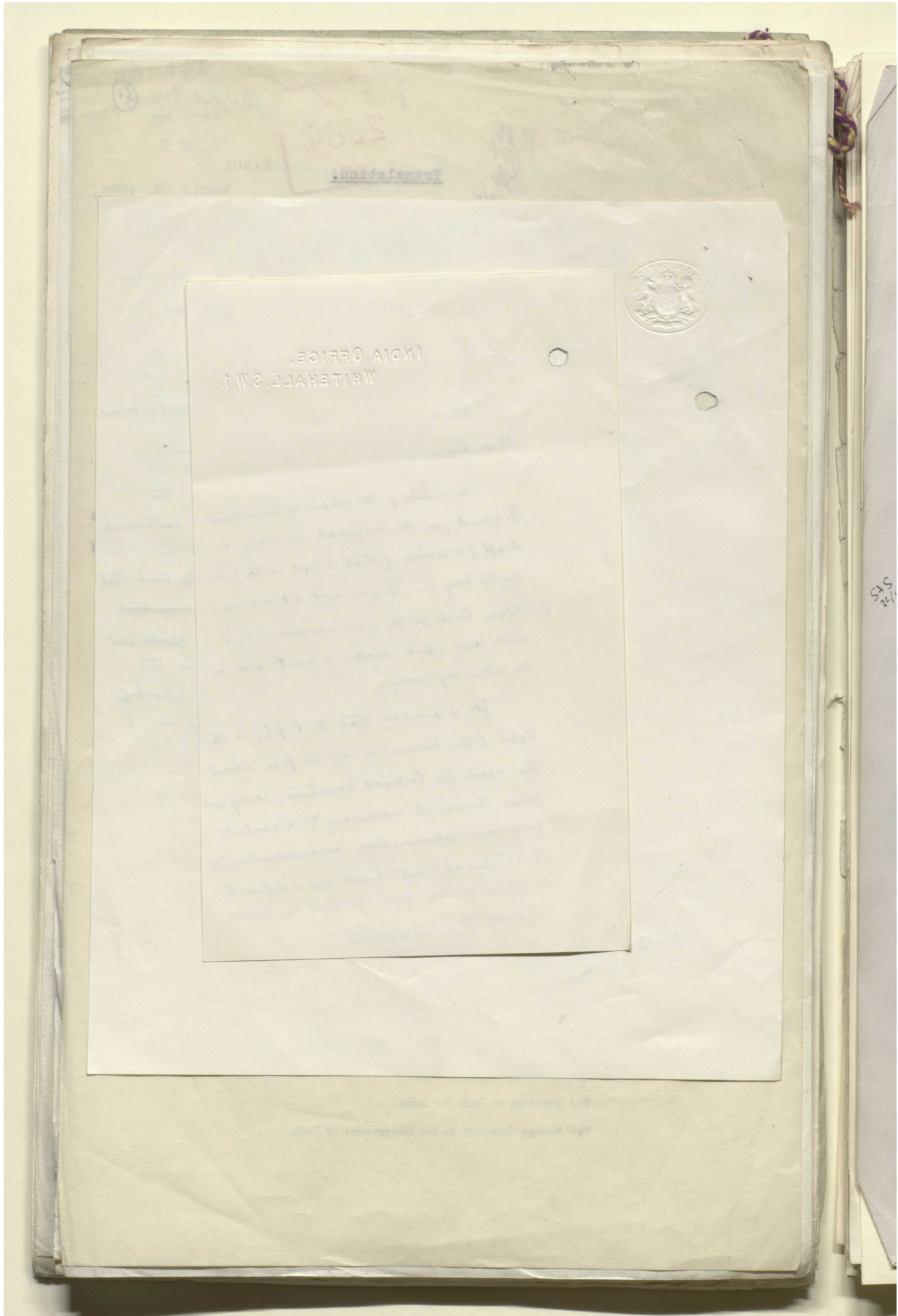
Dear Pymon.

In view of the urgency, I venture  
to send you the original minutes &  
draft (a revise of that I left with you  
yesterday). If you wd. let me have  
✓ them back with your comments, I  
will have copies made & sent over in  
the ordinary way.

It is possible that the S. of S., in the  
light of the discussion on the file about  
the need for Cabinet sanction, may not  
now think it necessary to circulate  
even an information memorandum to  
the Cabinet; but I will get a definite  
decision on this once the tel<sup>g</sup> has issued.

Yours  
G. Keith Elphinstone

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [33v] (66/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [34r] (67/133)

34

Register No.  
**PZ**  
**2585/31.**

**SECRET.**  
**POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.**

Letter Telegram from **Q. India** Dated } **21 April 1931.**  
Rec. }

Formally acknowledged

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			<u>Afghanistan.</u>
Chairman.....			<p>Request from Afghan Govt for (a) 5000 rifles with 1000 rounds S&amp;A each, and accessories, to be purchased, at a total cost of £64,500, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of financial assistance (£75,000) granted by Q. I. (b) <del>£64,500</del> A similar quantity on a basis of deferred payments spread over five years. Recommendation of 1<sup>st</sup> Minister &amp; Q.I.</p>
Under Secretary .....	22. iv. 31	<i>MB</i>	
Secretary of State.....	22	<i>MB</i>	
Committee.....			
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State.....			

*N. Dept. F. O. MB 22 4 31*  
*23/4*

Copy of *let<sup>ter</sup>* to *Fo* } *29/4*  
*Dr* }  
*AM* }  
*Sty* }

FOR USE BY DEPARTMENTS ONLY.

Draft telegram to Mr. Macmahon, accepting his recommendation subject to a minor reservation made by Q. I.

*li. hr. S. 22/4*

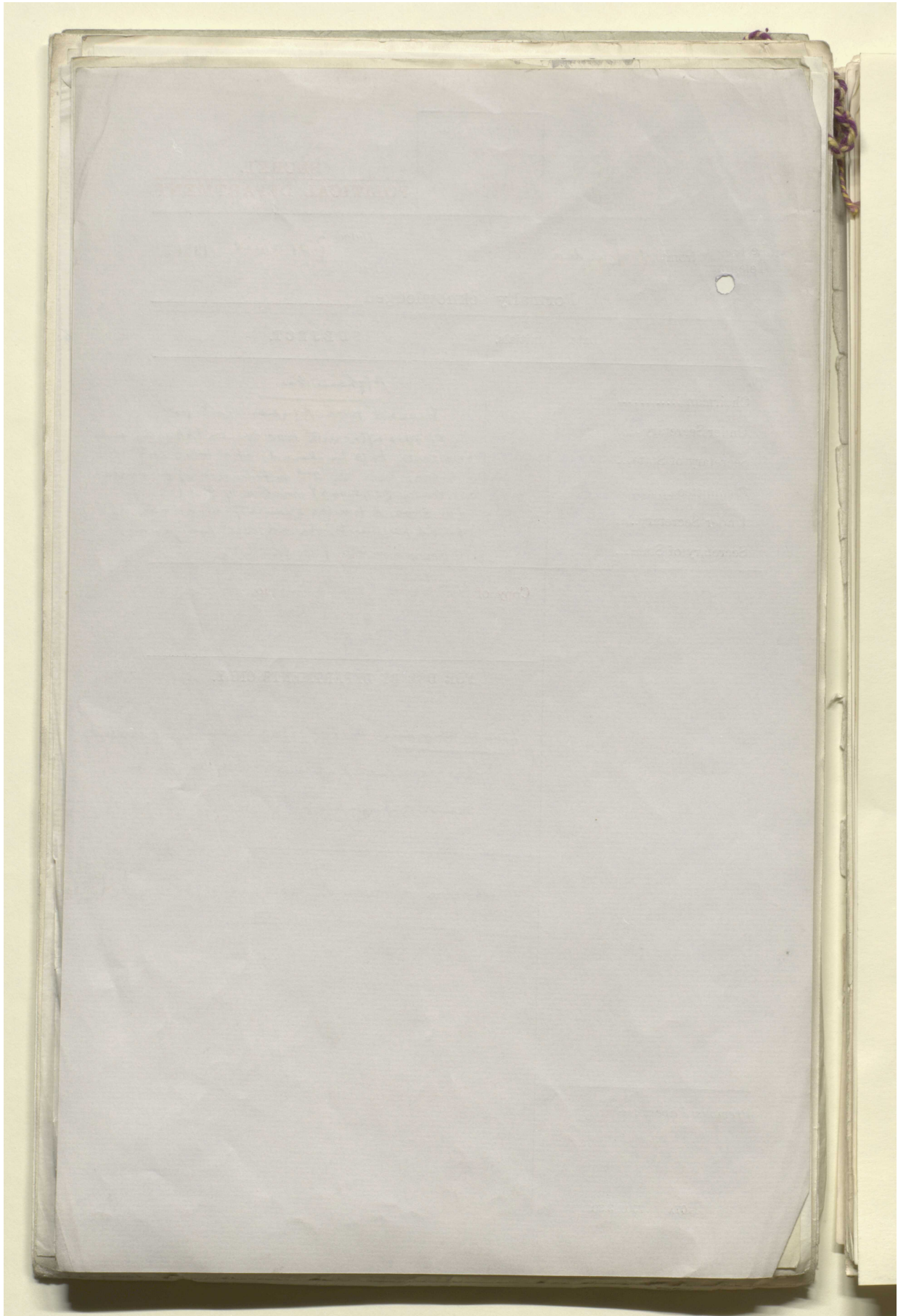
*Lord S. 4 5*

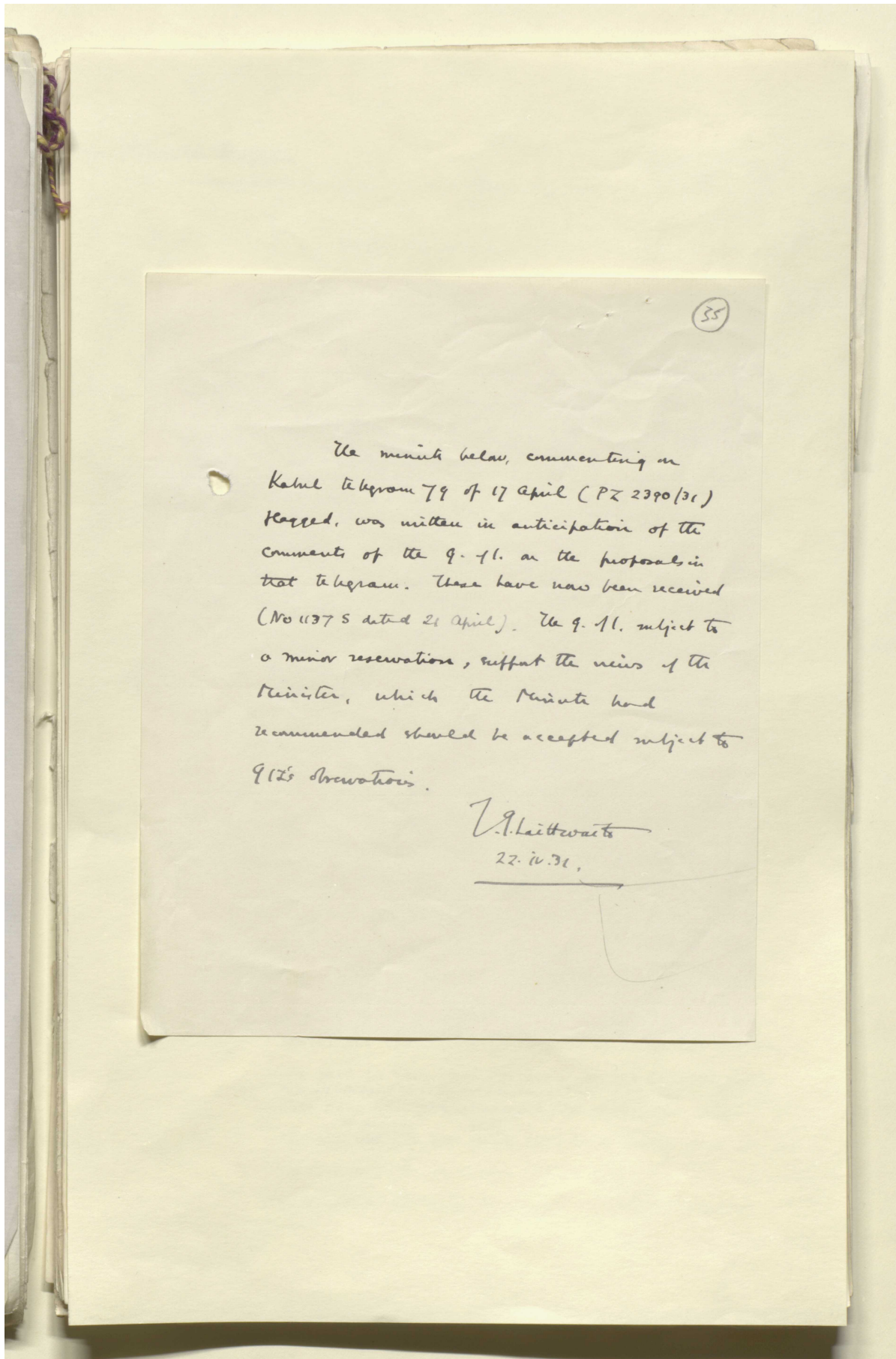
Telegram issued 23 April 1931 No 46.

Previous Papers :—

4407A 750 3.30

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [34v] (68/133)



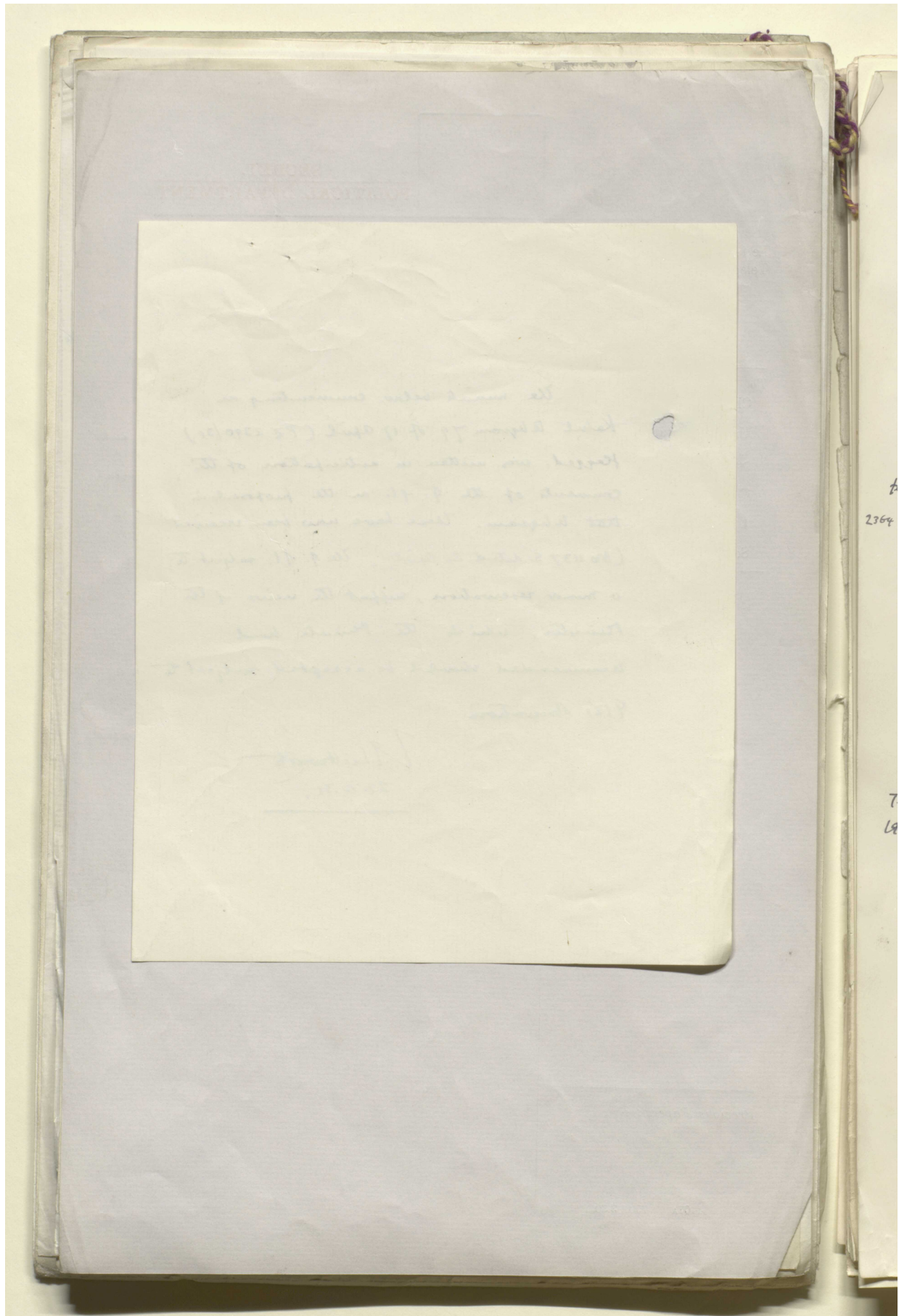


(55)

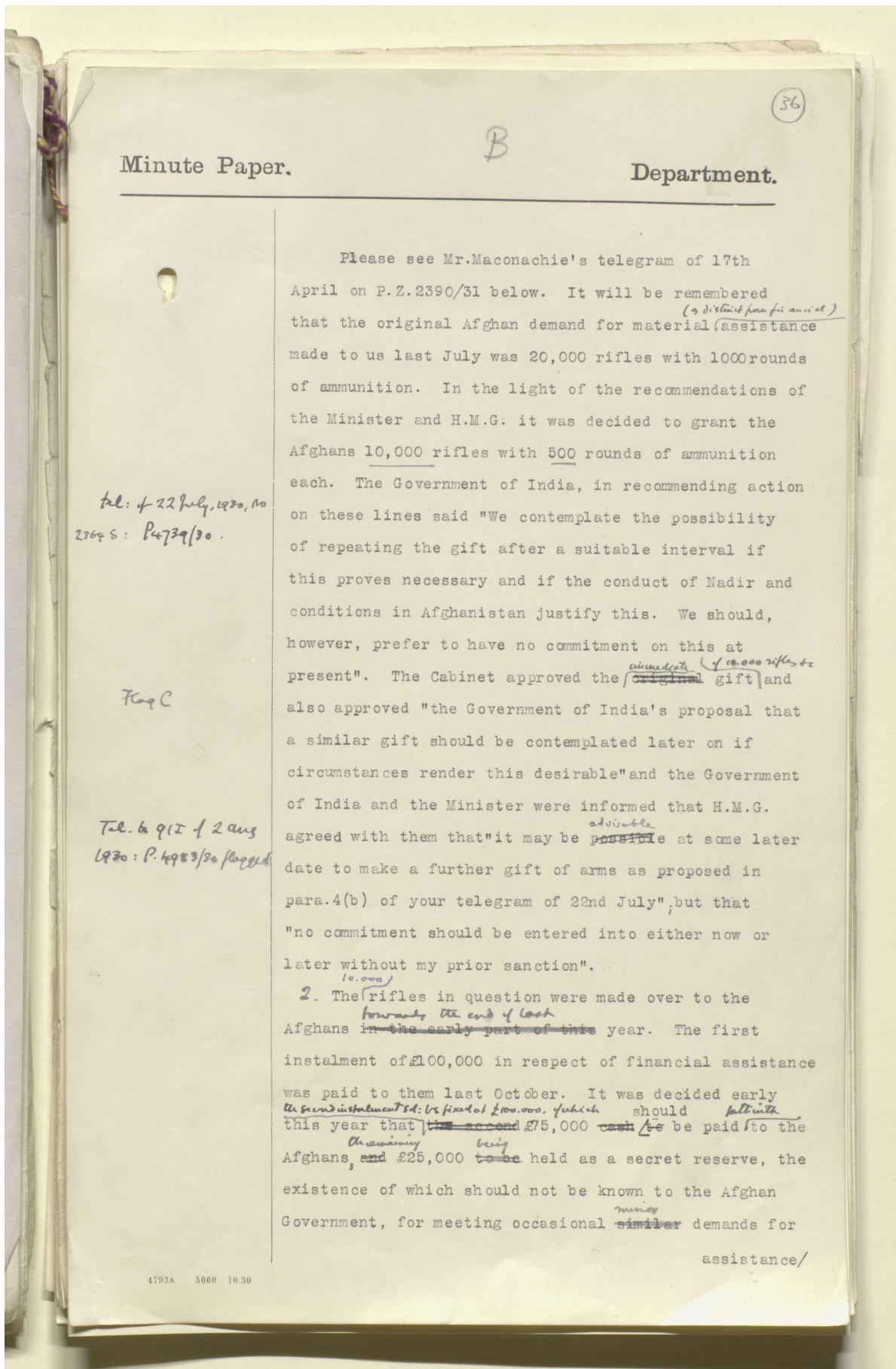
The minute below, commenting on  
Kabul telegram 79 of 17 April (PZ 2390/31)  
flagged, was written in anticipation of the  
comments of the G. I. on the proposals in  
that telegram. These have now been received  
(No 11375 dated 21 April). The G. I. subject to  
a minor reservation, support the views of the  
Minister, which the Private Secy  
recommended should be accepted subject to  
G.I.'s observations.

V. A. Laithevaite  
22. iv. 31,

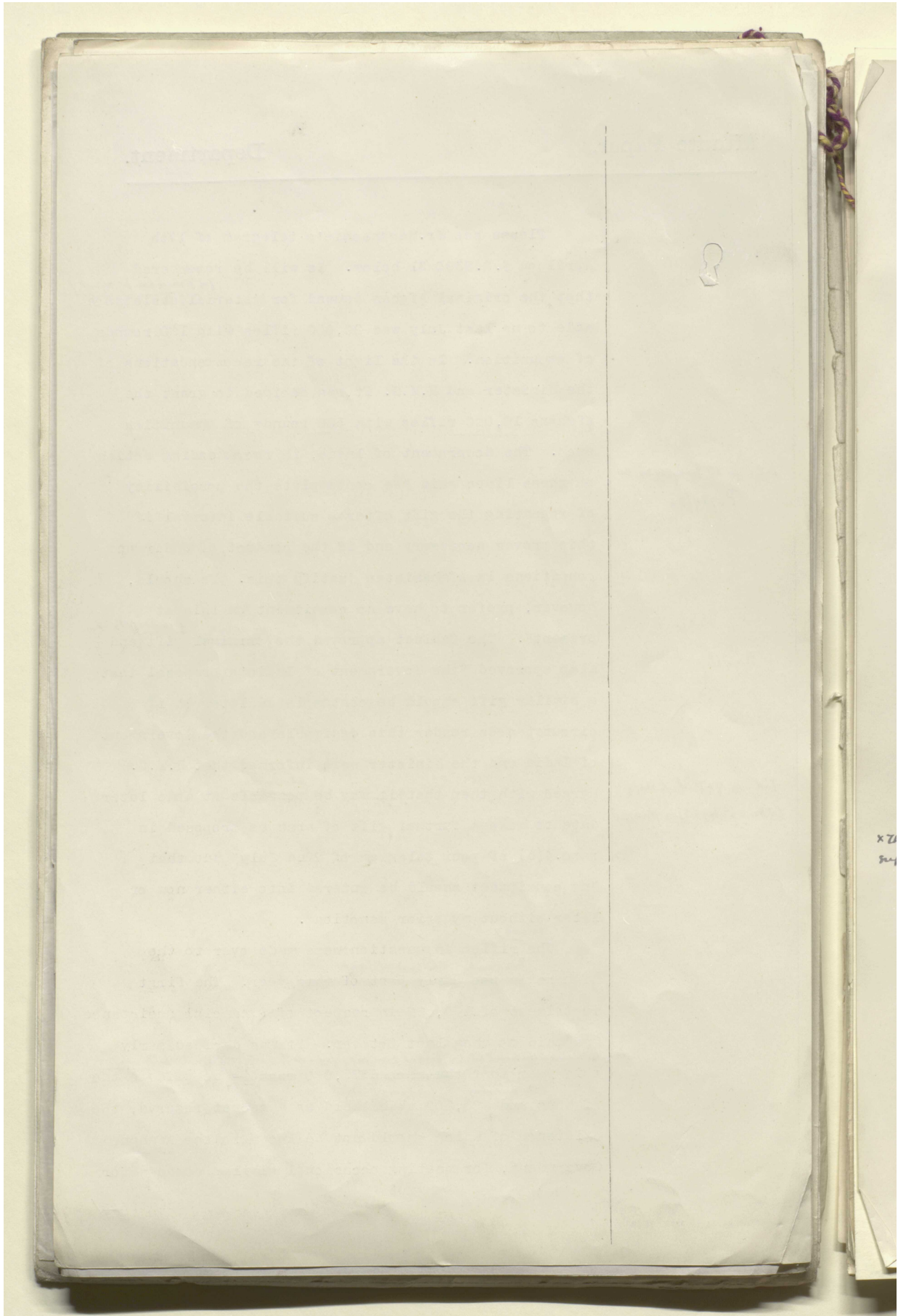
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [35v] (70/133)



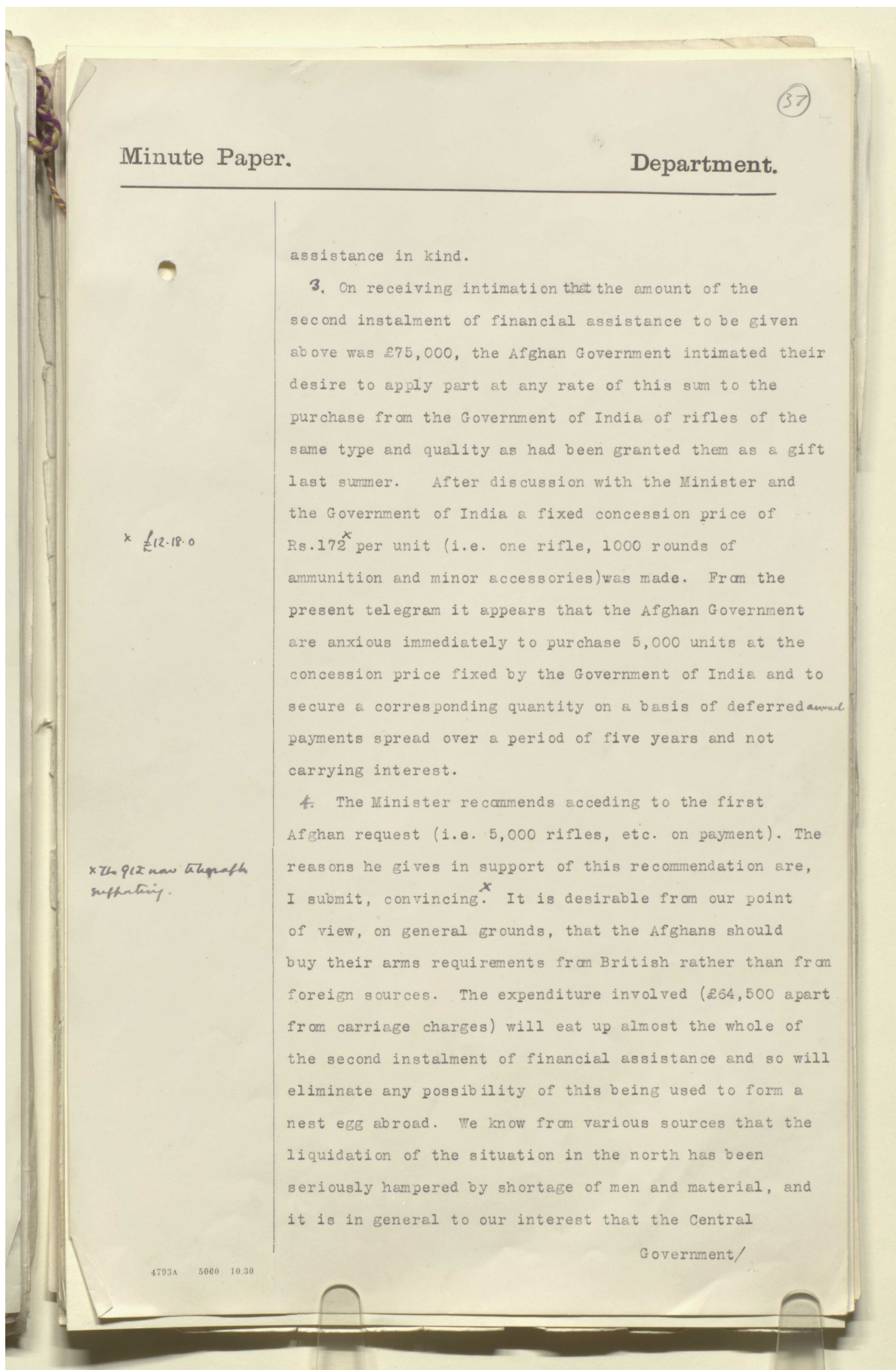
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [36r] (71/133)







Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [37r] (73/133)



Minute Paper.

Department.

37

assistance in kind.

3. On receiving intimation that the amount of the second instalment of financial assistance to be given above was £75,000, the Afghan Government intimated their desire to apply part at any rate of this sum to the purchase from the Government of India of rifles of the same type and quality as had been granted them as a gift last summer. After discussion with the Minister and the Government of India a fixed concession price of Rs.172<sup>x</sup> per unit (i.e. one rifle, 1000 rounds of ammunition and minor accessories) was made. From the present telegram it appears that the Afghan Government are anxious immediately to purchase 5,000 units at the concession price fixed by the Government of India and to secure a corresponding quantity on a basis of deferred ~~annual~~ payments spread over a period of five years and not carrying interest.

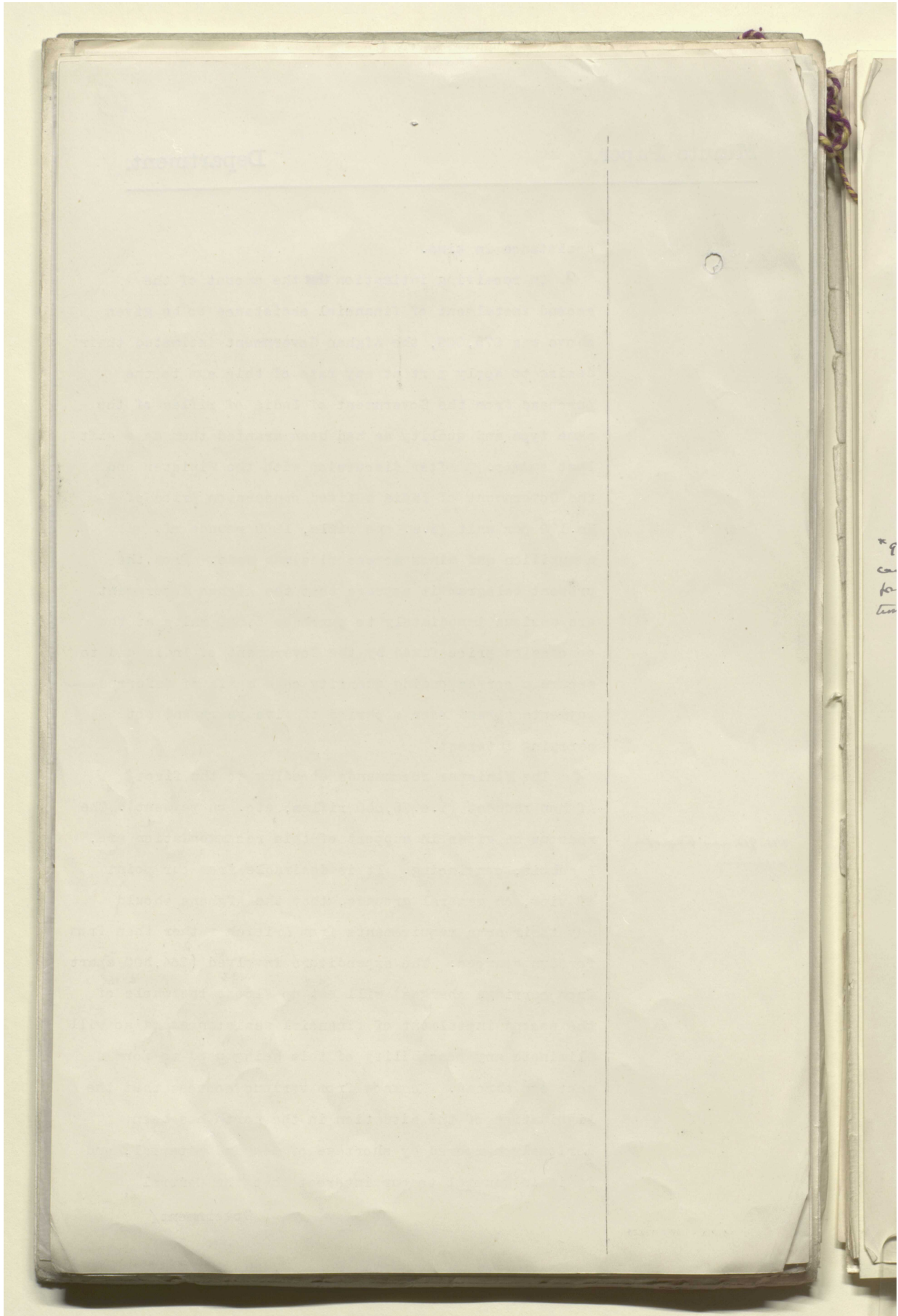
x £12.18.0

x the 912 new telegraph supporting.

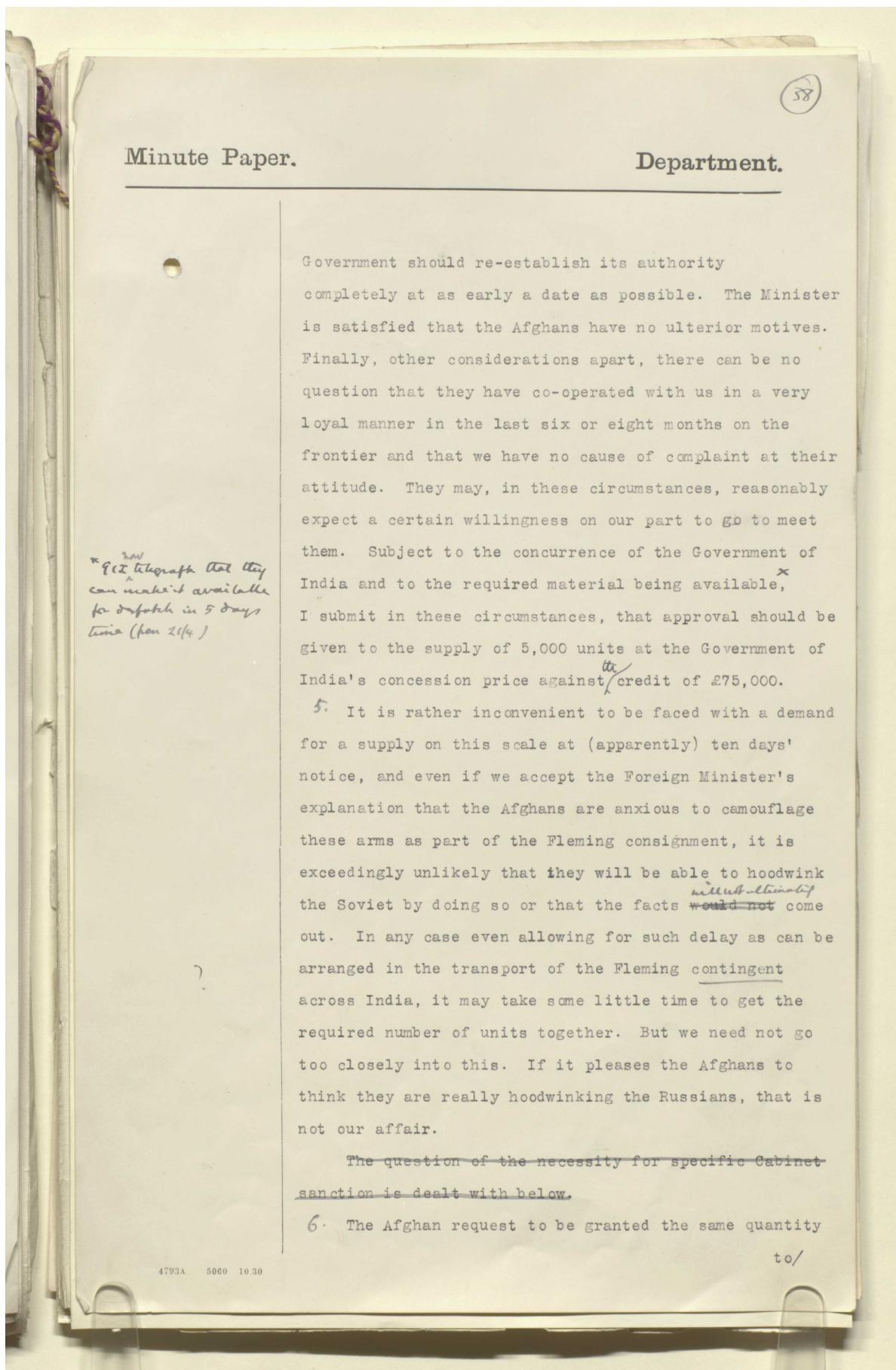
4. The Minister recommends acceding to the first Afghan request (i.e. 5,000 rifles, etc. on payment). The reasons he gives in support of this recommendation are, I submit, convincing.<sup>x</sup> It is desirable from our point of view, on general grounds, that the Afghans should buy their arms requirements from British rather than from foreign sources. The expenditure involved (£64,500 apart from carriage charges) will eat up almost the whole of the second instalment of financial assistance and so will eliminate any possibility of this being used to form a nest egg abroad. We know from various sources that the liquidation of the situation in the north has been seriously hampered by shortage of men and material, and it is in general to our interest that the Central

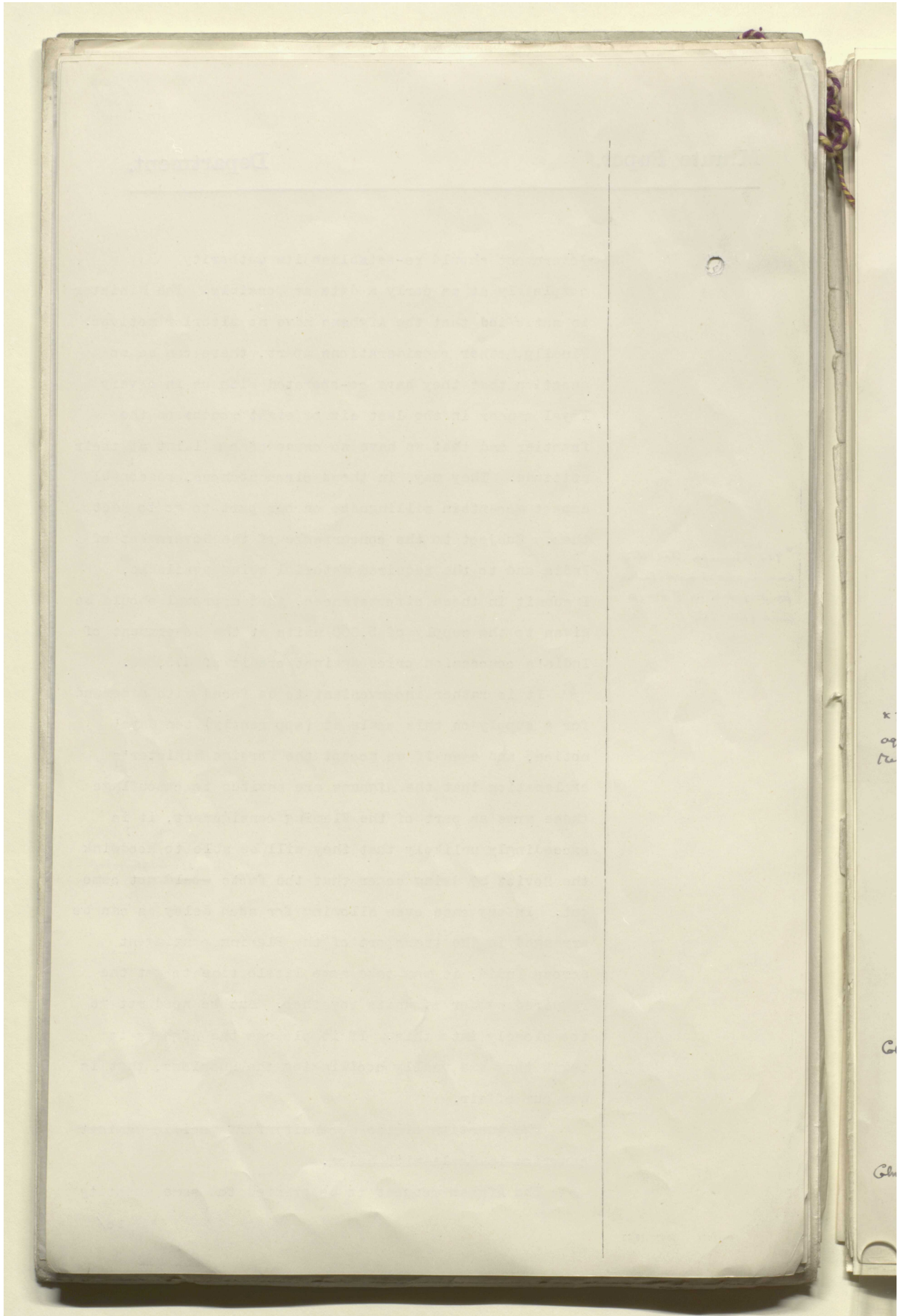
Government/

4793A 5000 10.30

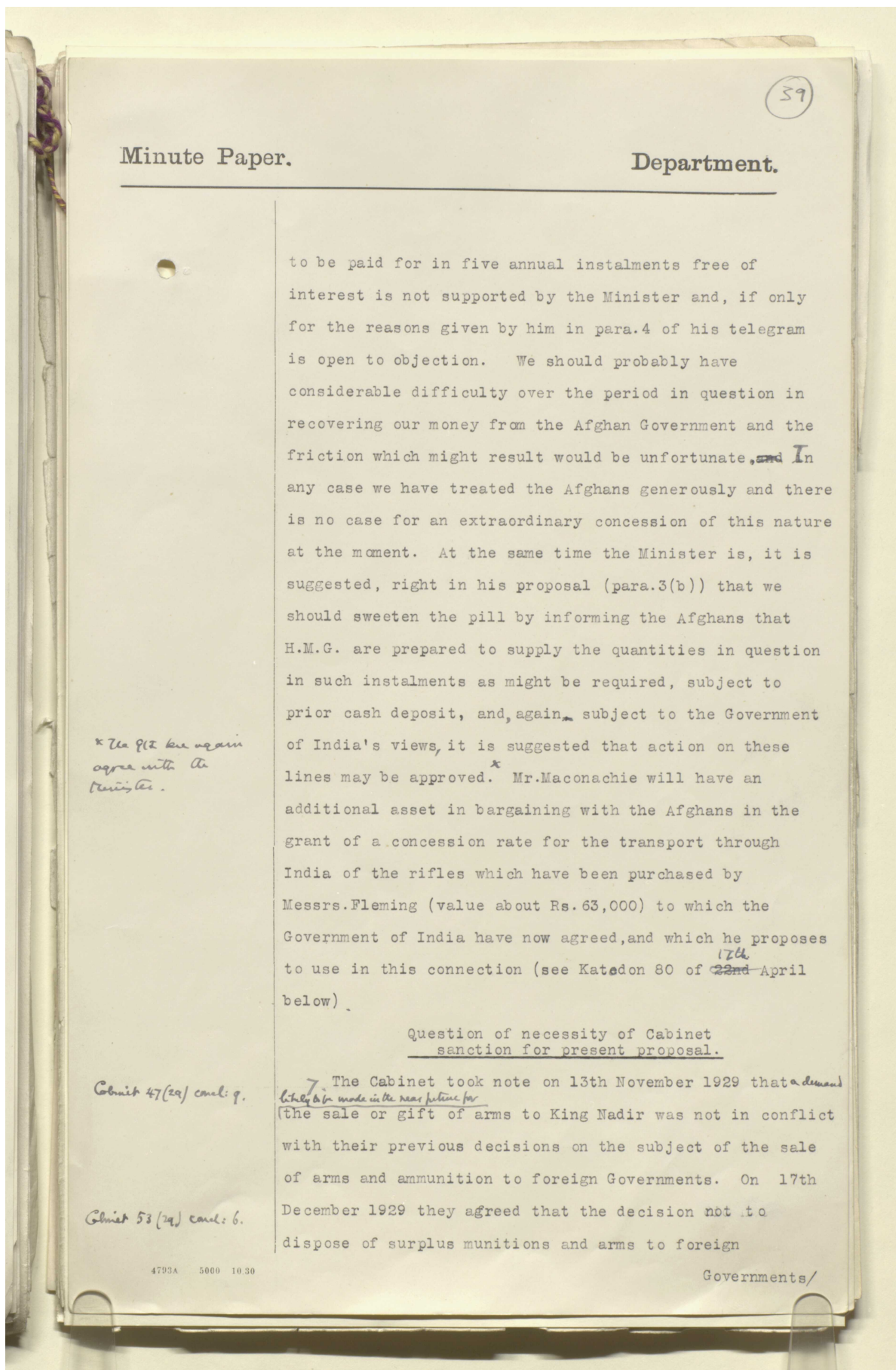


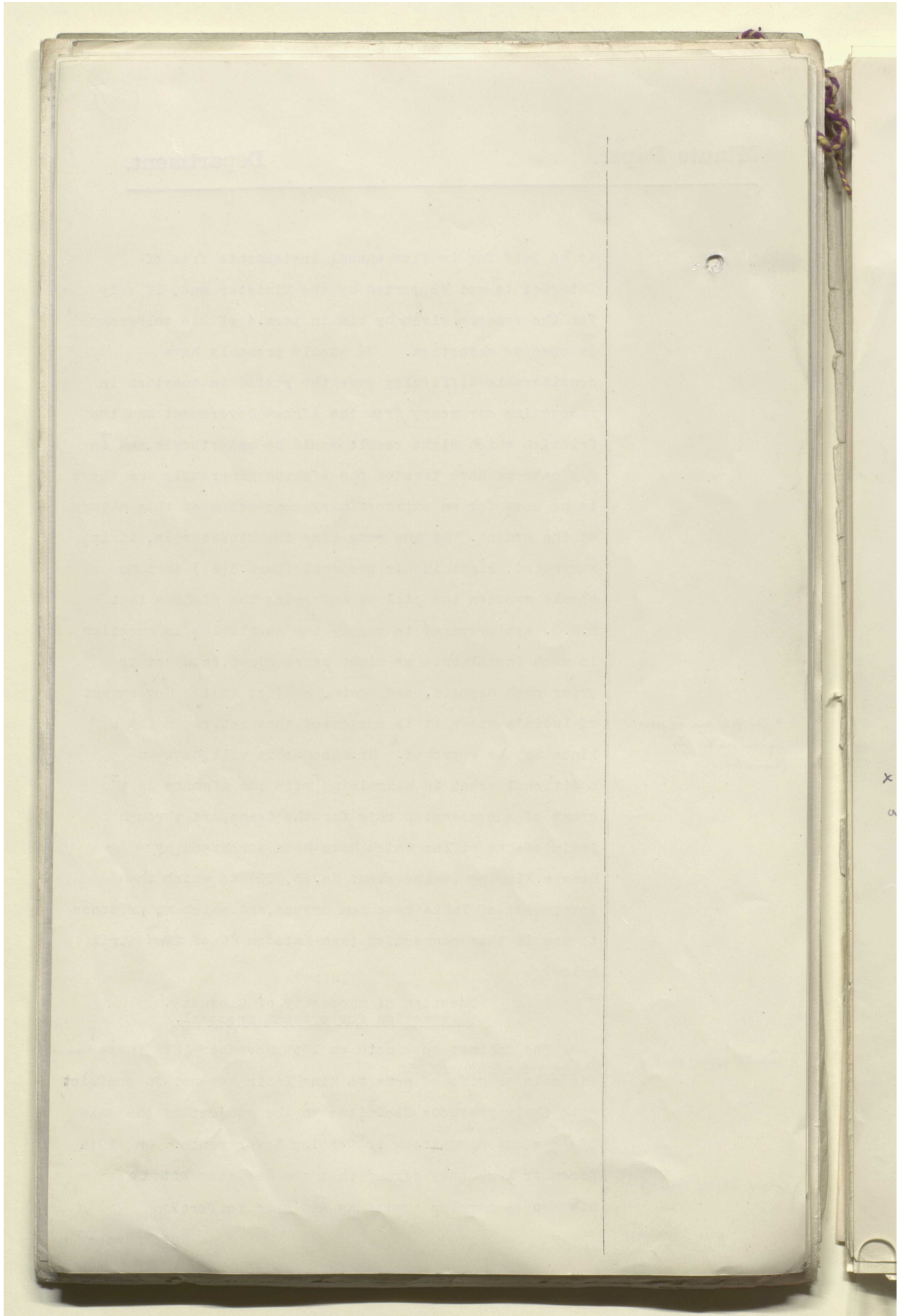
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [38r] (75/133)





Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [39r] (77/133)





Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [40r] (79/133)

(40)

Minute Paper.

Department.

Governments should not debar <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ gift by the Government of India to Afghanistan. They subsequently (compare para. / above) decided in July 1930 to approve the Government of India's proposal for the grant of a similar gift (to that of 10,000 rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition each ~~if~~ already approved) if circumstances should render this desirable. For practical purposes the quantity of 10,000 rifles ~~for~~ which the Afghans have now asked <sup>to be allowed to purchase</sup> corresponds precisely in amount to the "similar gift" approval to the making of which by the Government of India if circumstances rendered this desirable was given by the Cabinet last summer, and I submit, on the principle that the greater includes the less, that it is unnecessary to ask for further covering sanction either to the proposed <sup>ammunition</sup> sale of 5,000 units to the Afghans <sup>or to the</sup> ~~and~~ offer to sell ~~the~~ corresponding quantity later. But if this view is approved, the Secretary of State will no doubt wish to circulate an explanatory memorandum to the Cabinet. <sup>that event</sup> In ~~these circumstances~~ a draft will be prepared. <sup>other considerations apart it is very</sup>

\* See further minute  
enclosed

~~desirable for~~ <sup>if further</sup> to take an immediate decision, ~~if~~ if the 5000 units are to go up together with the arms purchased from Messrs Fleming, which were done at Karachi on 14 April.

Draft to Mr Macmichael submitted, in the light of the 8-16 telegram No 4375 of 24 April now received.

V.A. Laithevaite  
22.10.31

Killybegs

For concurrence in any direction

V.A. Laithevaite 22.10.31

4793A 5000 10.30

Japne

Ref Lotbe  
21.11.31



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [40v] (80/133)

Since the above minutes were written,  
a further Cabinet decision (of 24 Sept: 1930  
55 (30) Concl: 8), has been brought to notice. Copy  
of the relevant extract is attached - while it  
has in view more particularly transactions by  
the Service Departments, it represents a definite  
rescission of the earlier Cabinet embargo on the  
disposal of Govt-owned arms and munitions to  
foreign States.

JAL

Foreign Office concurs in the  
draft telegram.

W. J. M. M. M.  
23/4

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [41r] (81/133)

(41)

Draft Paper. P Z. 2505/31. Department.

---

*Immédiate*

*Bo*

S/s for F.A to  
for Peshawar, Kabul,

46

*Int.*

Your tel<sup>m</sup> of 17 April, no 79,  
and G. P. L. tel<sup>m</sup> of 20 April, ~~no~~  
192 K.

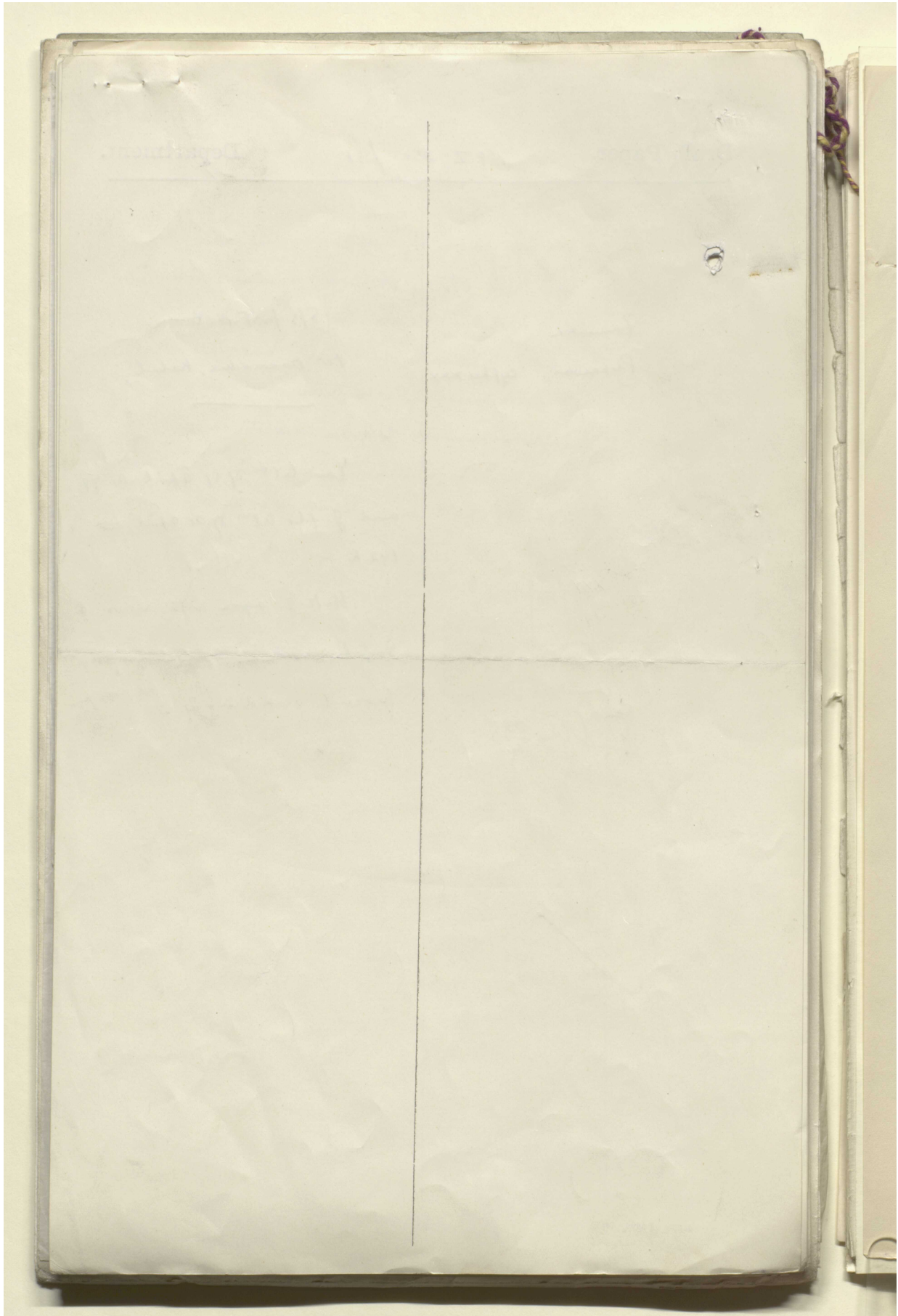
H. K. G. agree with news of  
G. P. L., and authorize you to  
proceed accordingly.

(Immédiate)  
Send *LL* 23/4

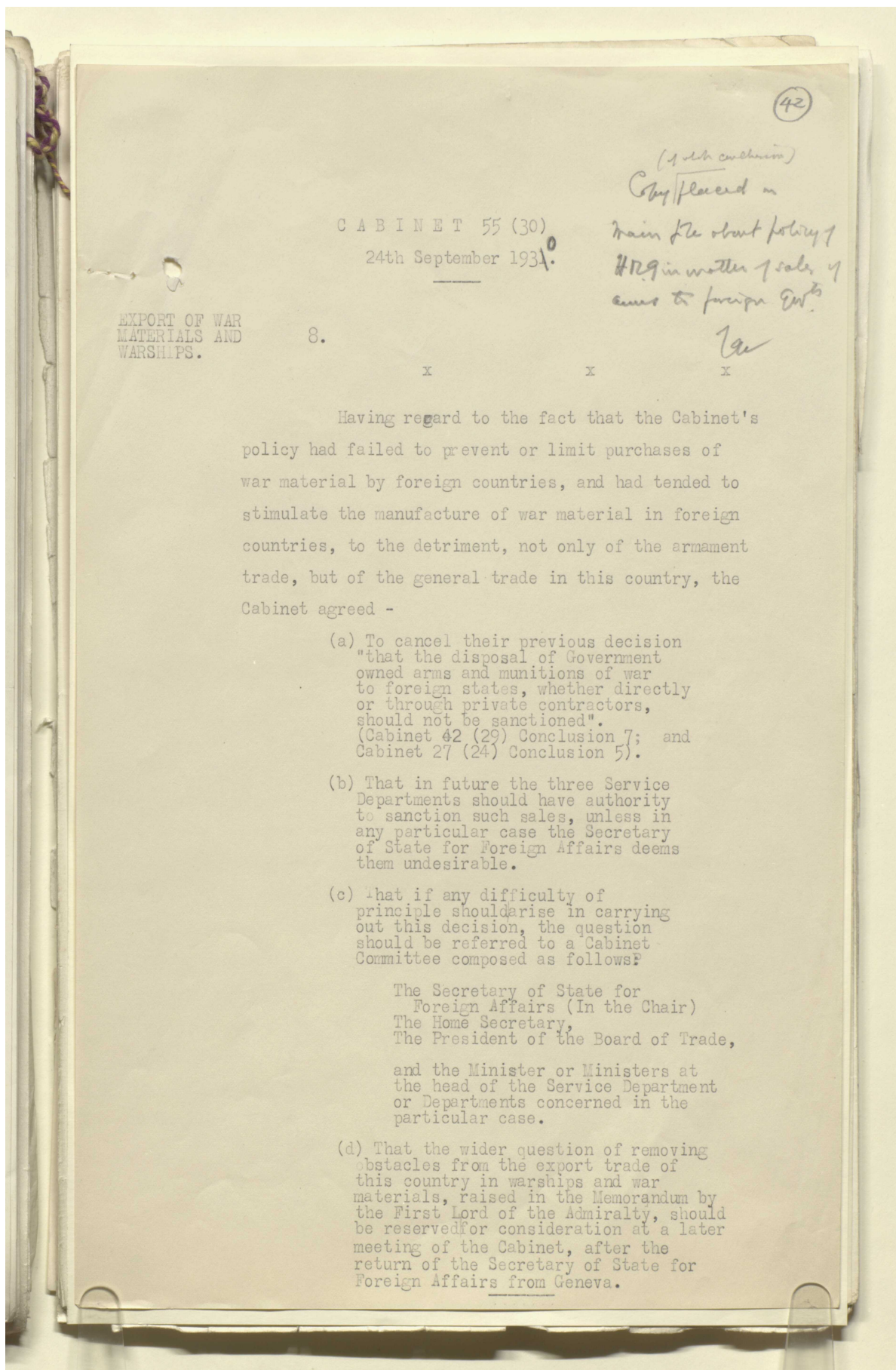
Copy to  
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Reg 20/4

SEEN BY <i>W</i>	DATE	TIME
RECD. IN TEL. BCH.	23/4/31	130/0M
CODE, X or XX	XXX	
DESPATCHED	23/4/31	2.5 P.M.
No. OF WORDS	19	
SENDER'S INITIALS	<i>Lgl</i>	

4793B 5000 10/30



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [42r] (83/133)



CABINET 55 (30)  
24th September 1931.

EXPORT OF WAR  
MATERIALS AND  
WARSHIPS.

8.

x

x

x

Having regard to the fact that the Cabinet's policy had failed to prevent or limit purchases of war material by foreign countries, and had tended to stimulate the manufacture of war material in foreign countries, to the detriment, not only of the armament trade, but of the general trade in this country, the Cabinet agreed -

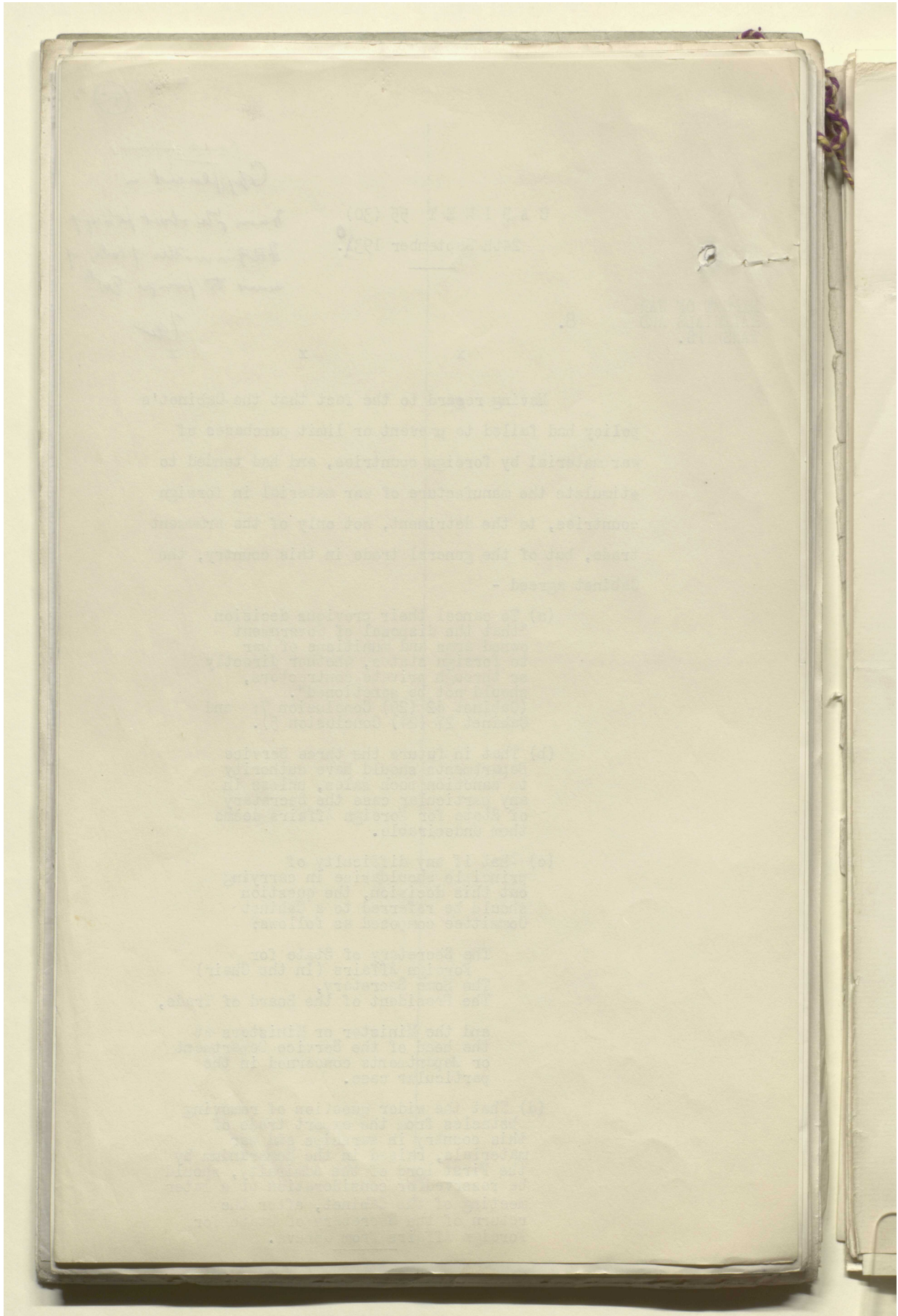
- (a) To cancel their previous decision "that the disposal of Government owned arms and munitions of war to foreign states, whether directly or through private contractors, should not be sanctioned". (Cabinet 42 (29) Conclusion 7; and Cabinet 27 (24) Conclusion 5).
- (b) That in future the three Service Departments should have authority to sanction such sales, unless in any particular case the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs deems them undesirable.
- (c) That if any difficulty of principle should arise in carrying out this decision, the question should be referred to a Cabinet Committee composed as follows:

The Secretary of State for  
Foreign Affairs (In the Chair)  
The Home Secretary,  
The President of the Board of Trade,

and the Minister or Ministers at  
the head of the Service Department  
or Departments concerned in the  
particular case.

- (d) That the wider question of removing obstacles from the export trade of this country in warships and war materials, raised in the Memorandum by the First Lord of the Admiralty, should be reserved for consideration at a later meeting of the Cabinet, after the return of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from Geneva.

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [42v] (84/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [43r] (85/133)

(43)

FILE COPY

P. Z.

2505

1931

SECRET

FO  
DM  
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MIL  
W L

JRL/PJM/IT/JGS/DT. (183 groups) 2580

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

(COPIES CIRCULATED) From Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, to Secretary of State for India.

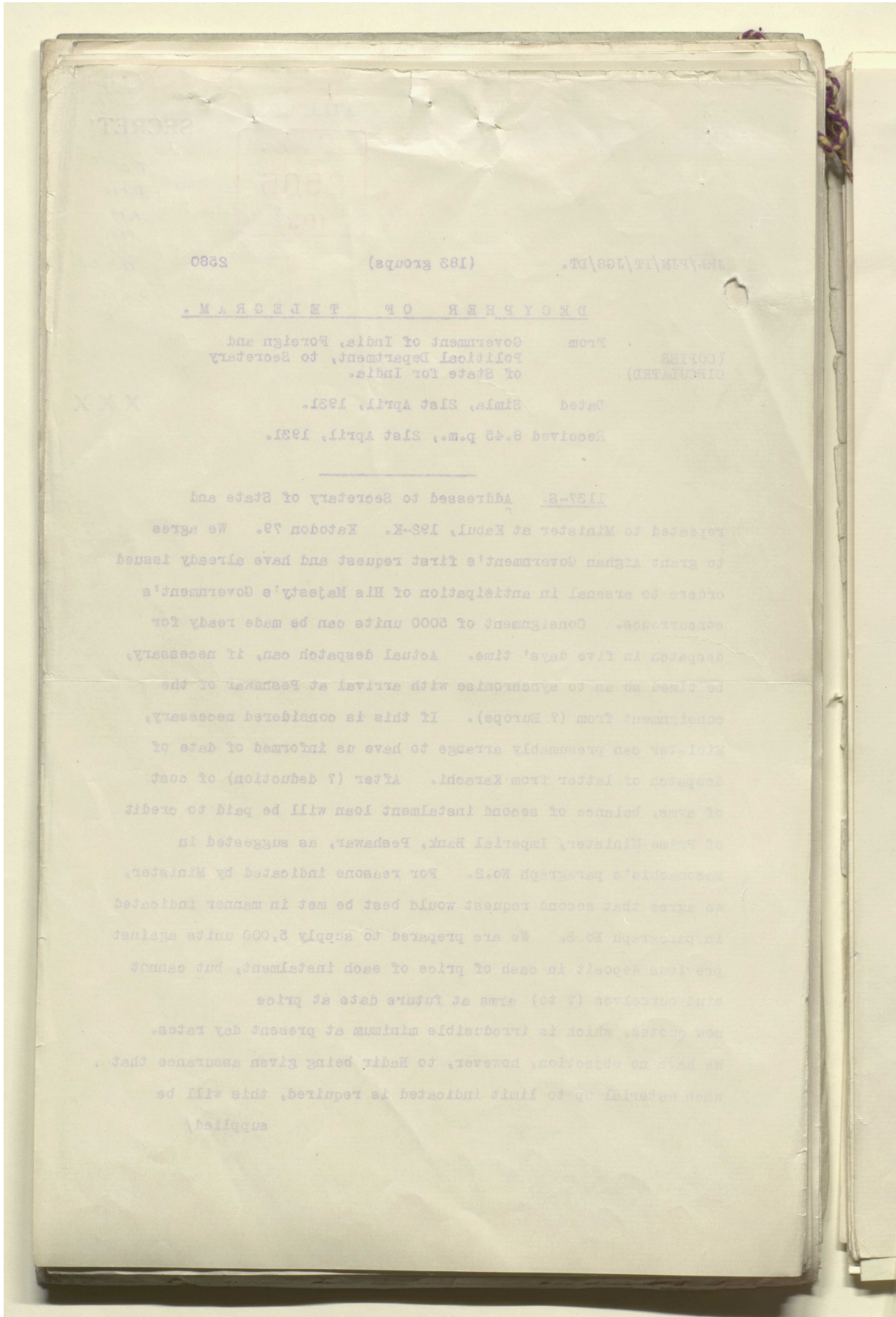
Dated Simla, 21st April, 1931. XXX

Received 8.45 p.m., 21st April, 1931.

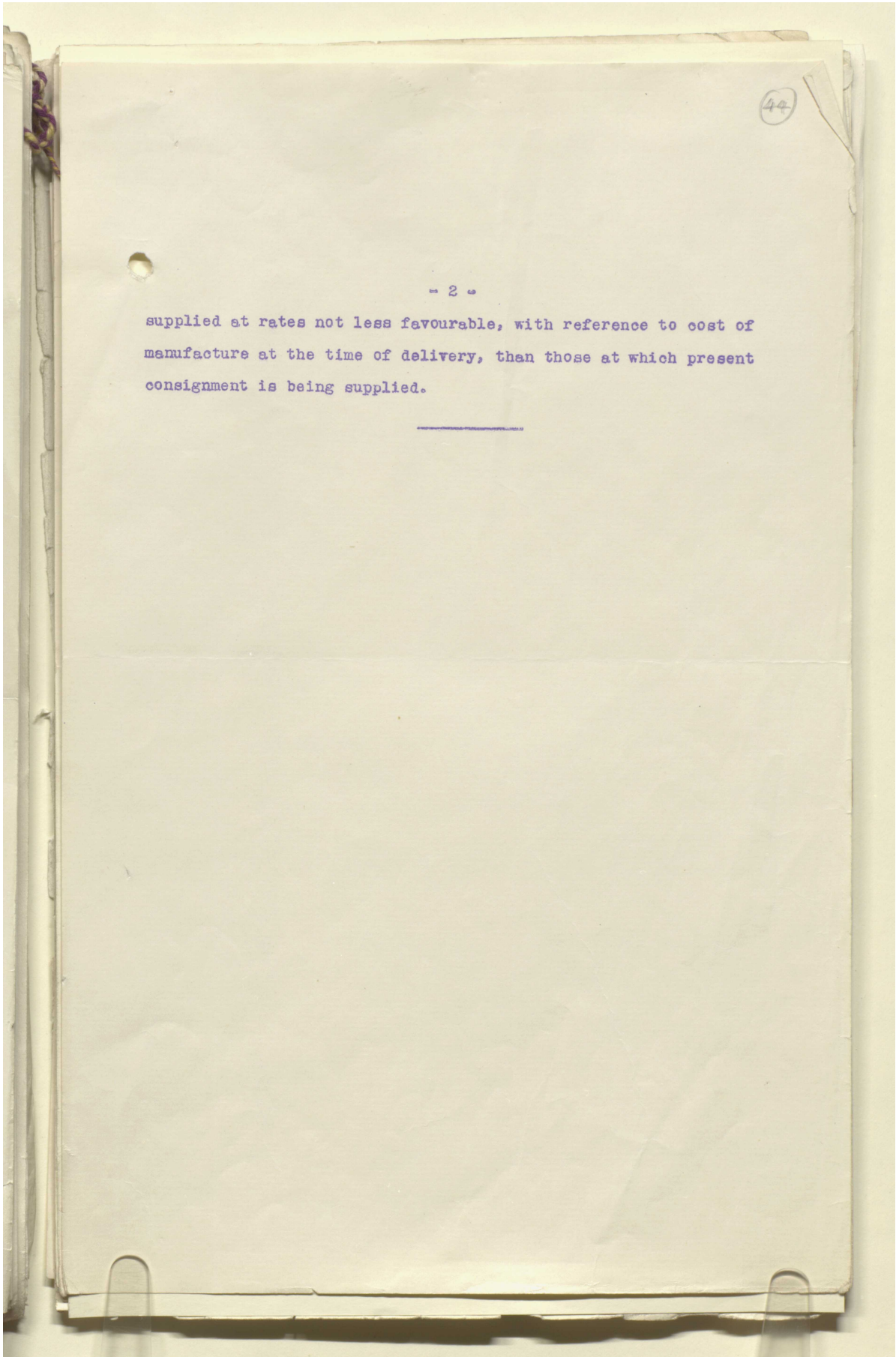
22 4 31 ✓

1137-S. Addressed to Secretary of State and repeated to Minister at Kabul, 192-K. Katodon 79. We agree to grant Afghan Government's first request and have already issued orders to arsenal in anticipation of His Majesty's Government's concurrence. Consignment of 5000 units can be made ready for despatch in five days' time. Actual despatch can, if necessary, be timed so as to synchronise with arrival at Peshawar of the consignment from (? Europe). If this is considered necessary, Minister can presumably arrange to have us informed of date of despatch of letter from Karachi. After (? deduction) of cost of arms, balance of second instalment loan will be paid to credit of Prime Minister, Imperial Bank, Peshawar, as suggested in Maconachie's paragraph No.2. For reasons indicated by Minister, we agree that second request would best be met in manner indicated in paragraph No.3. We are prepared to supply 5,000 units against previous deposit in cash of price of each instalment, but cannot bind ourselves (? to) arms at future date at price now quoted, which is irreducible minimum at present day rates. We have no objection, however, to Nadir being given assurance that when material up to limit indicated is required, this will be supplied/

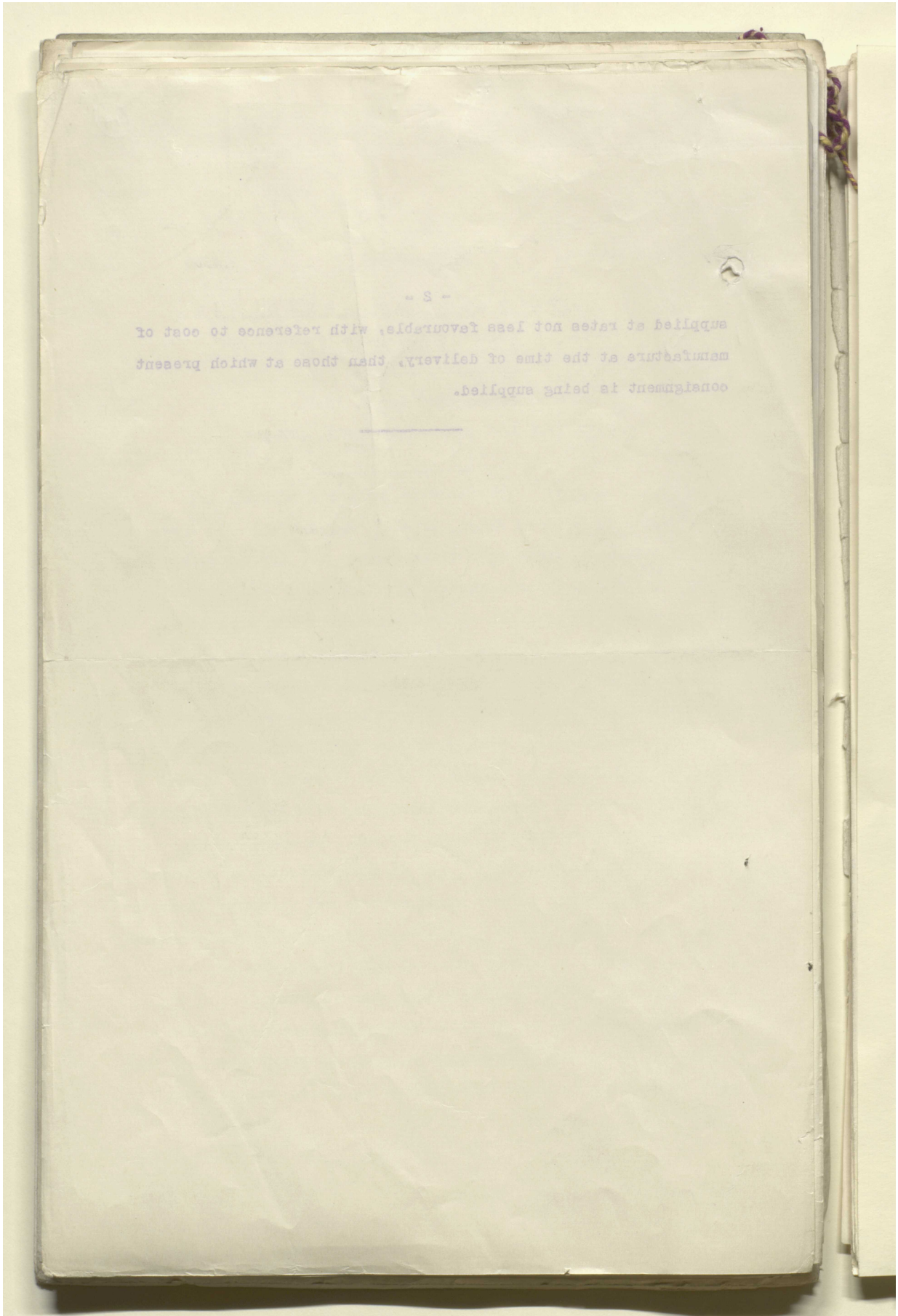
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [43v] (86/133)



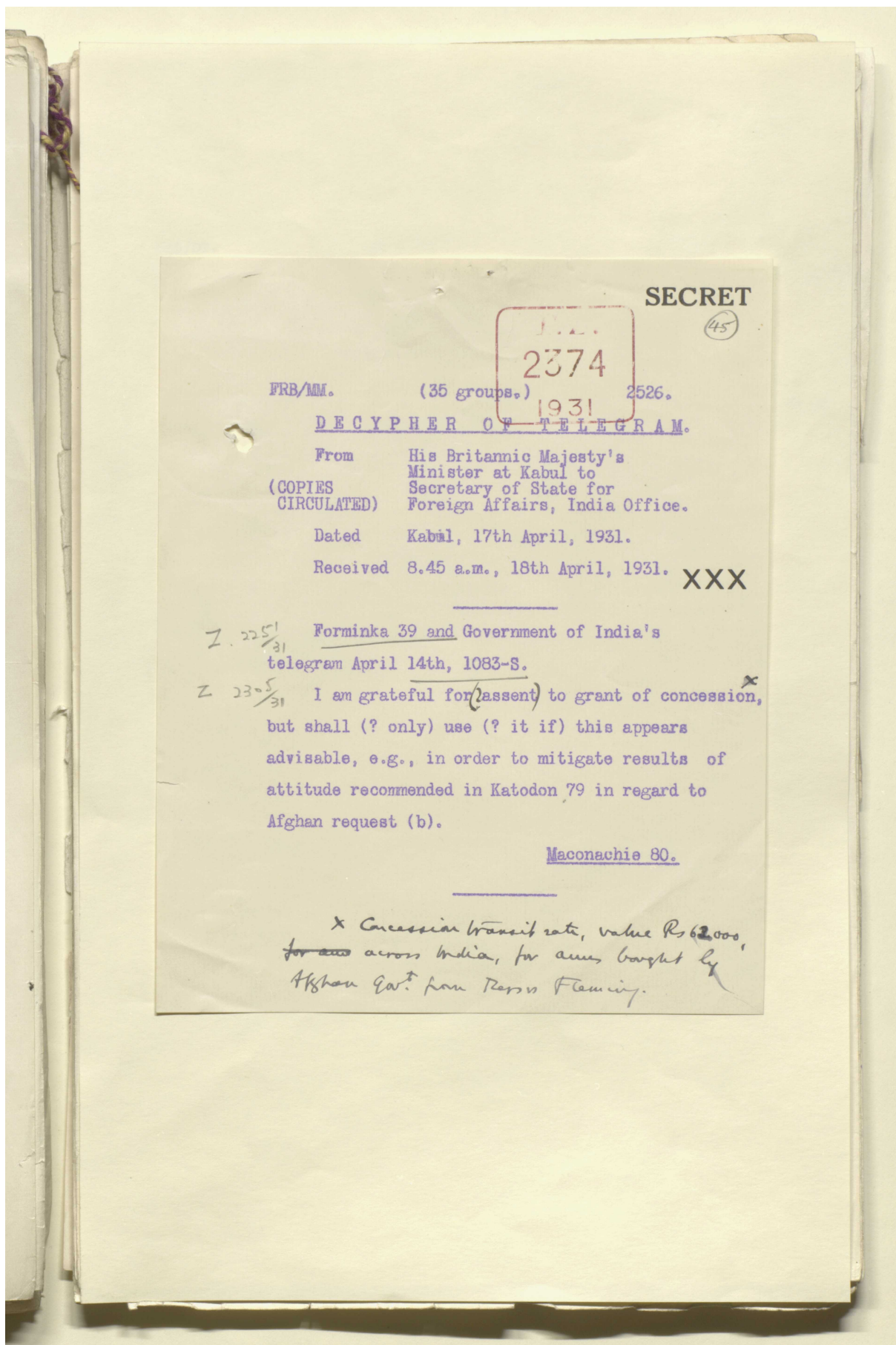
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [44r] (87/133)



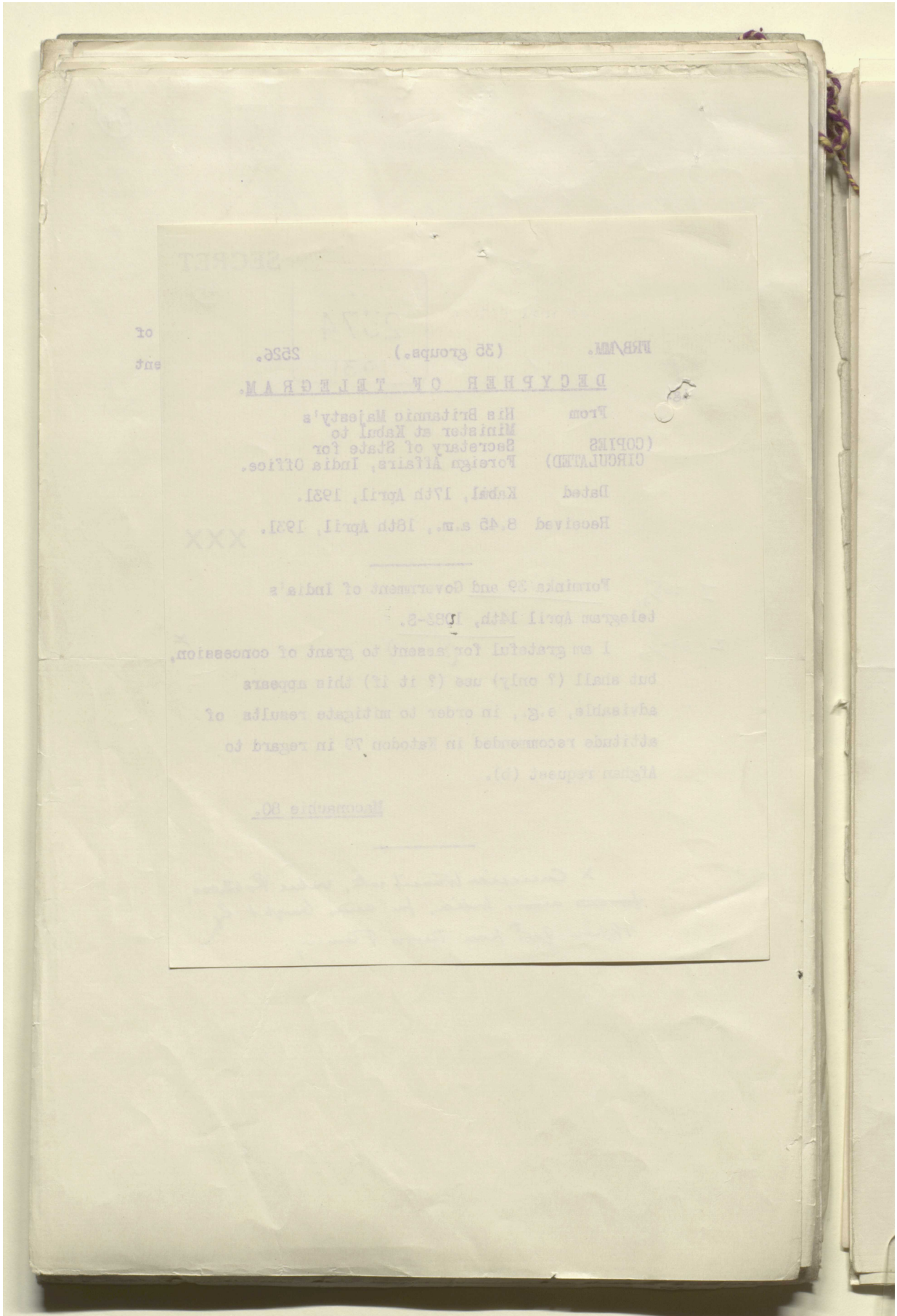




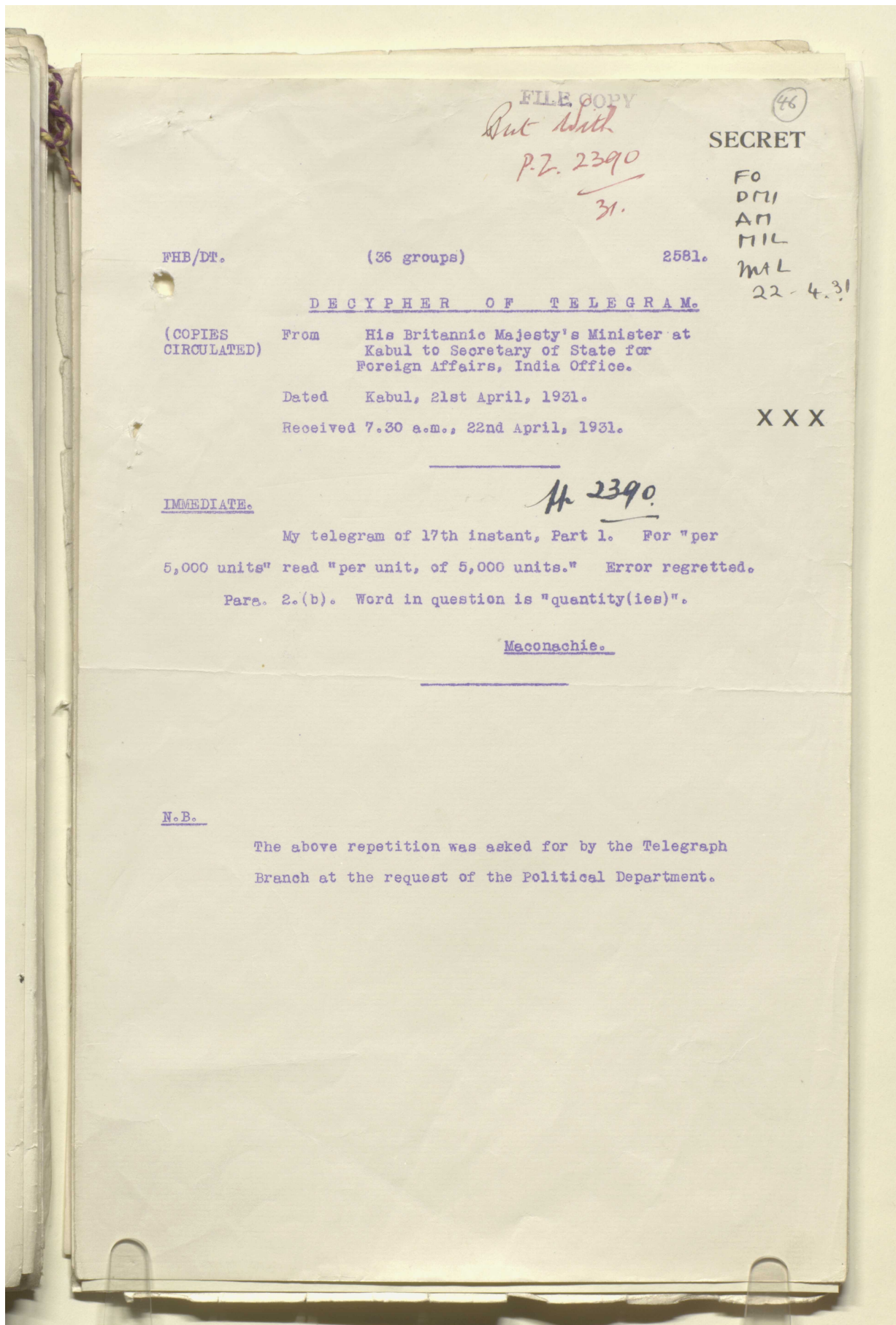
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [45r] (89/133)



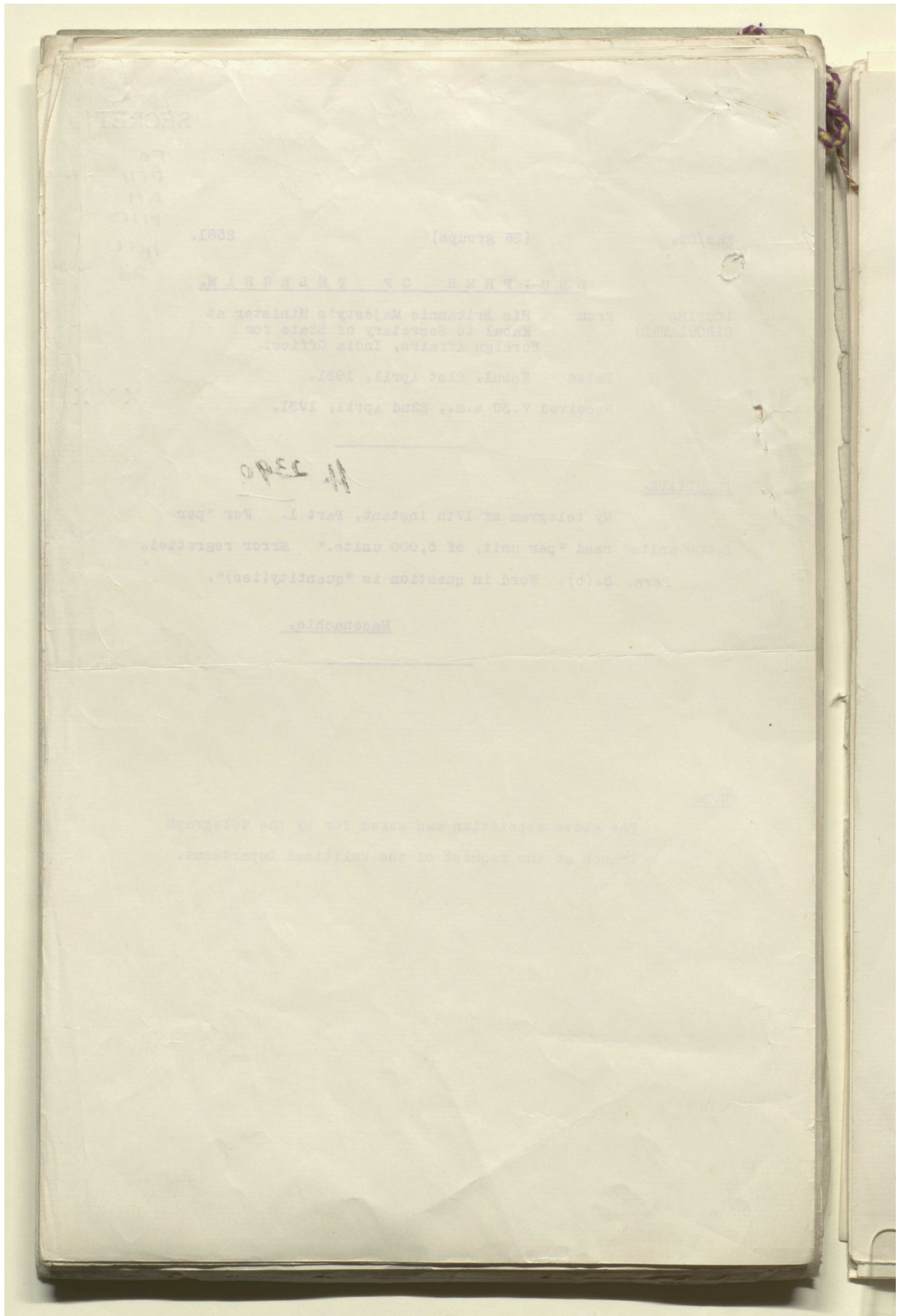
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [45v] (90/133)



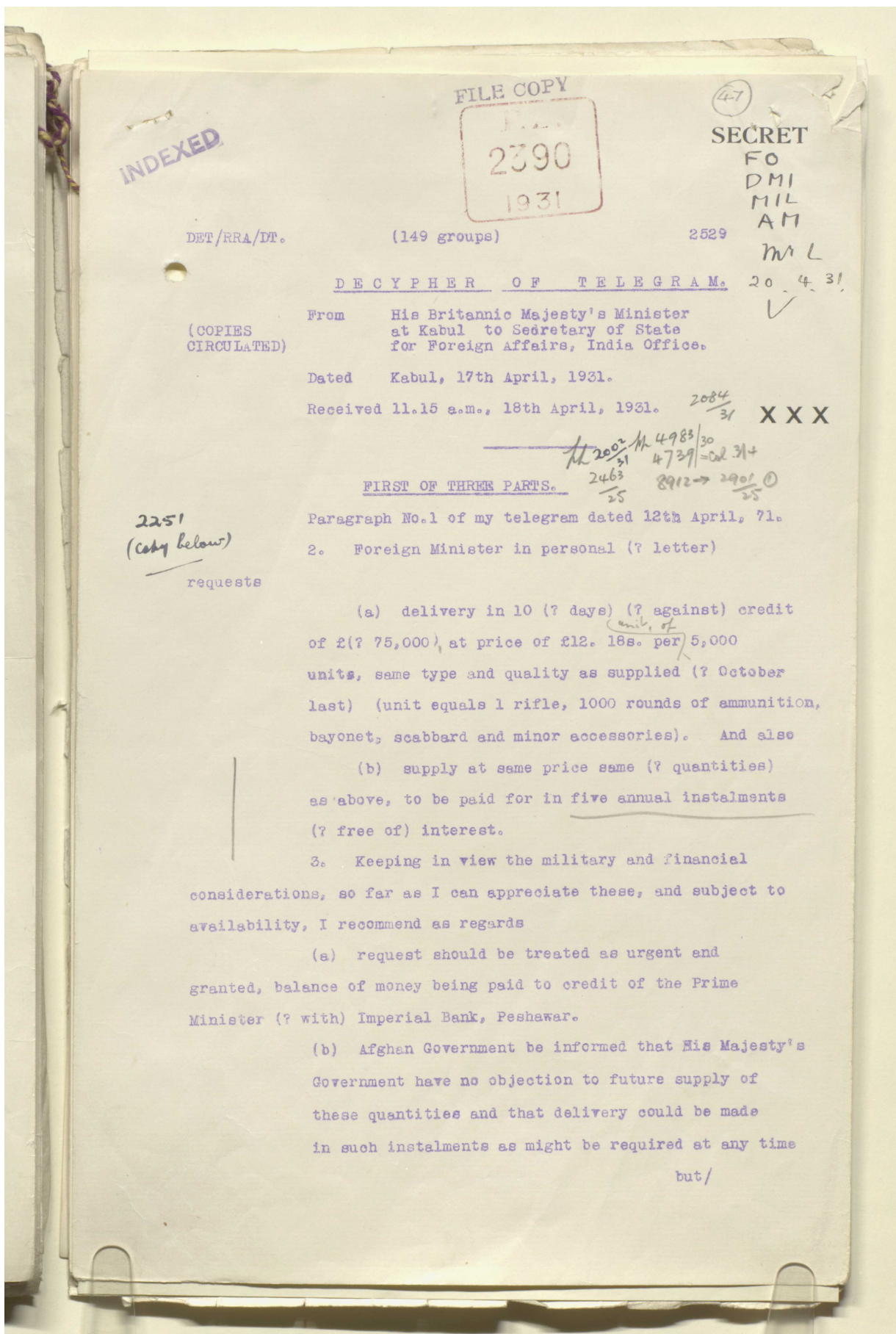
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [46r] (91/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [46v] (92/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [47r] (93/133)



INDEXED

FILE COPY

2390  
1931

(47)

SECRET

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DET/RRA/DT.

(149 groups)

2529

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

20 4 31

(COPIES  
CIRCULATED)

From His Britannic Majesty's Minister  
at Kabul to Secretary of State  
for Foreign Affairs, India Office.

Dated Kabul, 17th April, 1931.

Received 11.15 a.m., 18th April, 1931.

2084  
31

XXX

*Handwritten:* 4983/30  
4739 = Cal 314

FIRST OF THREE PARTS.

2463  
25

8912 → 2901/35

2251  
(copy below)

Paragraph No.1 of my telegram dated 12th April, 31.

2. Foreign Minister in personal (? letter)

requests

(a) delivery in 10 (? days) (? against) credit  
of £(? 75,000), at price of £12. 18s. per <sup>unit, of</sup> 5,000  
units, same type and quality as supplied (? October  
last) (unit equals 1 rifle, 1000 rounds of ammunition,  
bayonet, scabbard and minor accessories). And also

(b) supply at same price same (? quantities)  
as above, to be paid for in five annual instalments  
(? free of) interest.

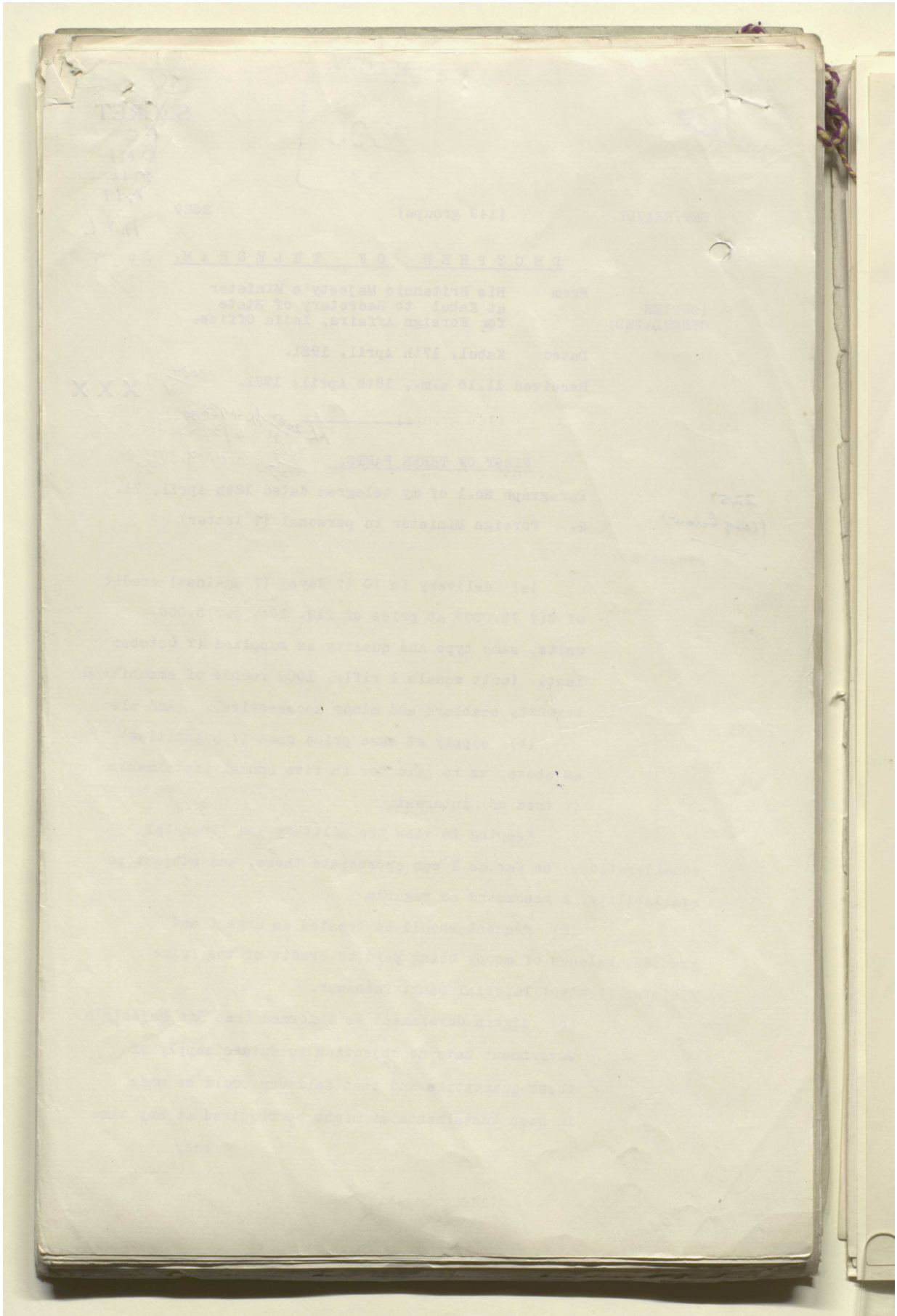
3. Keeping in view the military and financial  
considerations, so far as I can appreciate these, and subject to  
availability, I recommend as regards

(a) request should be treated as urgent and  
granted, balance of money being paid to credit of the Prime  
Minister (? with) Imperial Bank, Peshawar.

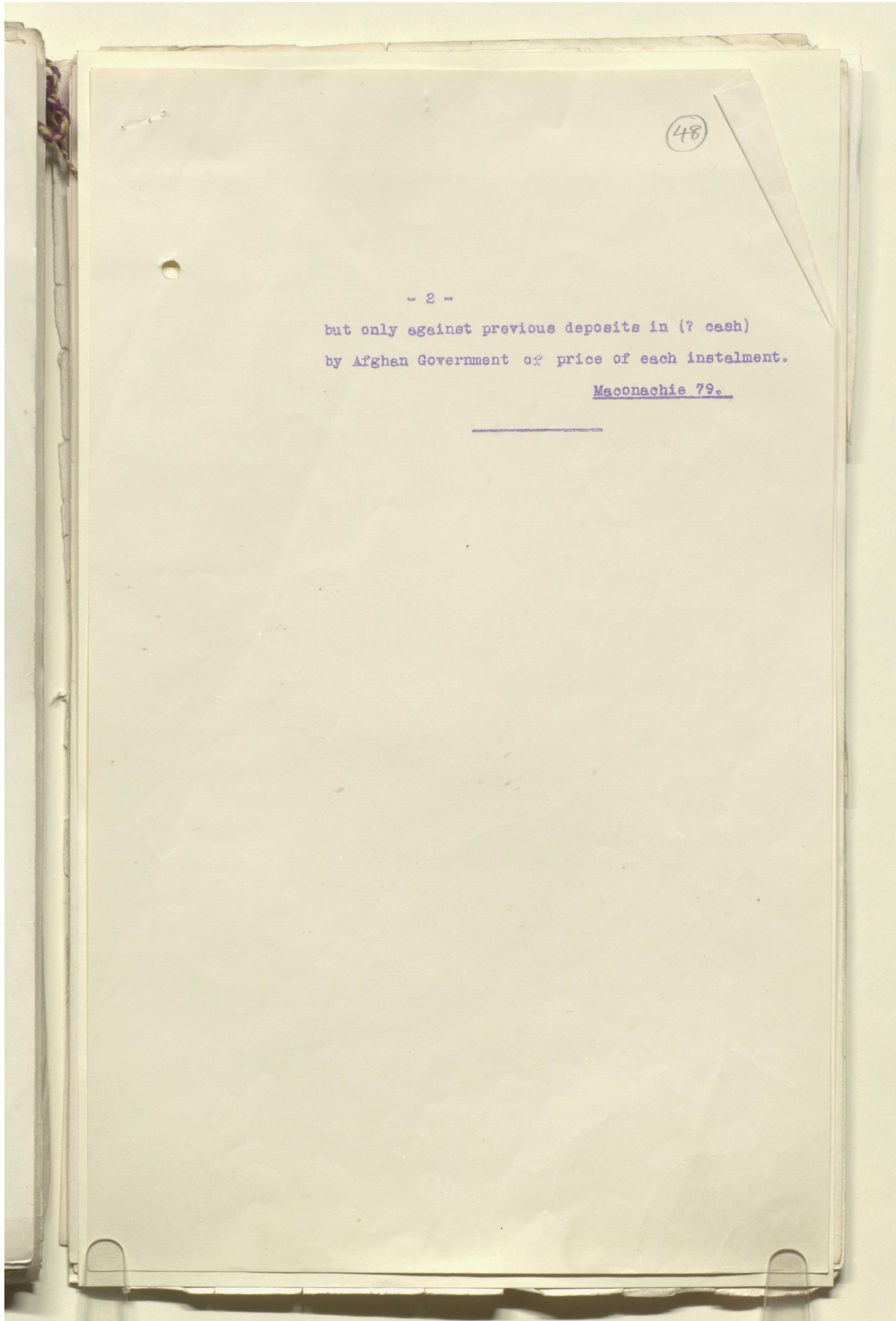
(b) Afghan Government be informed that His Majesty's  
Government have no objection to future supply of  
these quantities and that delivery could be made  
in such instalments as might be required at any time

but/

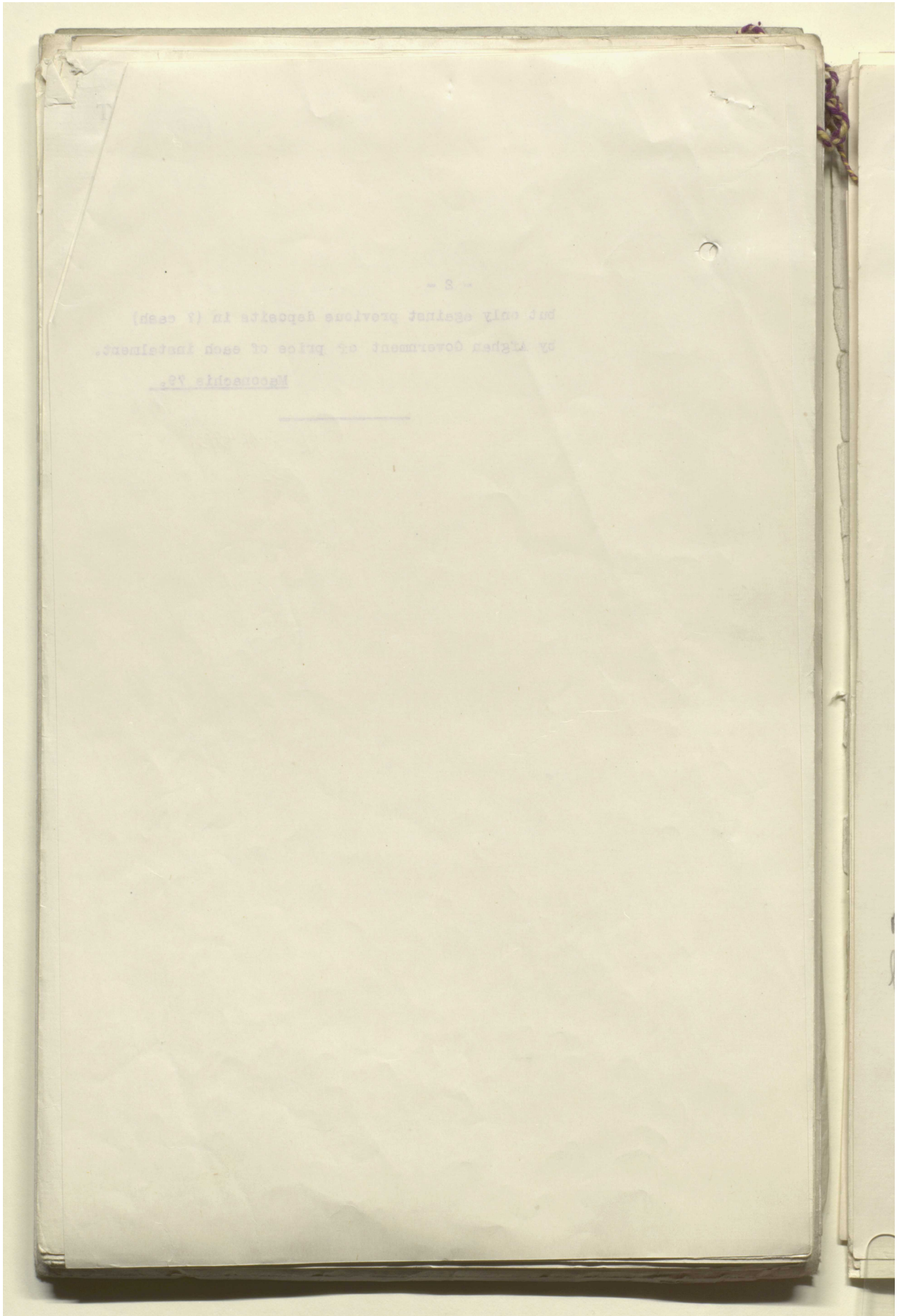
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [47v] (94/133)



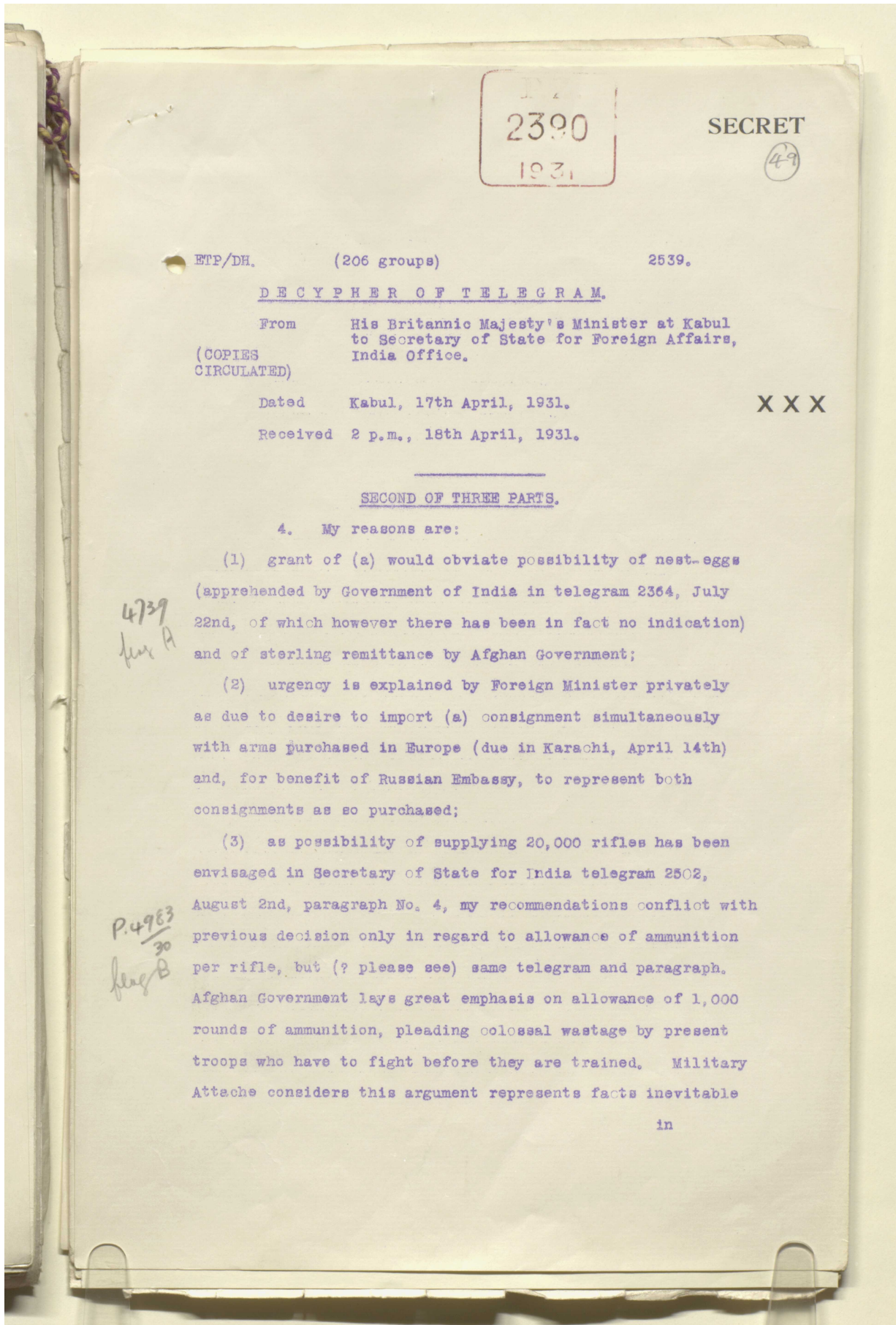
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [48r] (95/133)







Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [49r] (97/133)



2390  
1931

SECRET  
(49)

ETP/DH. (206 groups) 2539.

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

From His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Kabul  
to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,  
India Office.  
(COPIES  
CIRCULATED)

Dated Kabul, 17th April, 1931.

XXX

Received 2 p.m., 18th April, 1931.

SECOND OF THREE PARTS.

4. My reasons are:

(1) grant of (a) would obviate possibility of nest-eggs  
(apprehended by Government of India in telegram 2364, July  
22nd, of which however there has been in fact no indication)  
and of sterling remittance by Afghan Government;

(2) urgency is explained by Foreign Minister privately  
as due to desire to import (a) consignment simultaneously  
with arms purchased in Europe (due in Karachi, April 14th)  
and, for benefit of Russian Embassy, to represent both  
consignments as so purchased;

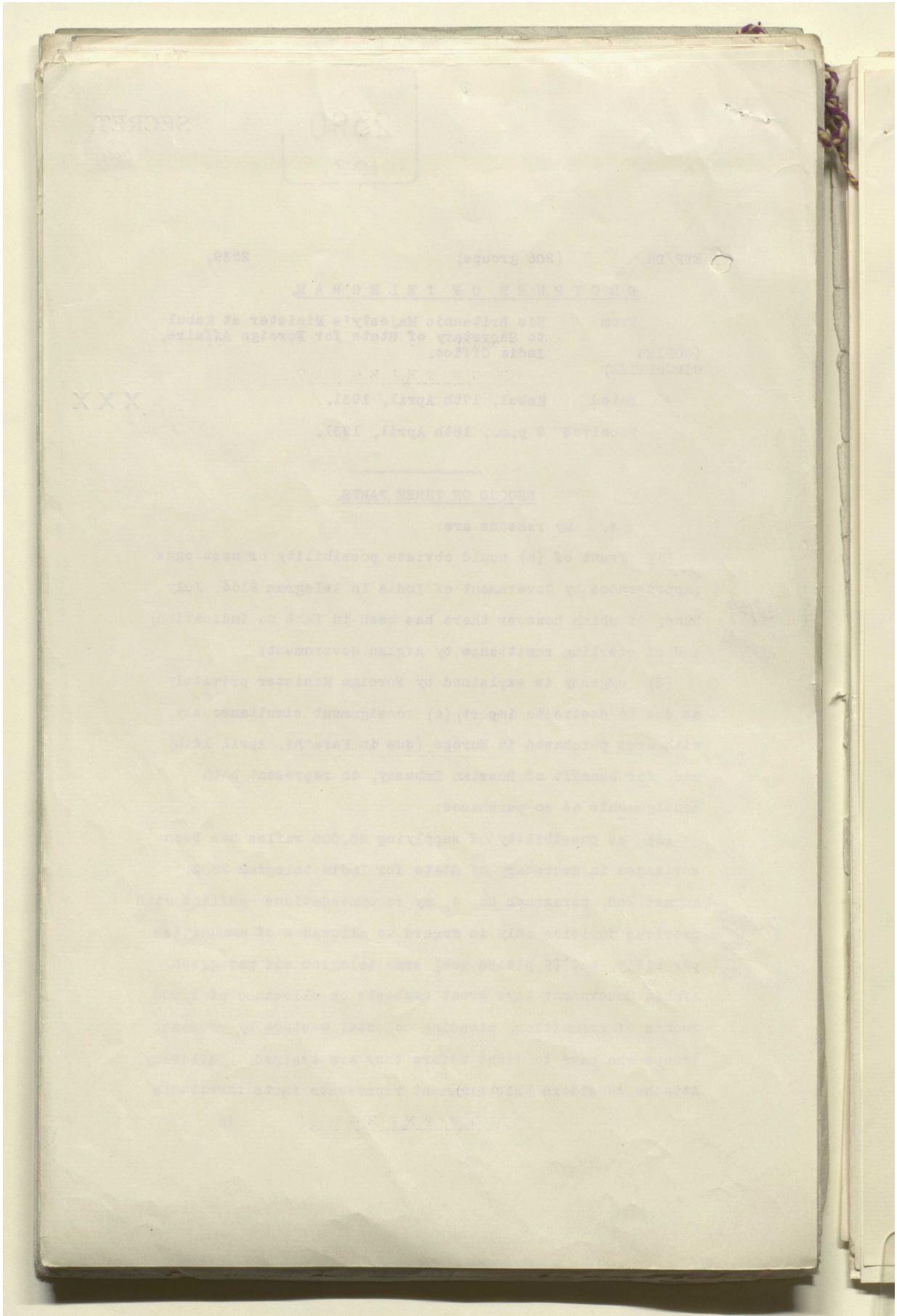
(3) as possibility of supplying 20,000 rifles has been  
envisaged in Secretary of State for India telegram 2502,  
August 2nd, paragraph No. 4, my recommendations conflict with  
previous decision only in regard to allowance of ammunition  
per rifle, but (? please see) same telegram and paragraph.  
Afghan Government lays great emphasis on allowance of 1,000  
rounds of ammunition, pleading colossal wastage by present  
troops who have to fight before they are trained. Military  
Attache considers this argument represents facts inevitable

in

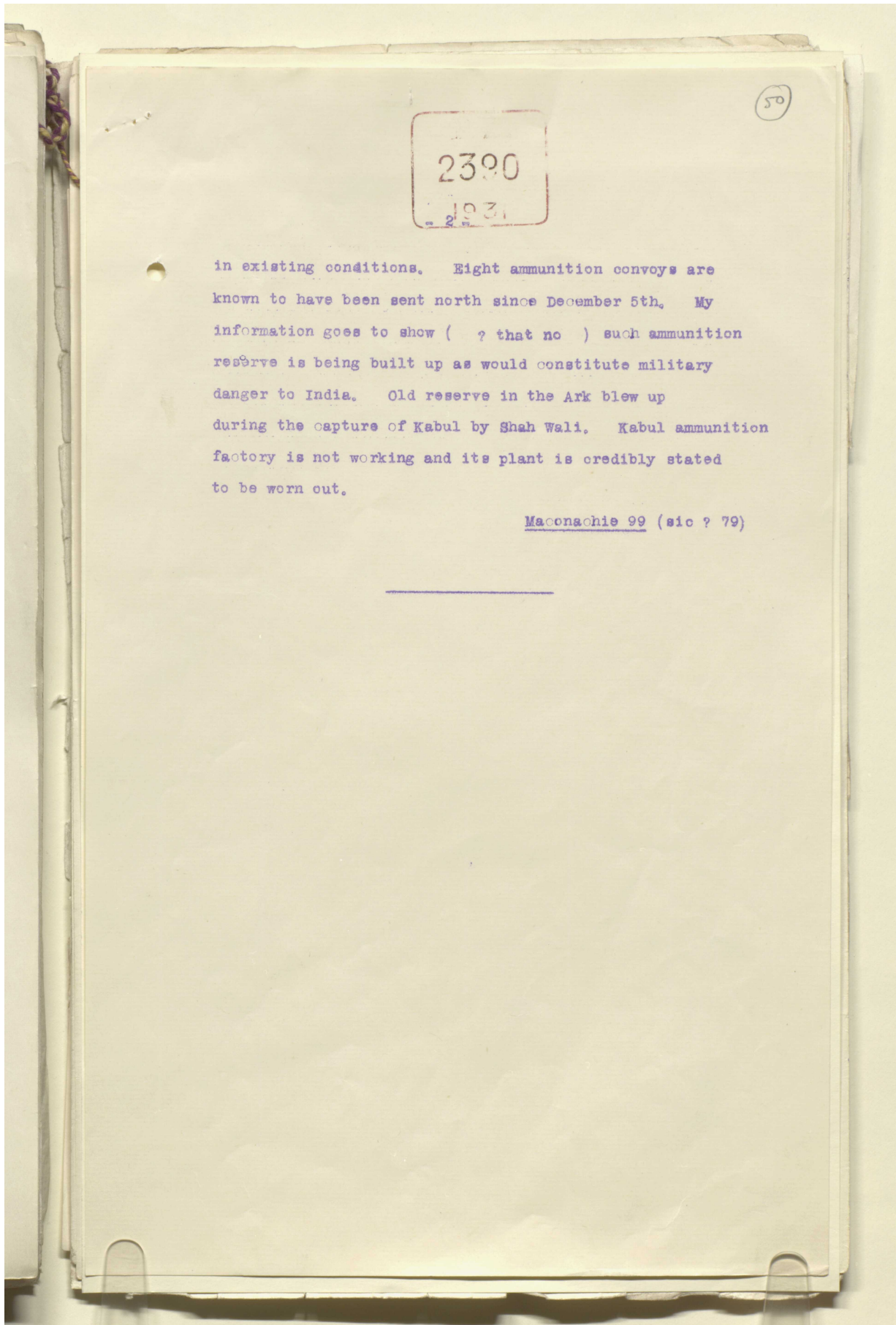
4739  
for A

P.4983  
30  
for B

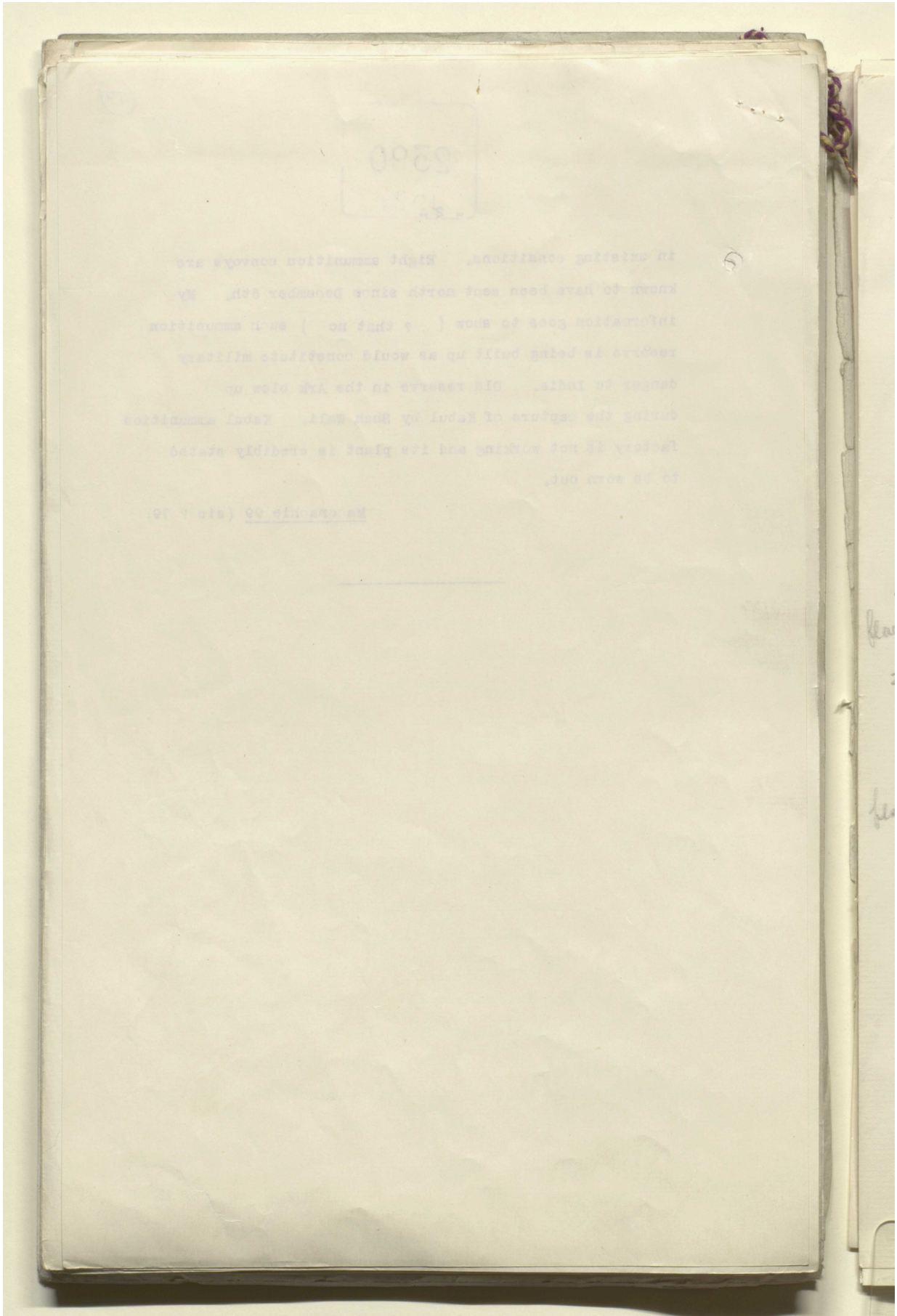
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [49v] (98/133)



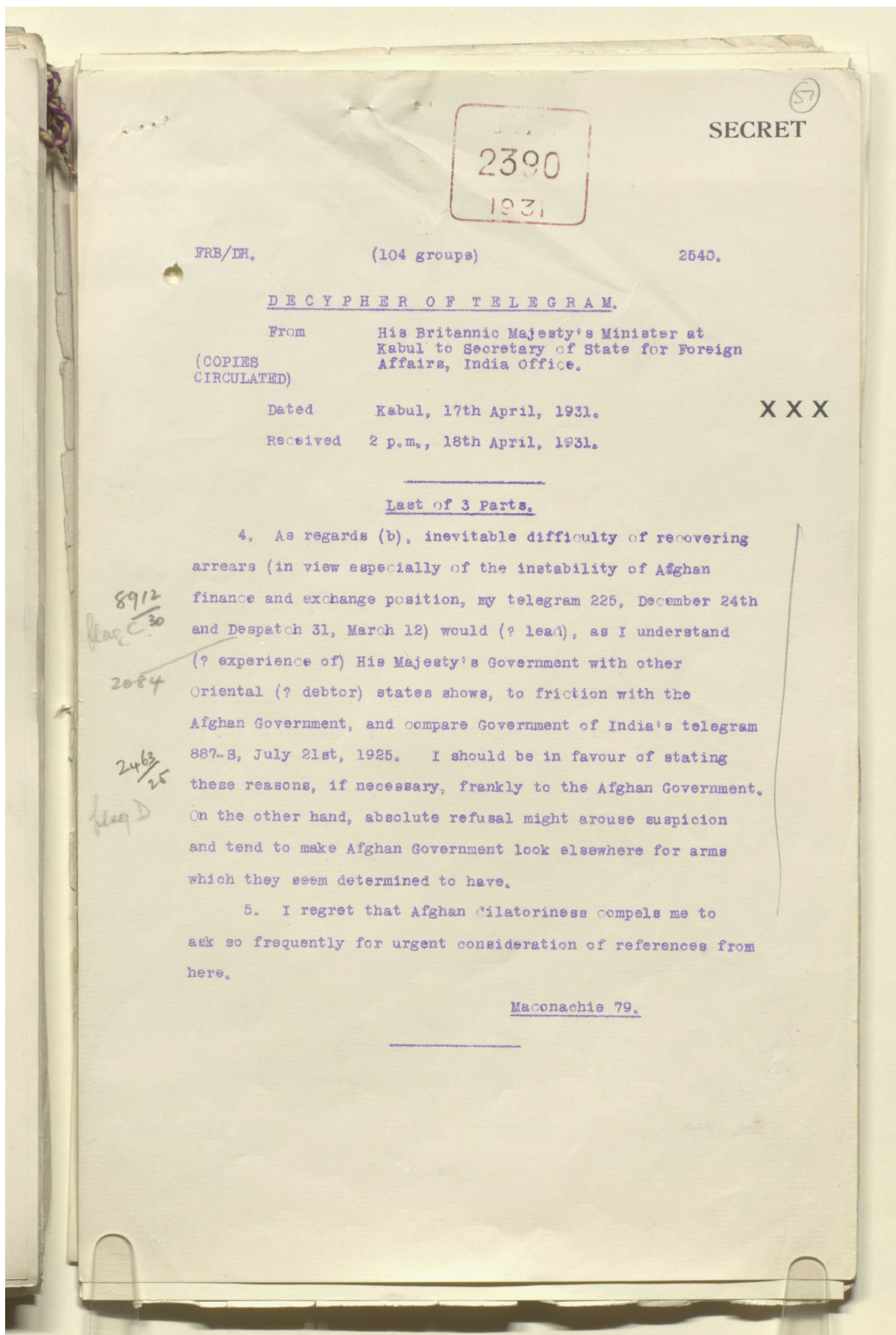
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [50r] (99/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [50v] (100/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [51r] (101/133)



SECRET

2390  
1931

FRB/DH. (104 groups) 2540.

DECRYPTER OF TELEGRAM.

From His Britannic Majesty's Minister at  
Kabul to Secretary of State for Foreign  
Affairs, India Office.  
(COPIES  
CIRCULATED)

Dated Kabul, 17th April, 1931.

XXX

Received 2 p.m., 18th April, 1931.

Last of 3 Parts.

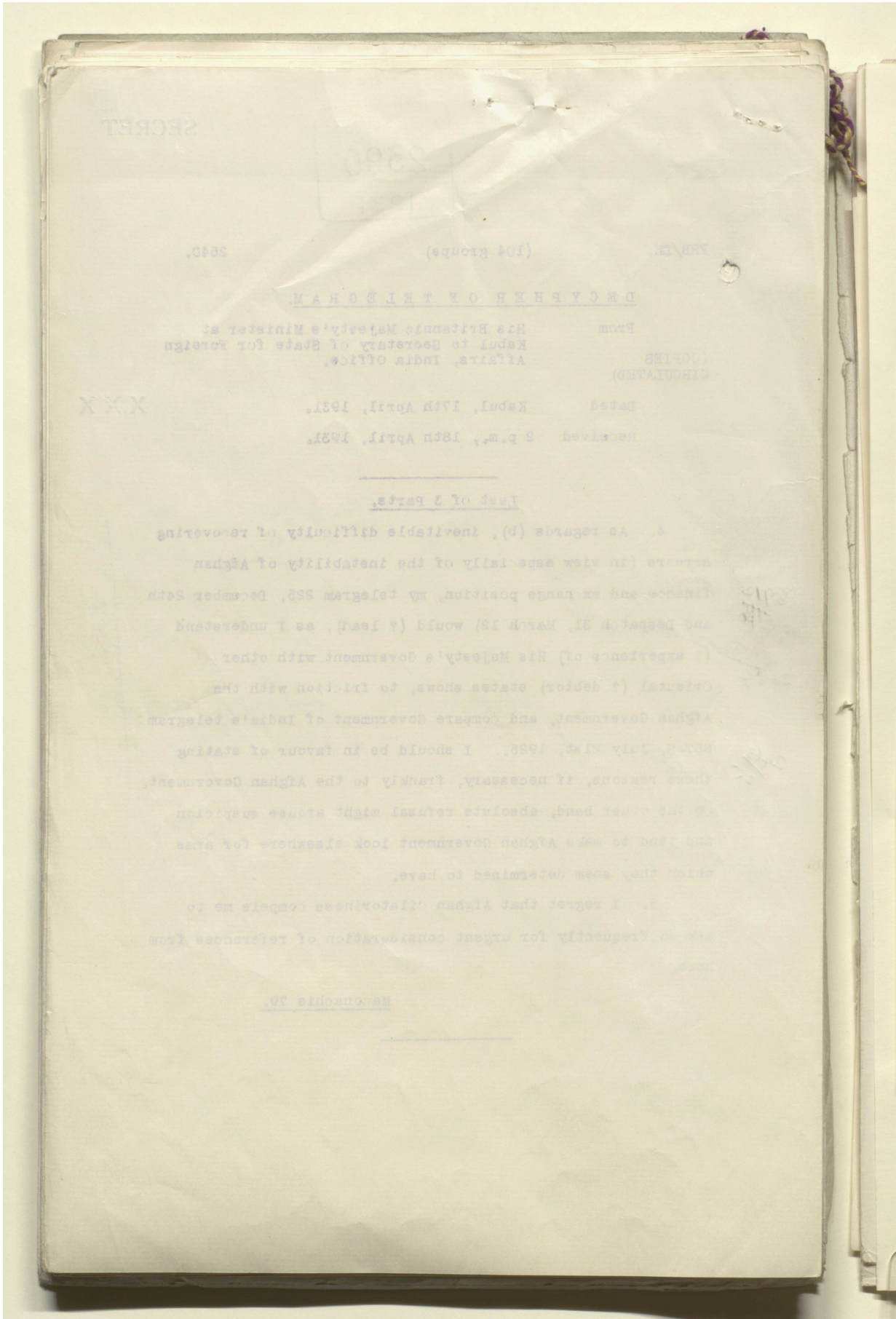
4. As regards (b), inevitable difficulty of recovering arrears (in view especially of the instability of Afghan finance and exchange position, my telegram 225, December 24th and Despatch 31, March 12) would (? lead), as I understand (? experience of) His Majesty's Government with other Oriental (? debtor) states shows, to friction with the Afghan Government, and compare Government of India's telegram 887-S, July 21st, 1925. I should be in favour of stating these reasons, if necessary, frankly to the Afghan Government. On the other hand, absolute refusal might arouse suspicion and tend to make Afghan Government look elsewhere for arms which they seem determined to have.

5. I regret that Afghan dilatoriness compels me to ask so frequently for urgent consideration of references from here.

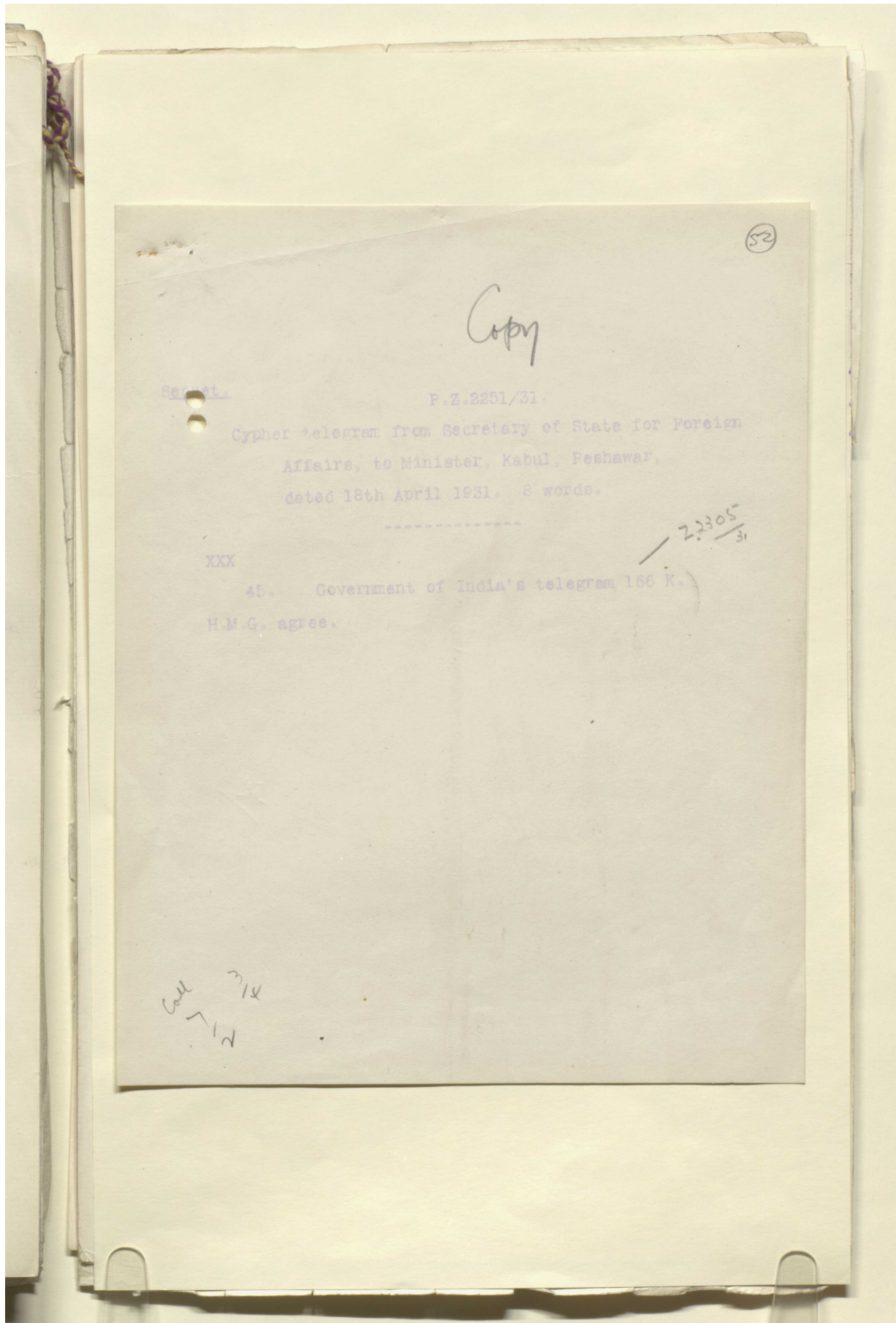
Maconachie 79.

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flag D

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [51v] (102/133)

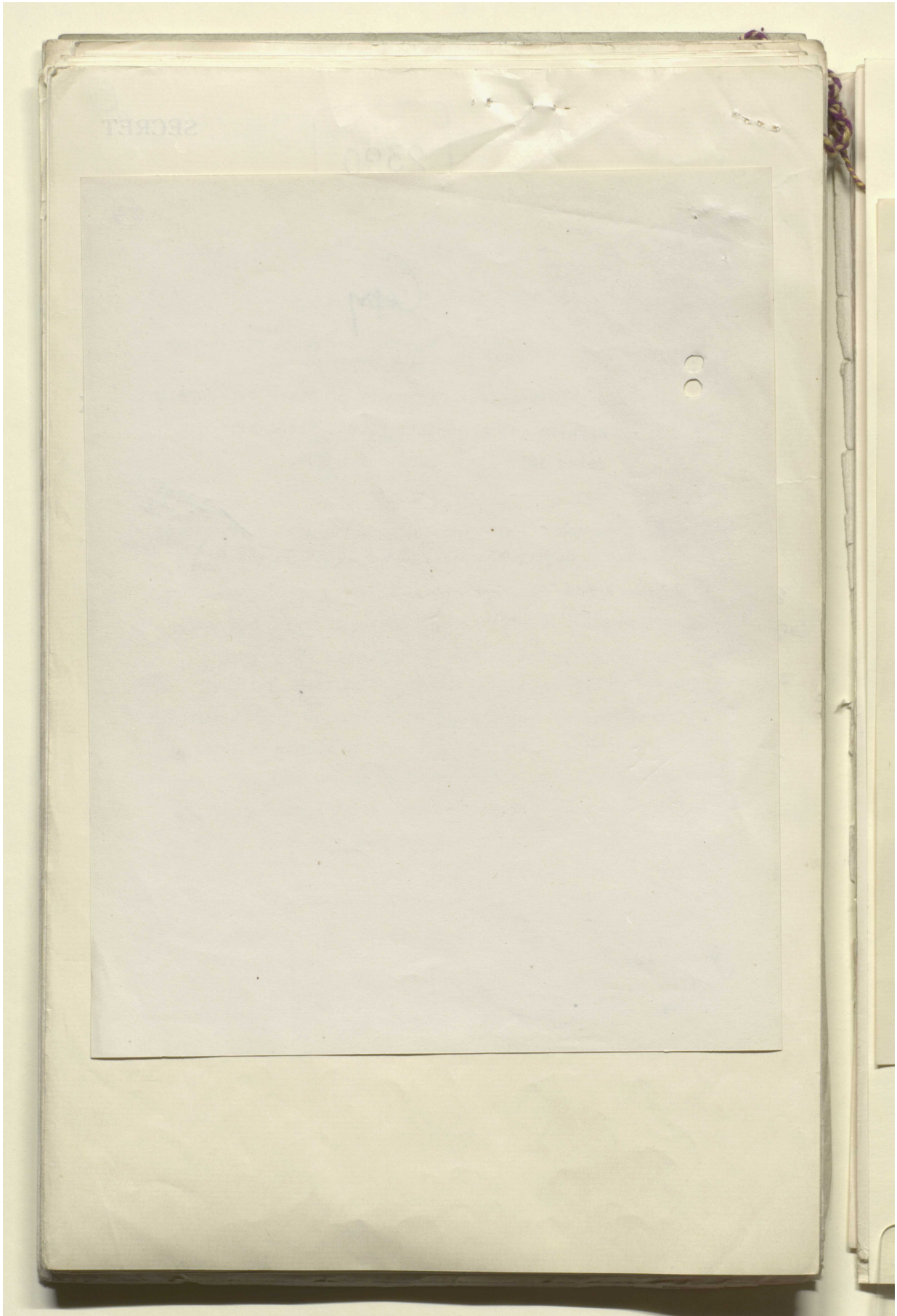


Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [52r] (103/133)

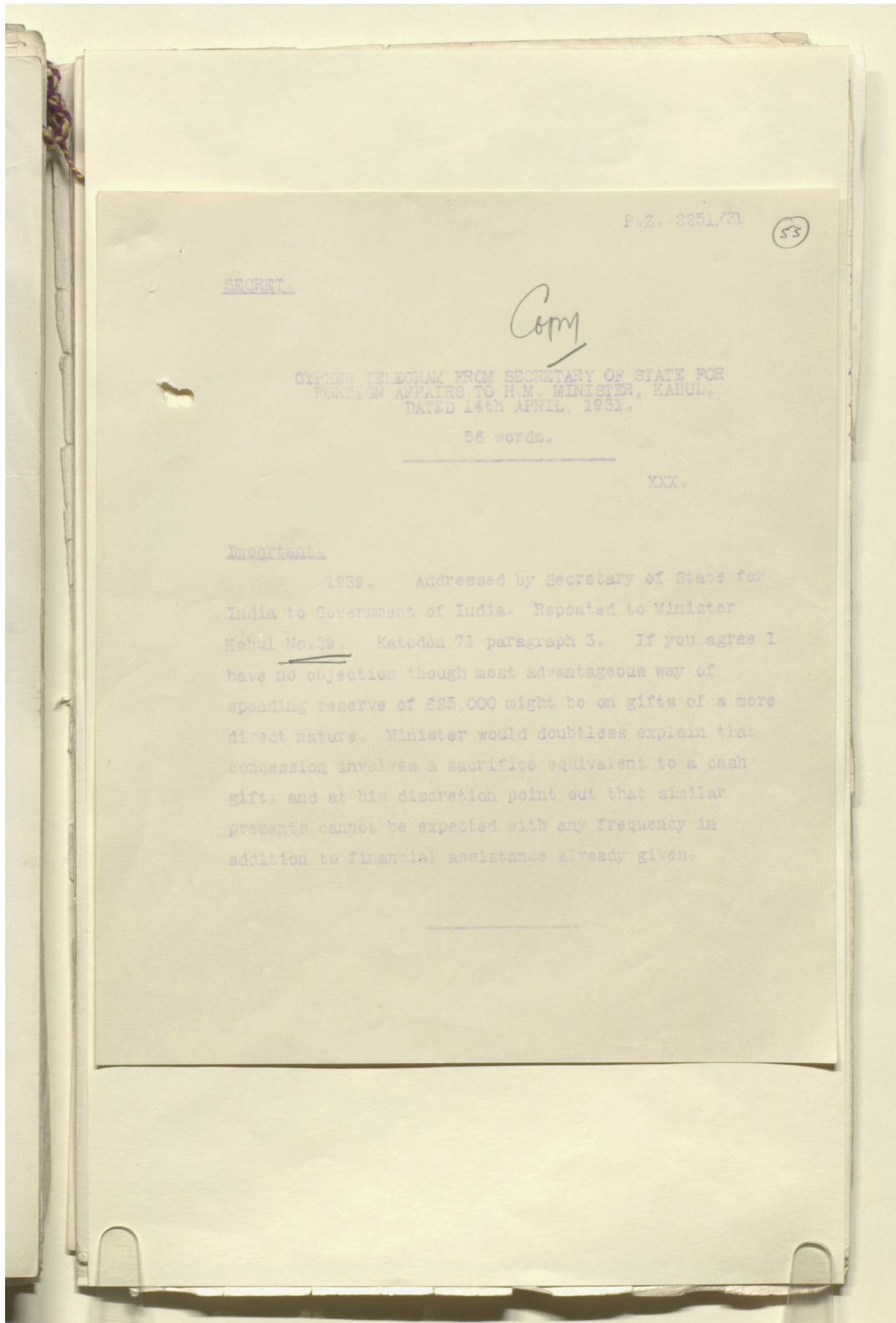


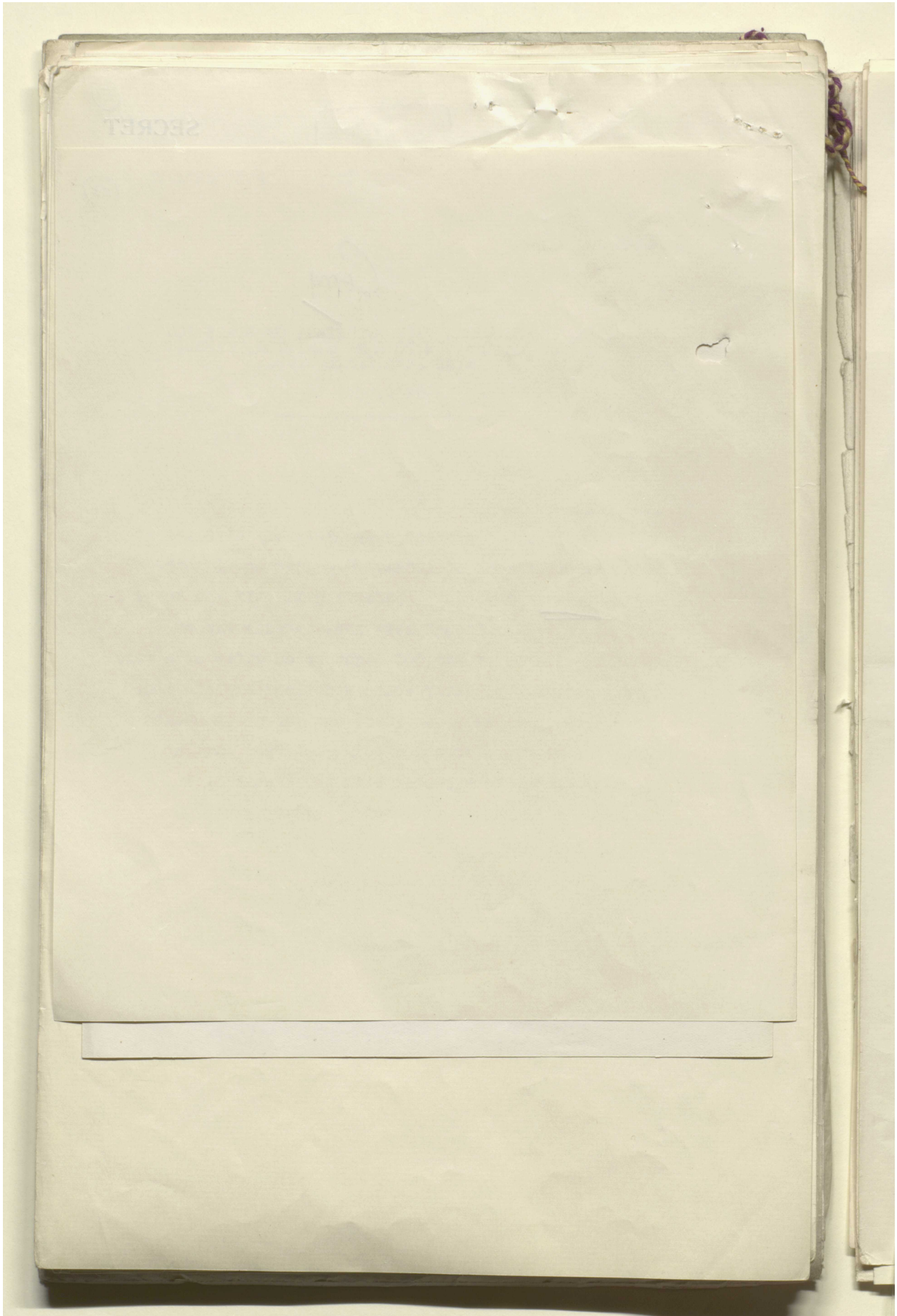


Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [52v] (104/133)

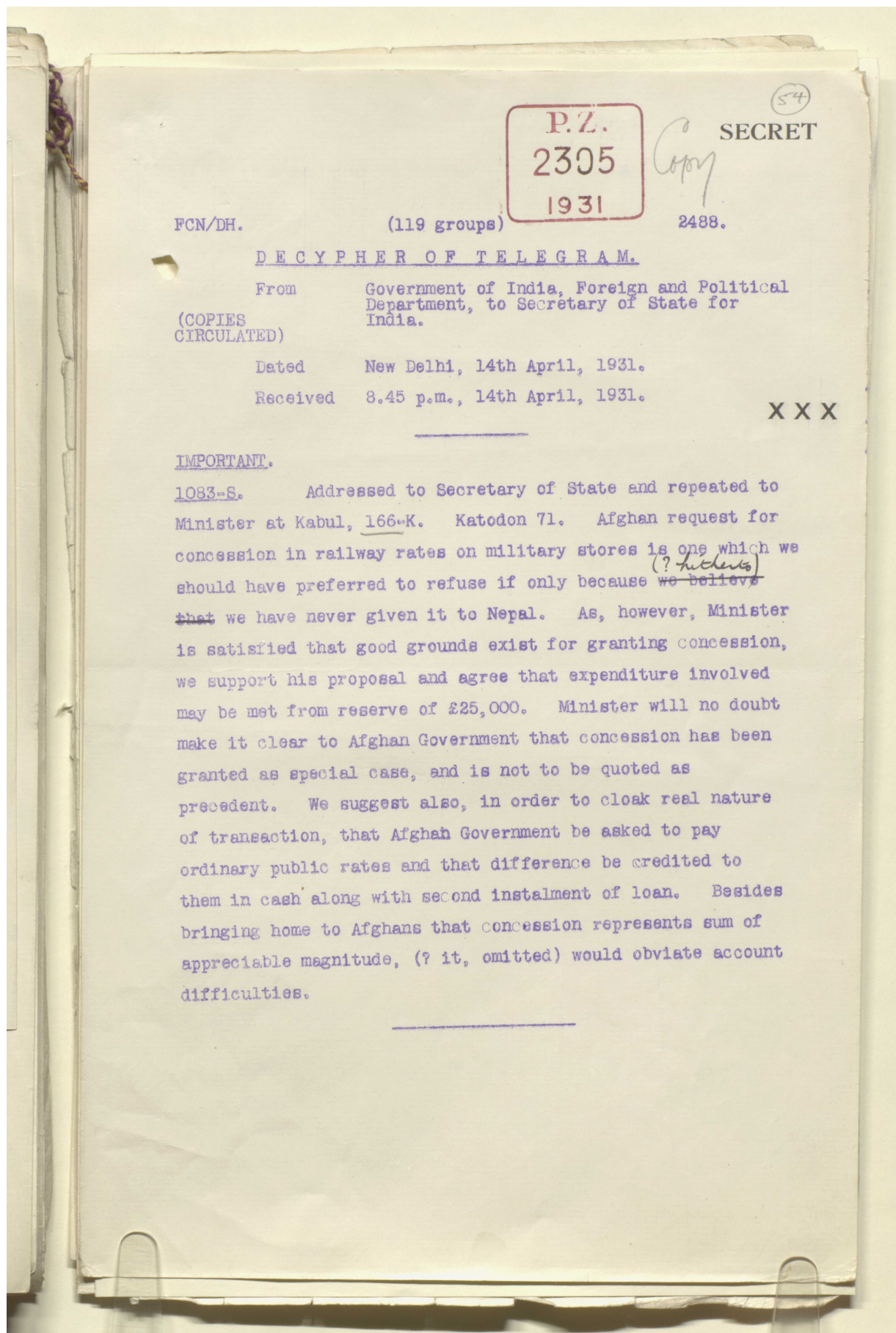


Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [53r] (105/133)

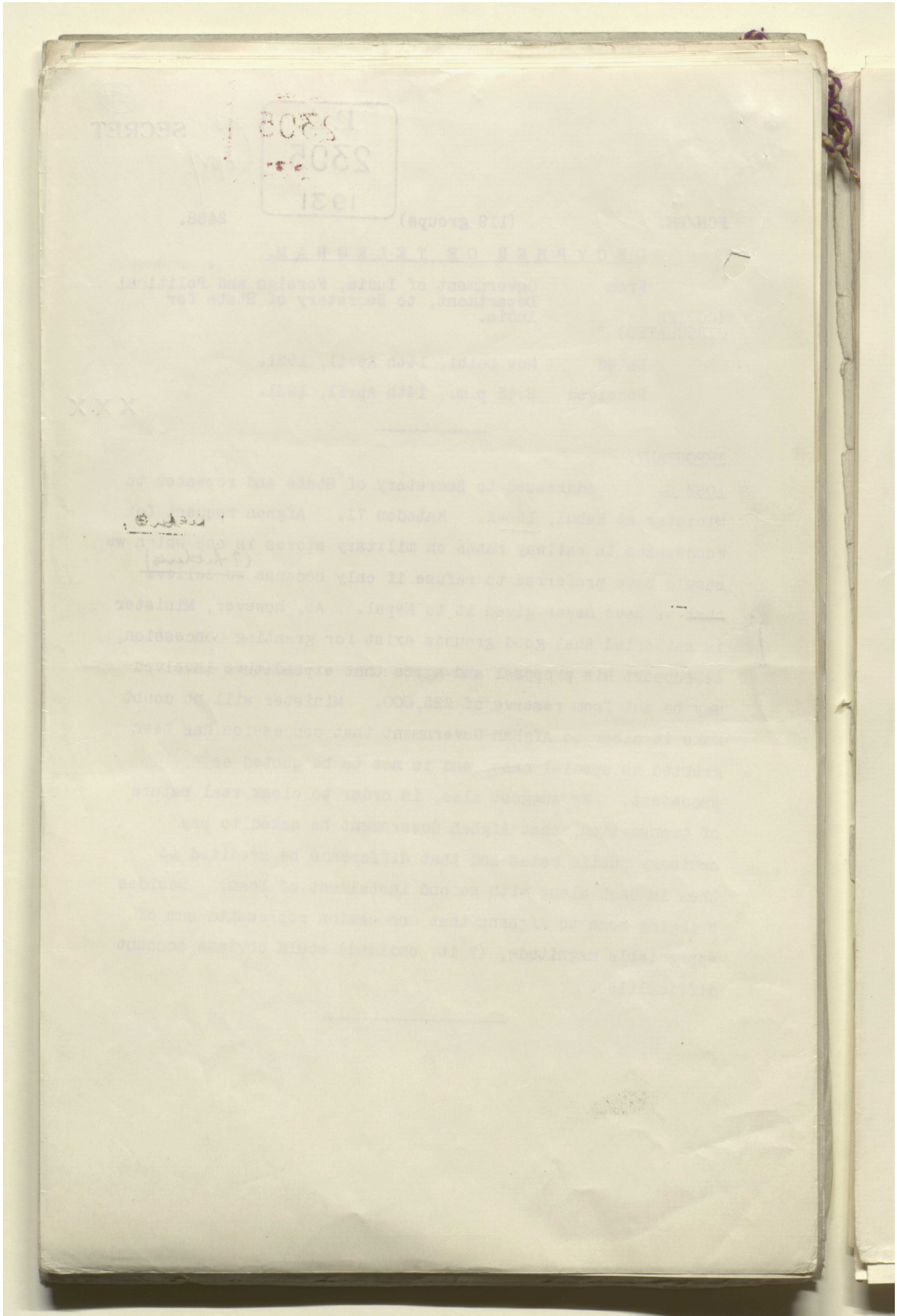




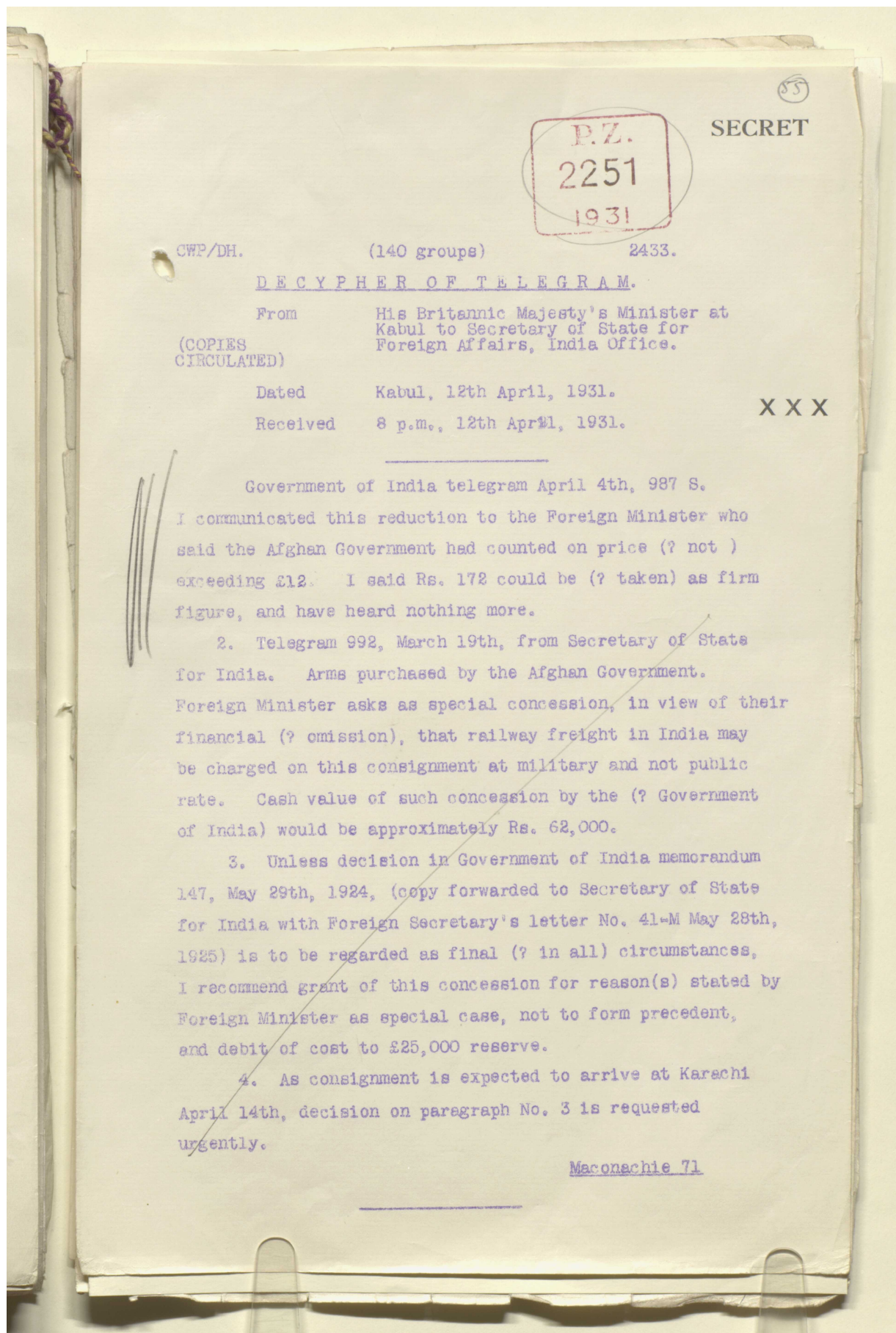
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [54r] (107/133)



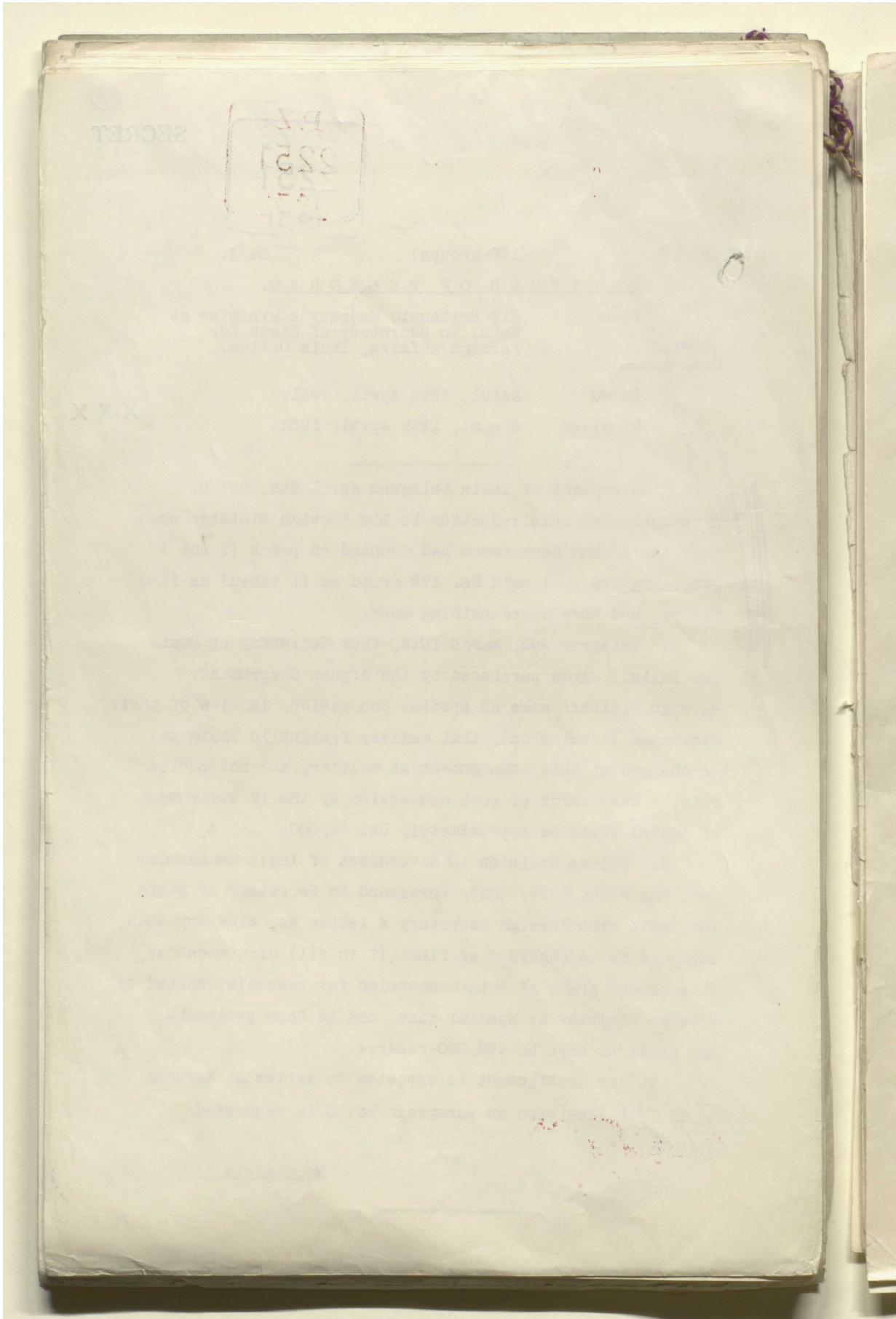
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [54v] (108/133)



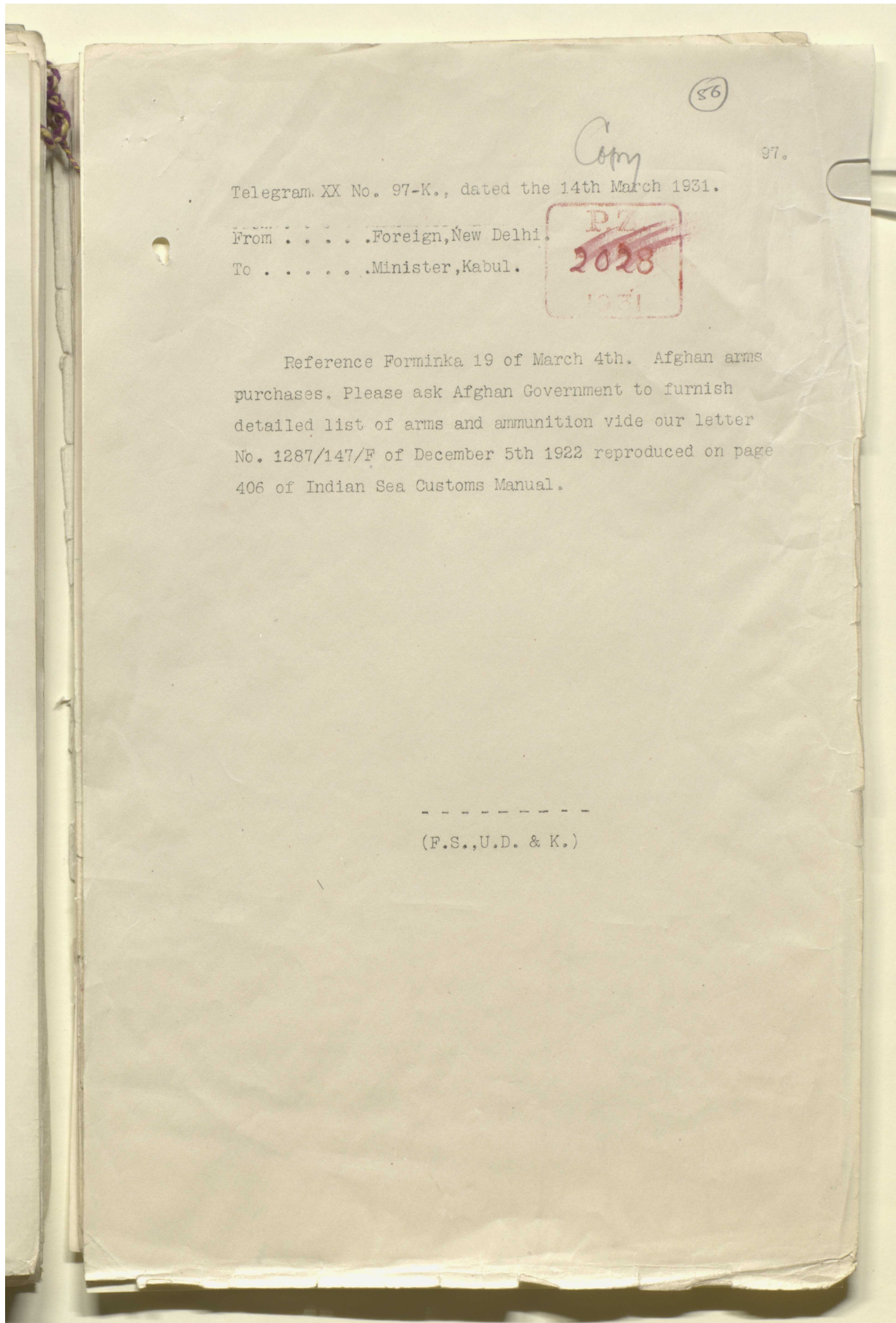
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [55r] (109/133)



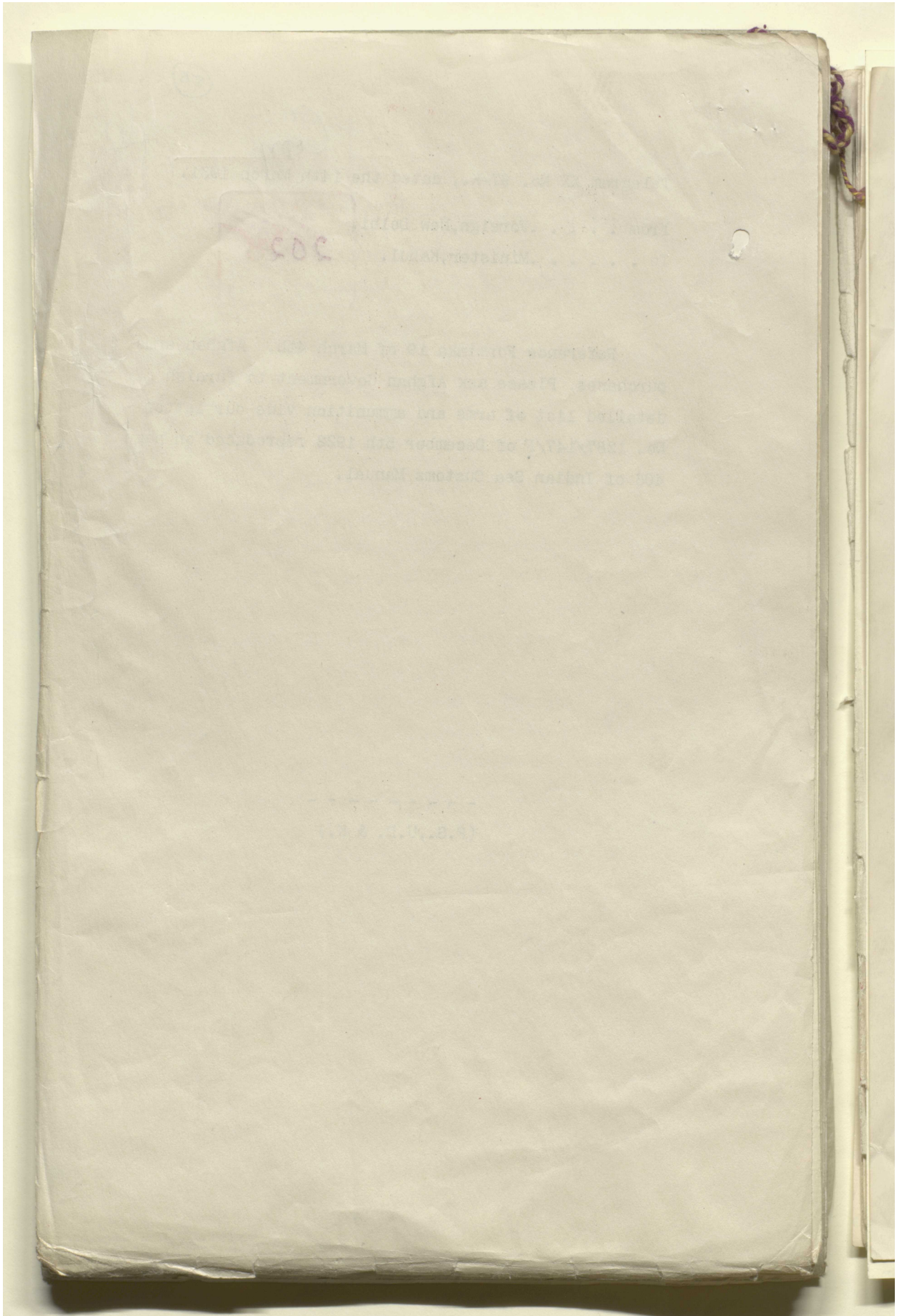
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [55v] (110/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [56r] (111/133)







Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [57r] (113/133)

(57)

Notes.

Register No.  
**P. Z**  
 2002/31

**SECRET.**  
**POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.**

**Minute Paper.**

Dated 19  
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary .....	10. 4.	<i>MS</i>	GRANT OF ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN. Question of purchase of Arms in India at concession rates.
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	11	<i>MS</i>	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR INFORMATION.**

The G. of I. are able to reduce the price from Rs. 183 to Rs. 172 (for rifle, bayonet and accessories and a thousand rounds). This still leaves a big gap between the G. of I.'s minimum price and the suggestion of £10 made by the Afghan Government.

Presumably if any further reduction were offered the cost to the G. of I. would have to be debited against the sum of £25,000 which they have reserved against small material gifts out of the total of £200,000 sanctioned for financial assistance to Afghanistan. There would appear to be a considerable disadvantage in utilising the reserve in this way, as a gift made in this manner might pass almost

unnoticed/...

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 2384  
 1931

*505  
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*History Sec<sup>d</sup> shall see.  
MS*

*Reg Secy  
For inform  
15/4*

*Act Colles  
20. 4. 31*

Previous Papers :-  
**SEEN**  
**POLITICAL COMMITTEE.**  
**- 6 MAY 1931**

4475B 1000 5.30

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [57v] (114/133)

unnoticed; if any part of the reserve were to be utilised on rifles it would be preferable to arrange for the Afghan Government to purchase as many as they can afford at the price of Rs. 172 and receive a certain additional number free of charge. This suggestion has not been made either by the G. of I. or by Mr. Maconachie and we need not make it from here.

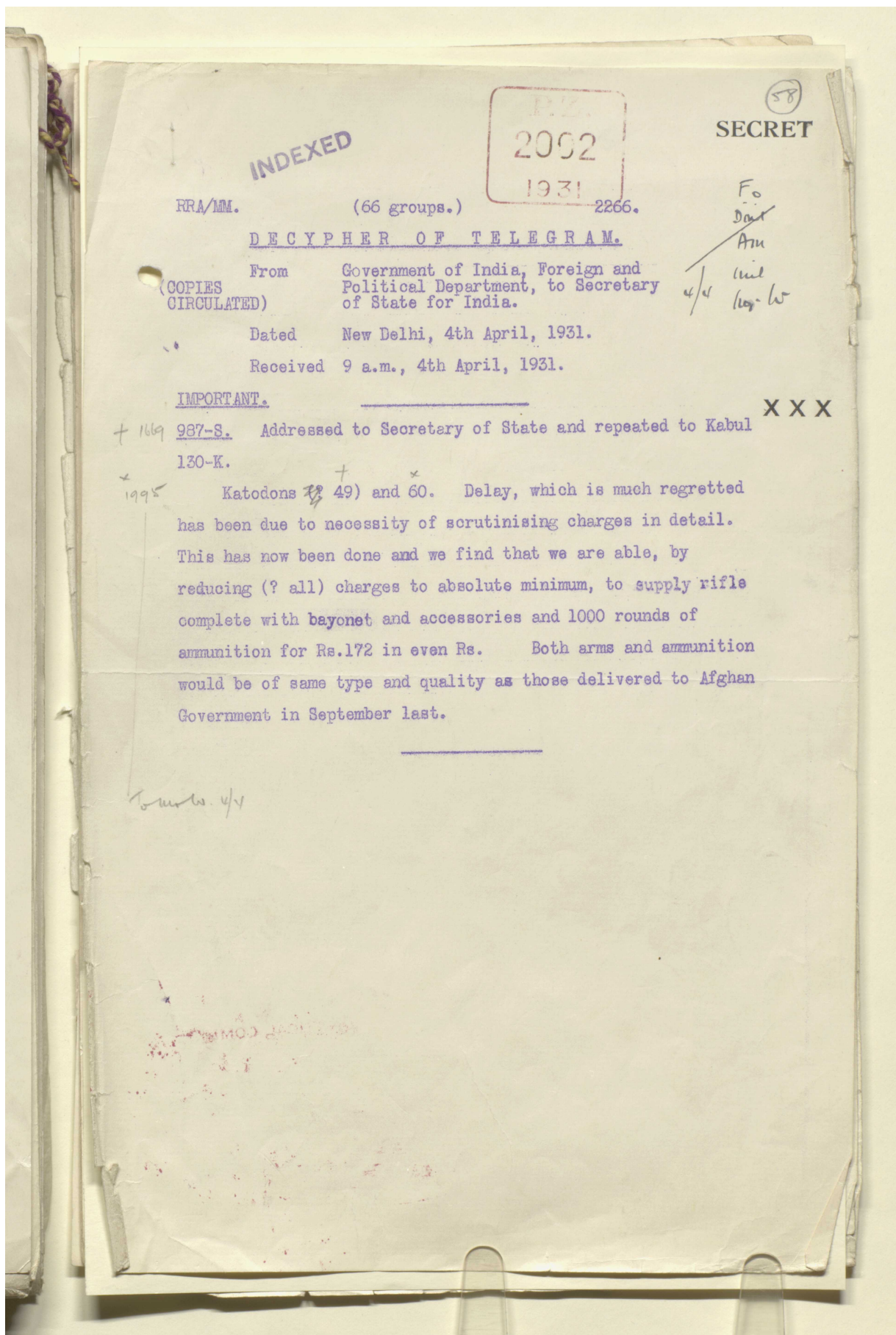
The arms in question are short post-war conversion rifles with Mark VII ammunition and are in every respect the same as those used by our forces in India and are guaranteed absolutely serviceable. It will be noted that there is a very large difference between the price of Rs.172 per unit and the price at which the Afghan Government are obtaining old rifles from War Office stocks through Messrs. Flemings; the latter *being in their* application for an export licence gave £42,000 as the declared value f.o.b. of 8,000 .303 magazine rifles, Enfield pattern '14 and 8 million rounds of Mark VII ammunition; the War Office were unable to give any guarantee in respect of either rifles or ammunition but they expressed the opinion that there is no danger of the rifles proving unserviceable and the Afghan Legation were informed accordingly.

J. C. Welton

SEEN  
POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
- 6 MAY 1931

*San*  
*6-5*

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [58r] (115/133)



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(58)  
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RRA/MM. (66 groups.) 2266.

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

(COPIES CIRCULATED) From Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, to Secretary of State for India.

Dated New Delhi, 4th April, 1931.

Received 9 a.m., 4th April, 1931.

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IMPORTANT.

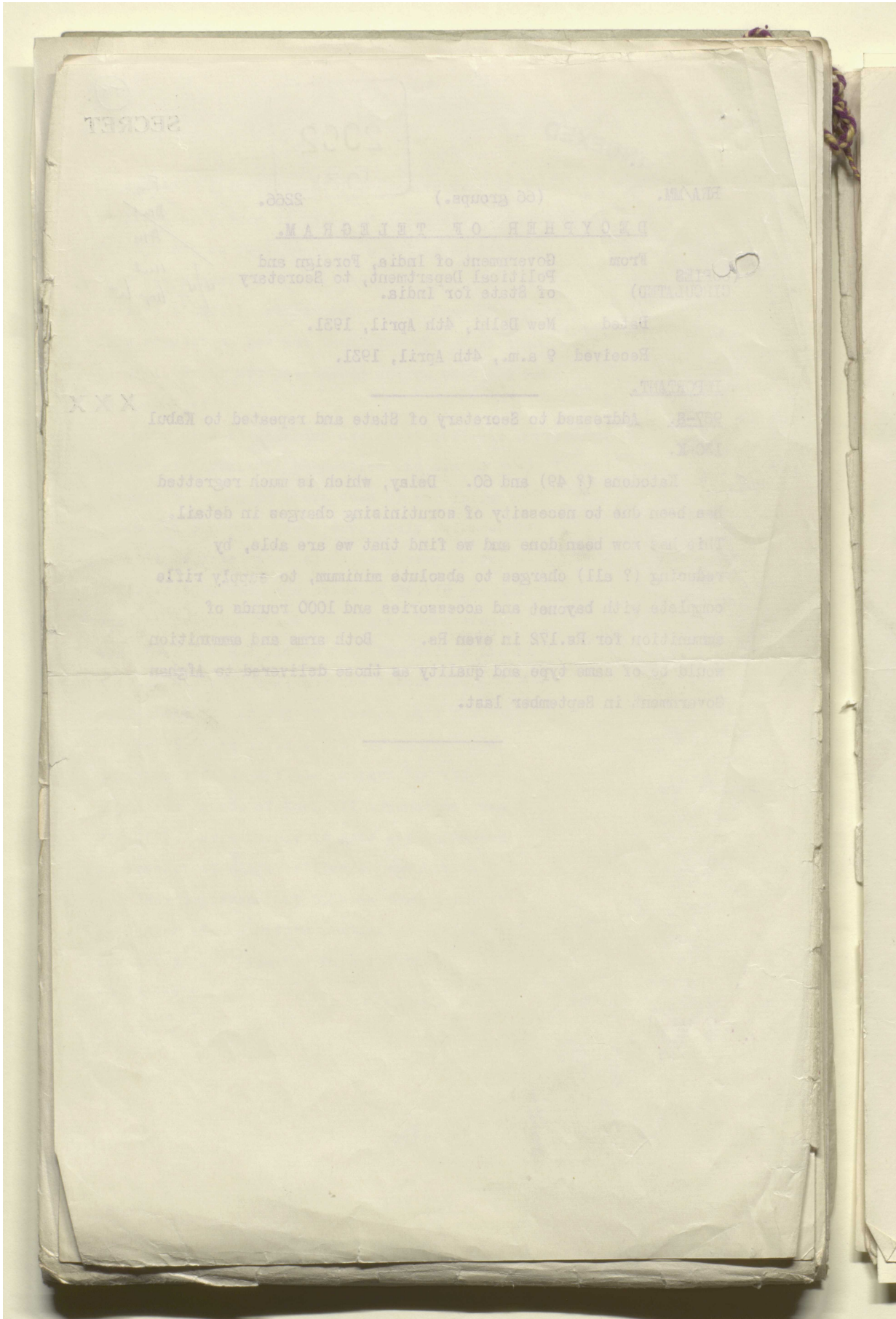
XXX

+ 1669 987-S. Addressed to Secretary of State and repeated to Kabul 130-K.

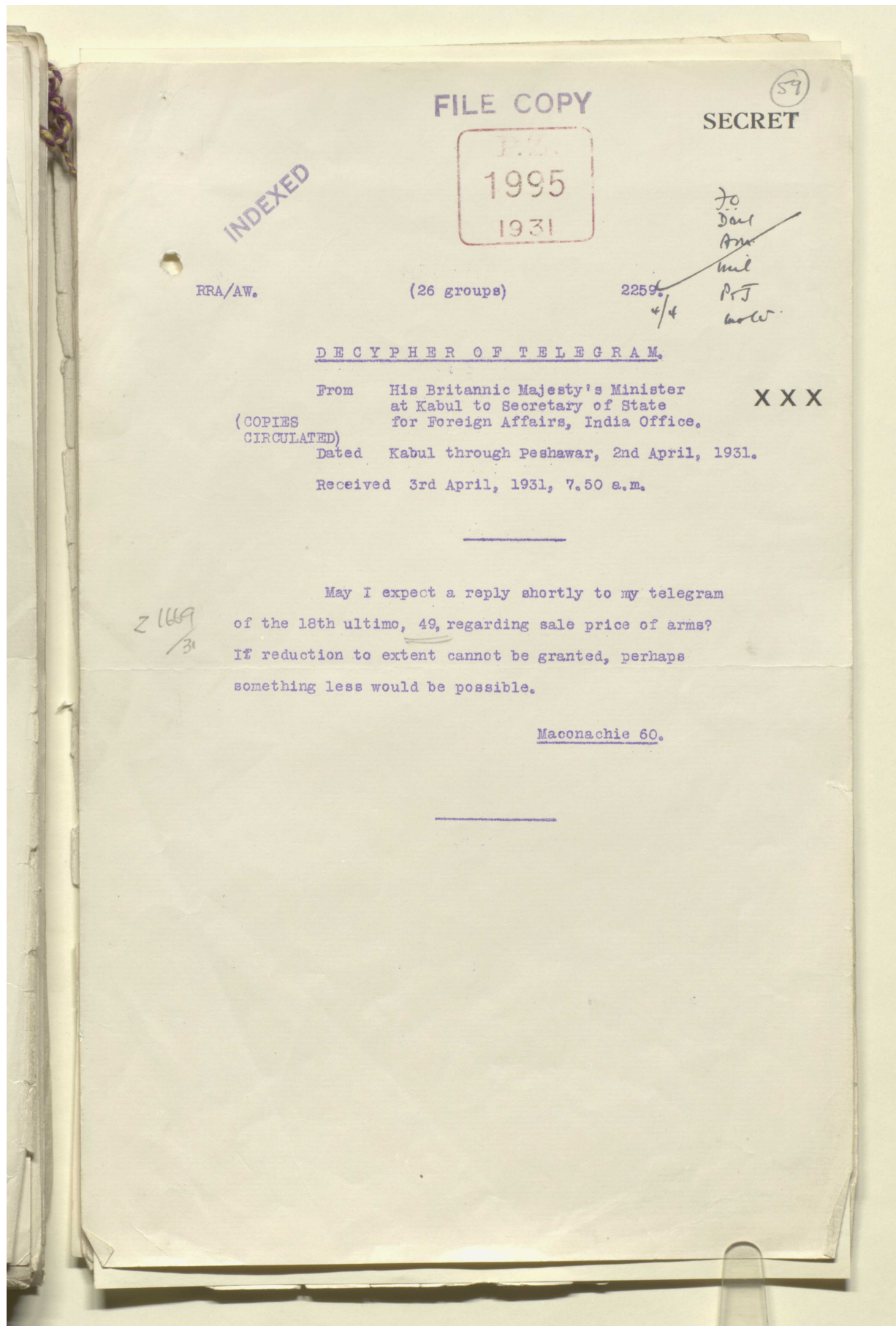
1995 Katodons 49) and 60. Delay, which is much regretted has been due to necessity of scrutinising charges in detail. This has now been done and we find that we are able, by reducing (? all) charges to absolute minimum, to supply rifle complete with bayonet and accessories and 1000 rounds of ammunition for Rs.172 in even Rs. Both arms and ammunition would be of same type and quality as those delivered to Afghan Government in September last.

To Mr. W. 4/4

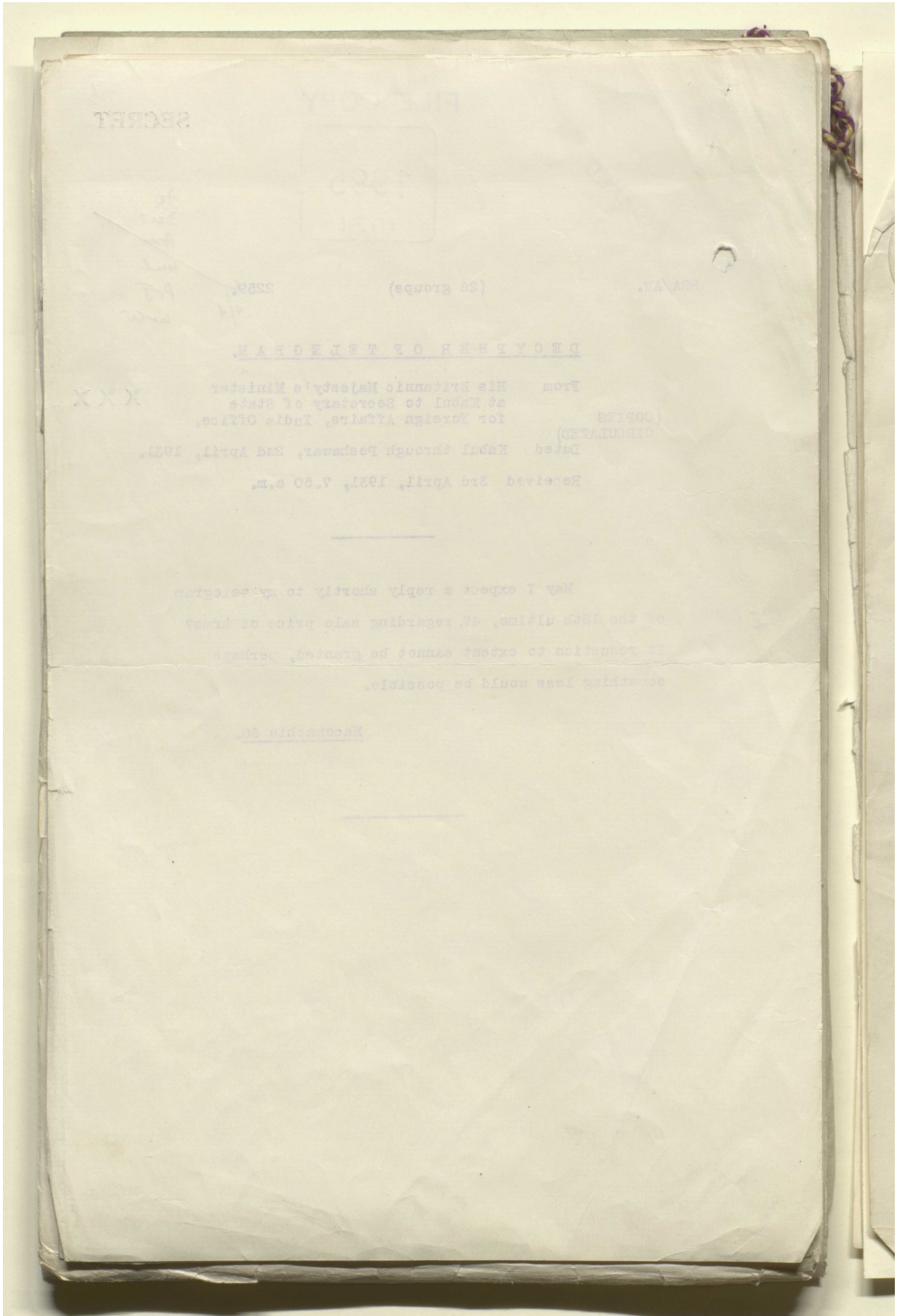
Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [58v] (116/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [59r] (117/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [59v] (118/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [60r] (119/133)

(60)

Register No.  
**P. Z**  
1669/31

**SECRET.**  
**POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.**

the Paper.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ 19 . . .  
Rec. \_\_\_\_\_

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary .....	20.3.	Jew	Grant of assistance to Afghanistan
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	23	GR	Second instalment of £75000. Suggested purchase of arms in India at concession rates
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of PZ 1669/31 to go to the other to provide grant of assistance  
Call 3/4

FOR INFORMATION.

We may answer to S.G.'s views on this suggestion which really amounts to the need of further assistance to the extent of the difference in cost. One method of procedure would be to debit the difference to the £25000 held in reserve for small gifts; but it might cost up most of this reserve at once.

The S.G.'s letter of 1 Sept. 1930 (P 2077/24) refers to the advantage (which has always been borne in mind) of supplying Afghanistan with our arms rather than with those of foreign manufacturers.

The S.G.'s letter of 10 July 1930 (P 2709/20) is not strictly relevant, but it was the policy, in connection with the projected assistance in the reconstruction of the Kabul-Khujan Road,

Not in copy  
Fo  
24/3

Li. H. P. Khan WJ 23/3  
Li. F. Ahmad S 24/3

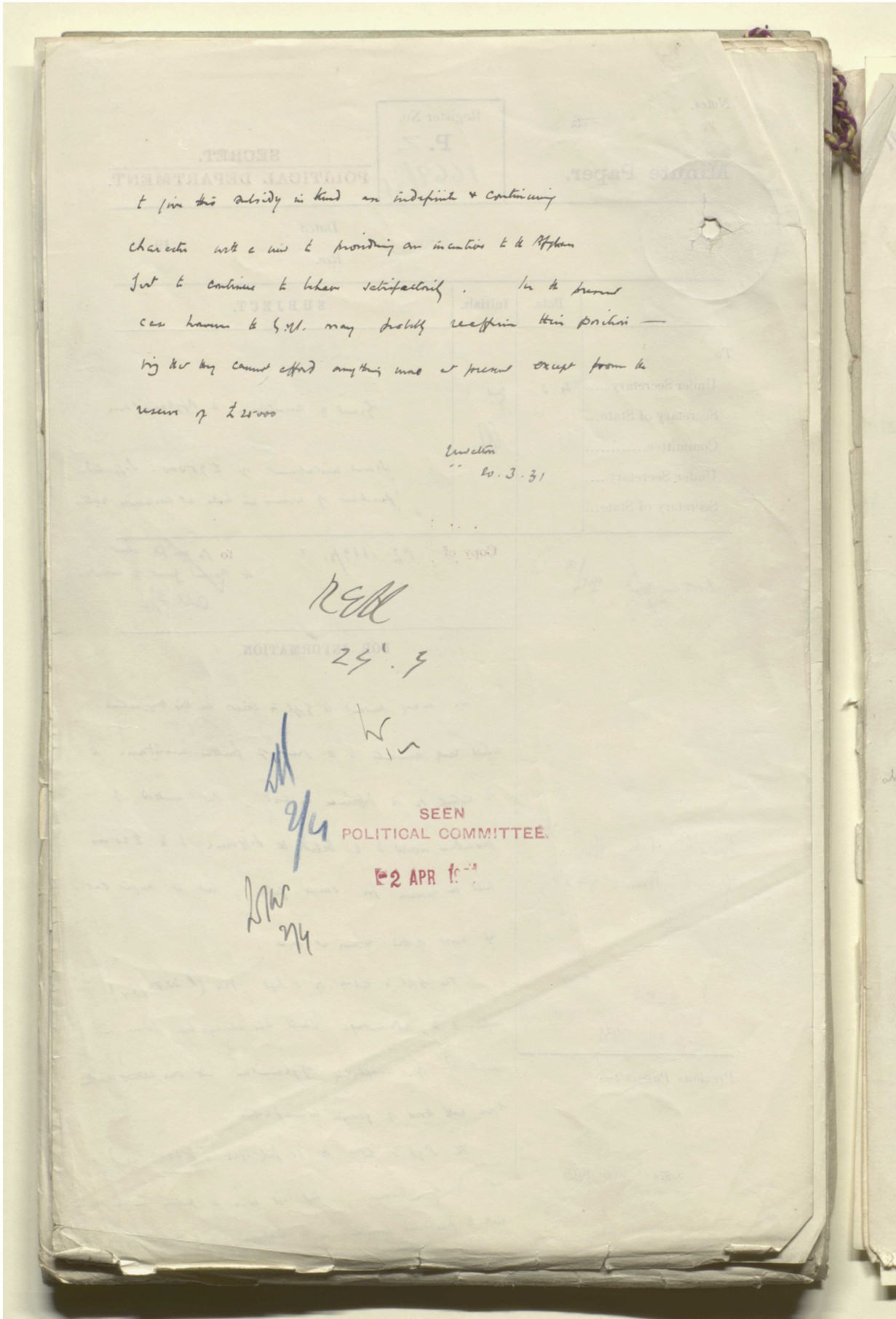
**SEEN**  
**POLITICAL COMMITTEE.**  
**-2 APR 1931**

Previous Papers :--

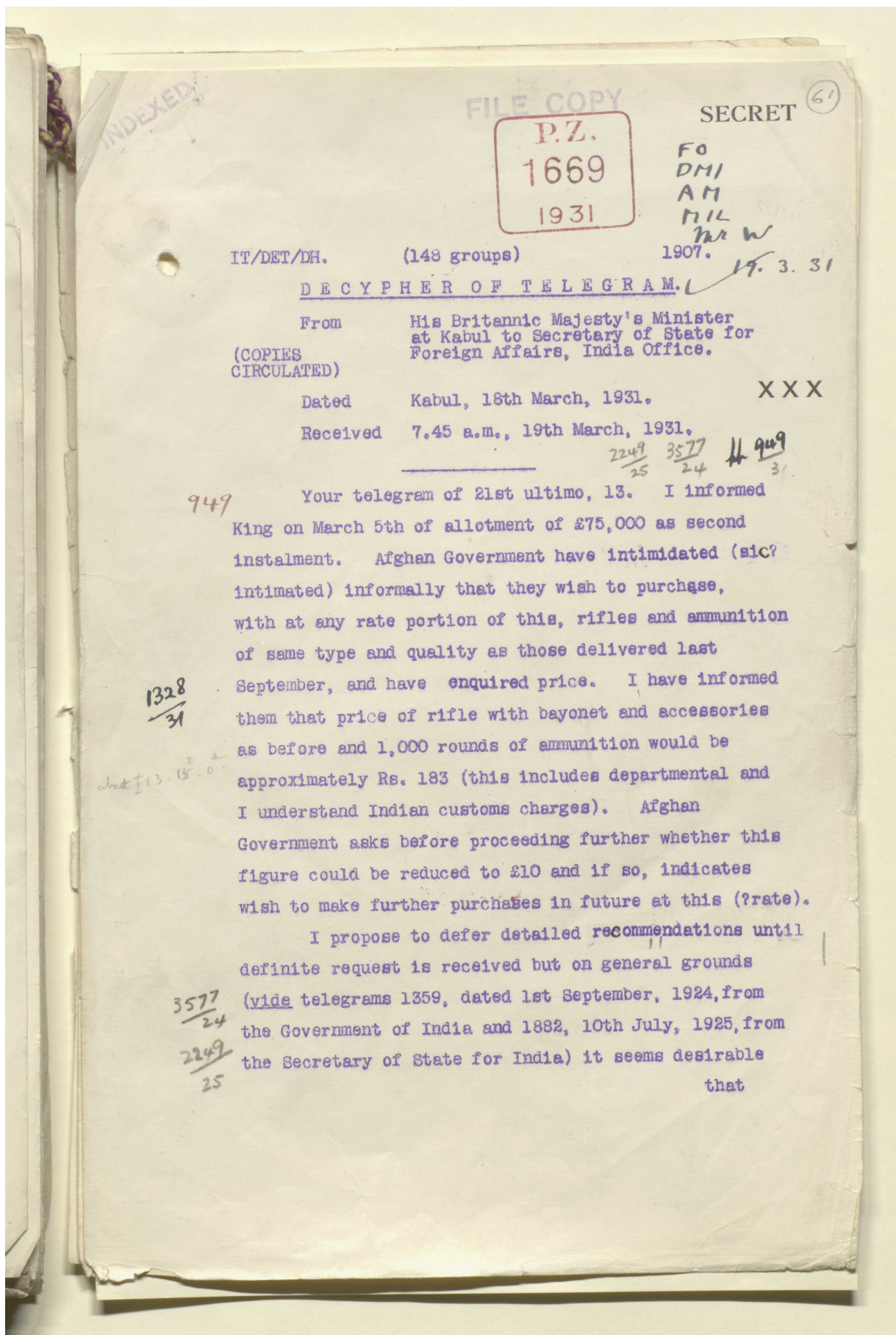
3997b 2000 10.29



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [60v] (120/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [61r] (121/133)



IT/DET/DH. (148 groups)

FILE COPY

P.Z.  
1669  
1931

SECRET (61)

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1907.

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

From His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Kabul to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, India Office.  
(COPIES CIRCULATED)

Dated Kabul, 18th March, 1931.

XXX

Received 7.45 a.m., 19th March, 1931.

2249/25 3577/24 H 949/31

949

Your telegram of 21st ultimo, 13. I informed King on March 5th of allotment of £75,000 as second instalment. Afghan Government have intimidated (sic? intimated) informally that they wish to purchase, with at any rate portion of this, rifles and ammunition of same type and quality as those delivered last September, and have enquired price. I have informed them that price of rifle with bayonet and accessories as before and 1,000 rounds of ammunition would be approximately Rs. 183 (this includes departmental and I understand Indian customs charges). Afghan Government asks before proceeding further whether this figure could be reduced to £10 and if so, indicates wish to make further purchases in future at this (?rate).

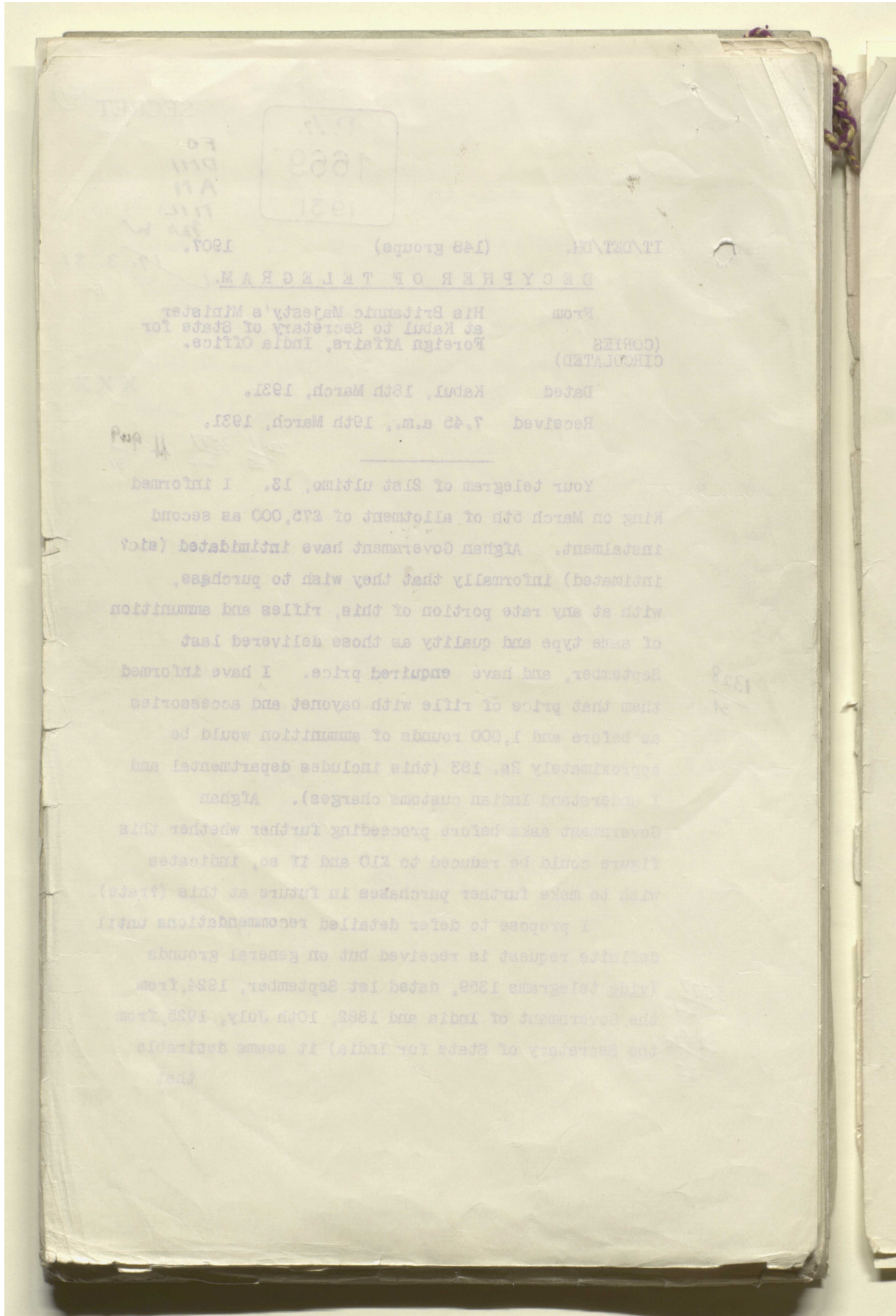
1328/31

about 13-15-0

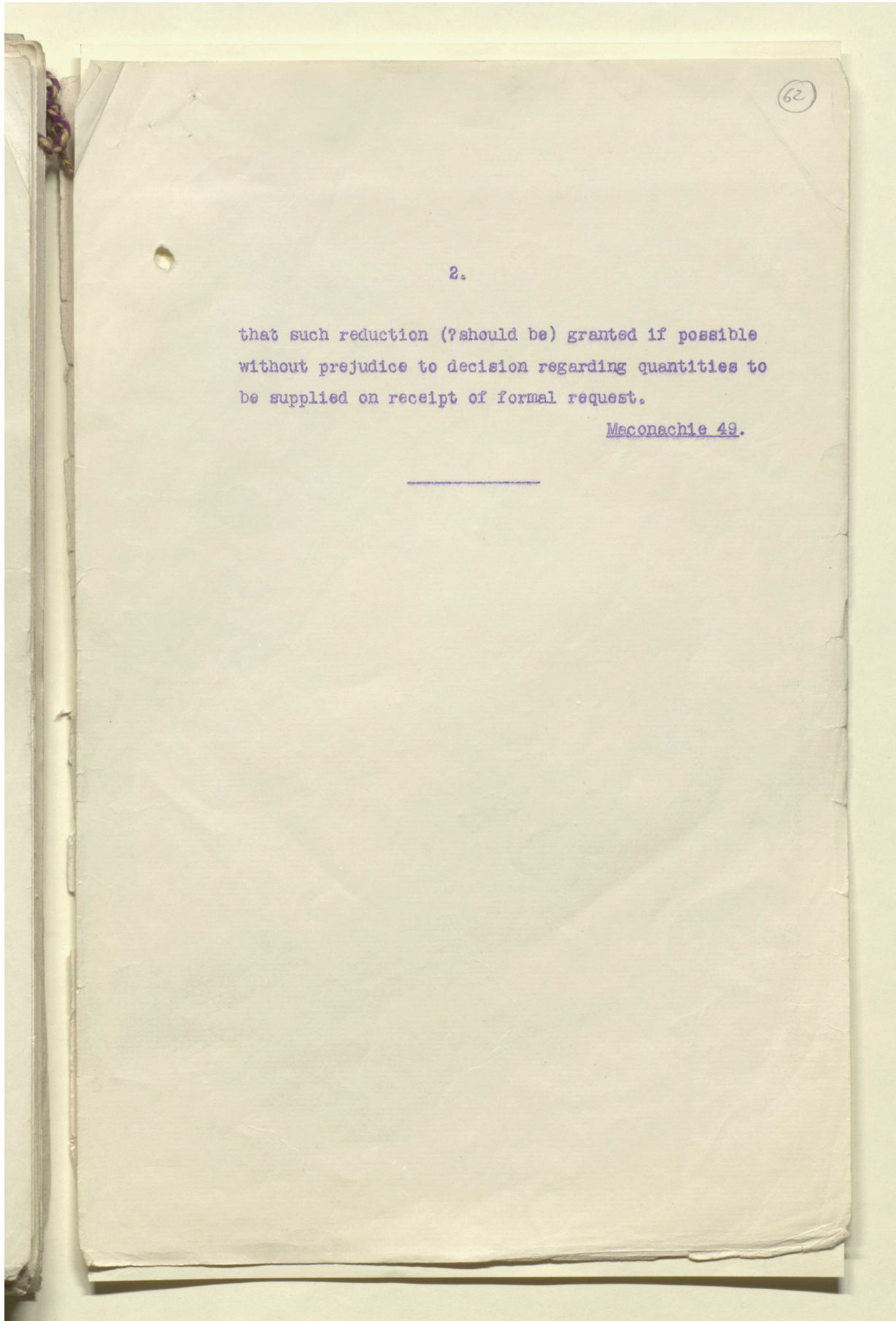
I propose to defer detailed recommendations until definite request is received but on general grounds (vide telegrams 1359, dated 1st September, 1924, from the Government of India and 1882, 10th July, 1925, from the Secretary of State for India) it seems desirable that

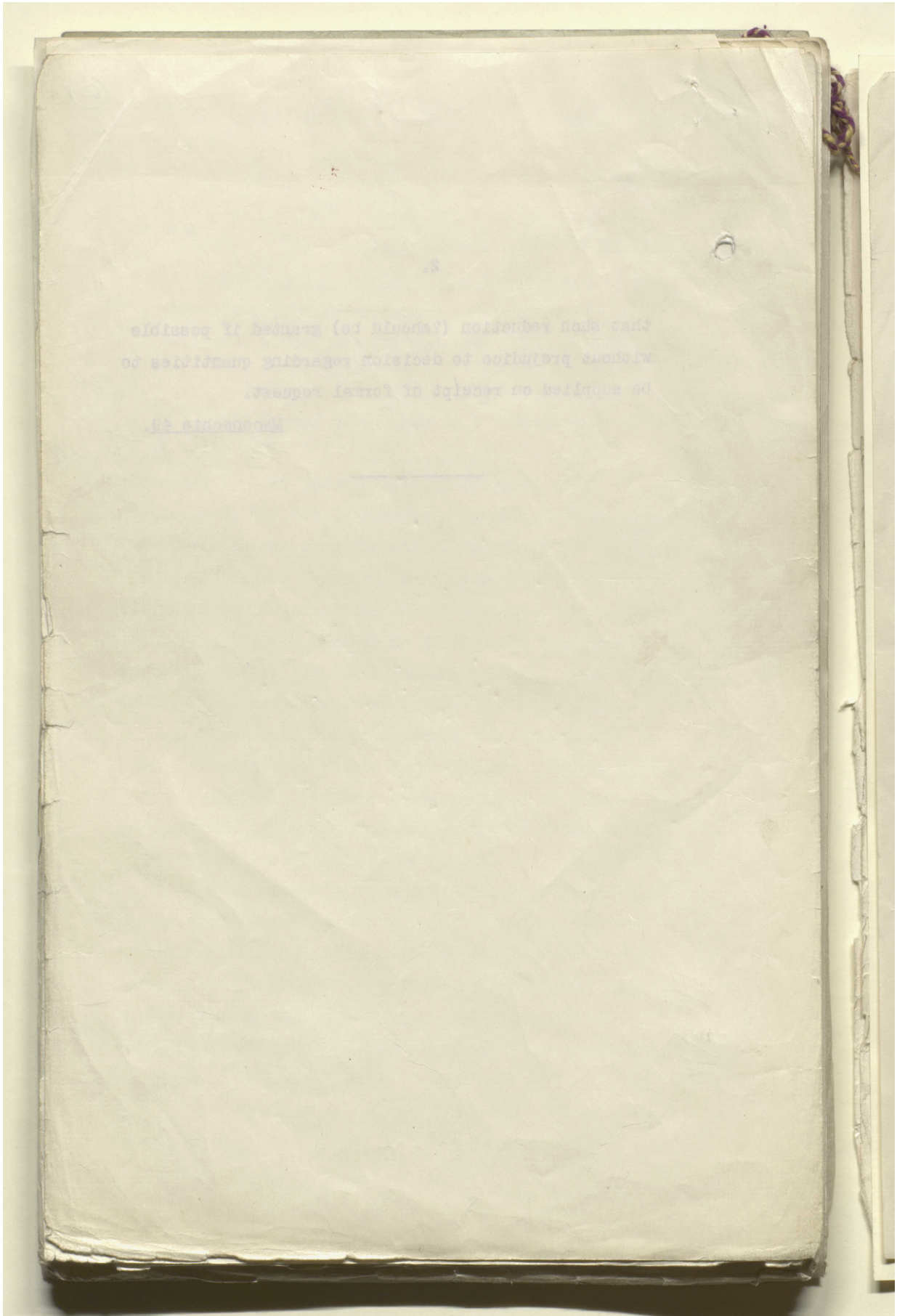
3577/24  
2249/25

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [61v] (122/133)

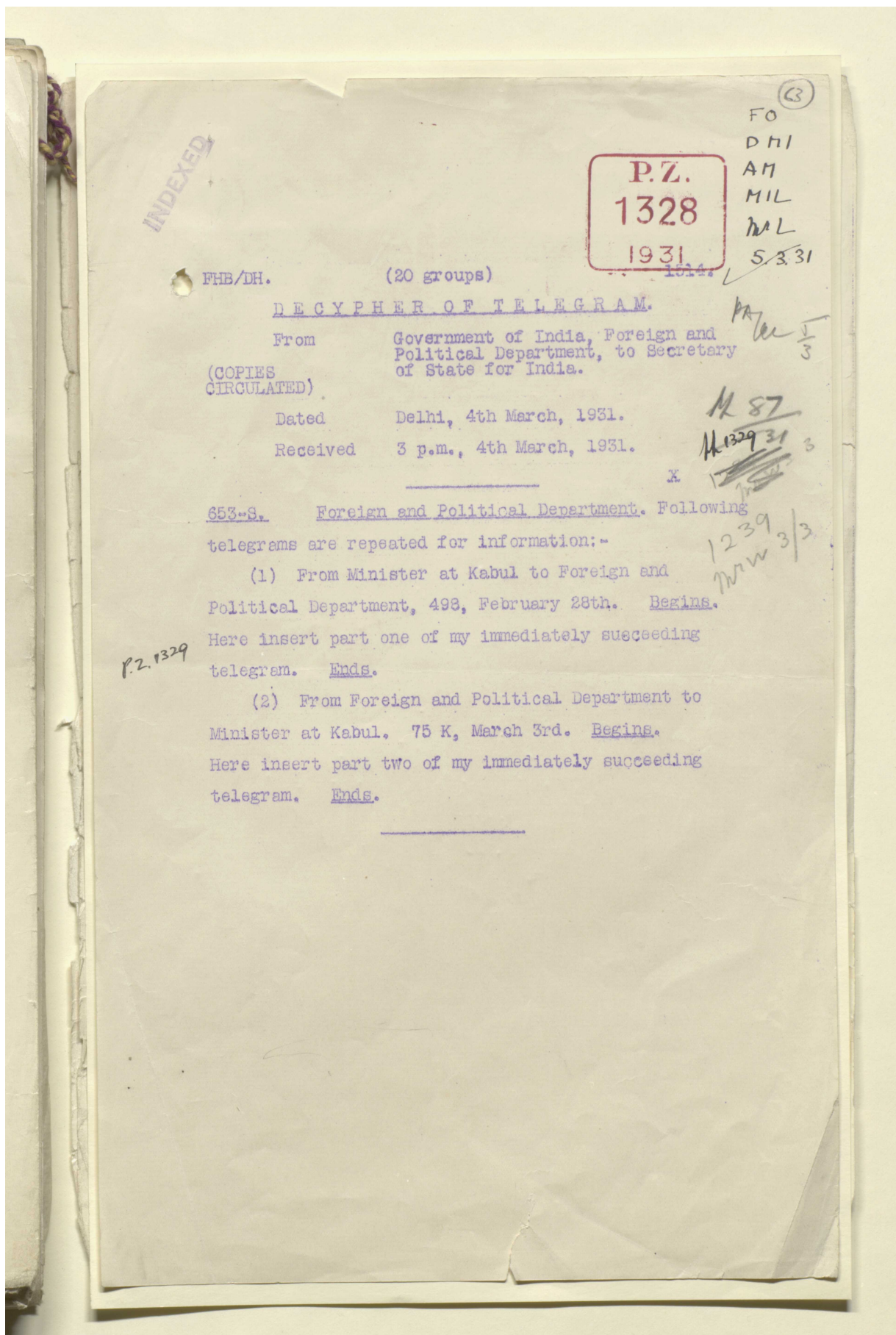


Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [62r] (123/133)





Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [63r] (125/133)



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P.Z.  
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1931

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DH1  
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FHB/DH. (20 groups)

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

From Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, to Secretary of State for India.

(COPIES CIRCULATED)

Dated Delhi, 4th March, 1931.

Received 3 p.m., 4th March, 1931.

PA  
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3

M 87  
H 1329 31 3

653-S. Foreign and Political Department. Following telegrams are repeated for information:-

(1) From Minister at Kabul to Foreign and Political Department, 493, February 28th. Begins.

Here insert part one of my immediately succeeding telegram. Ends.

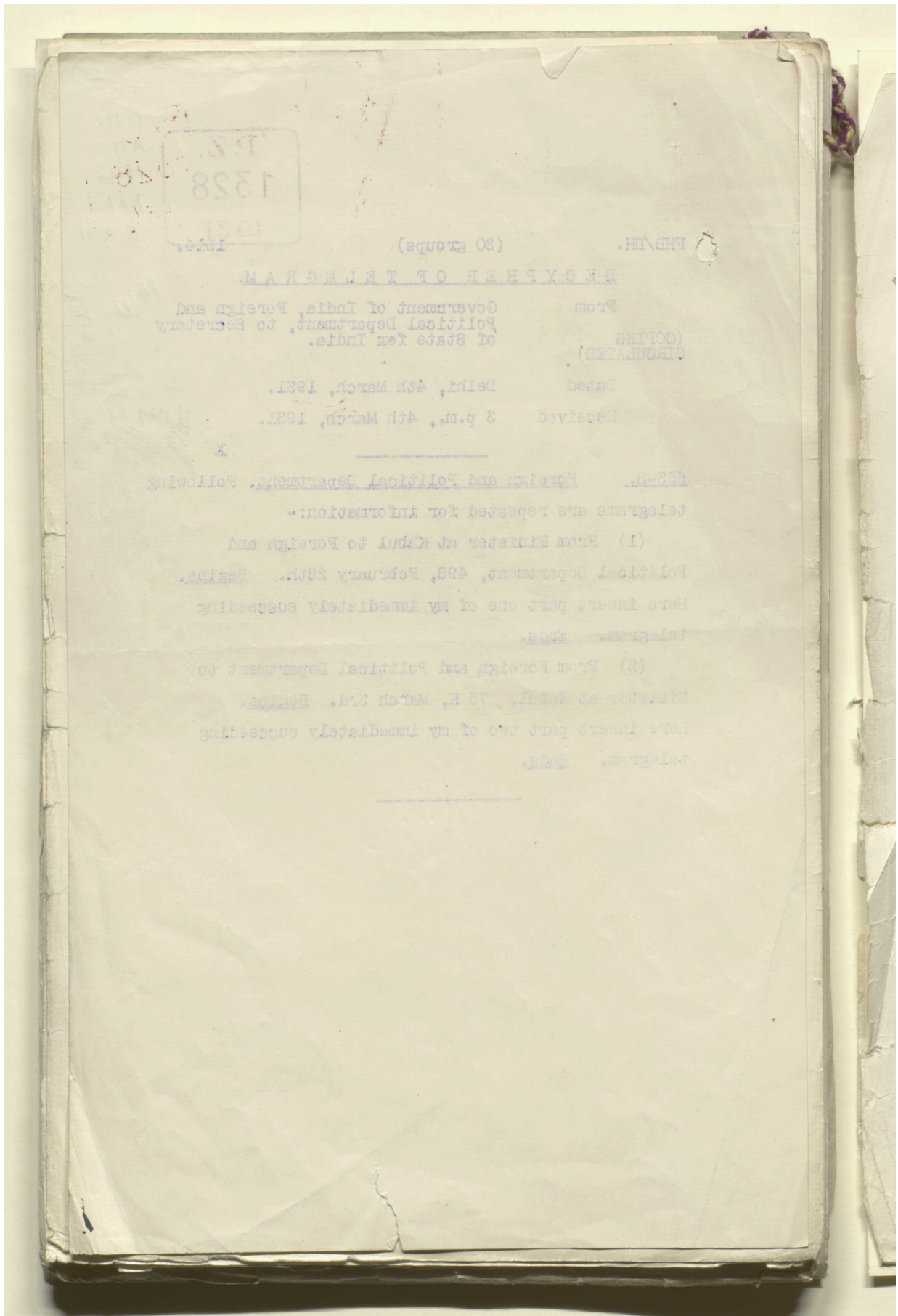
P.Z. 1329

(2) From Foreign and Political Department to Minister at Kabul. 75 K, March 3rd. Begins.

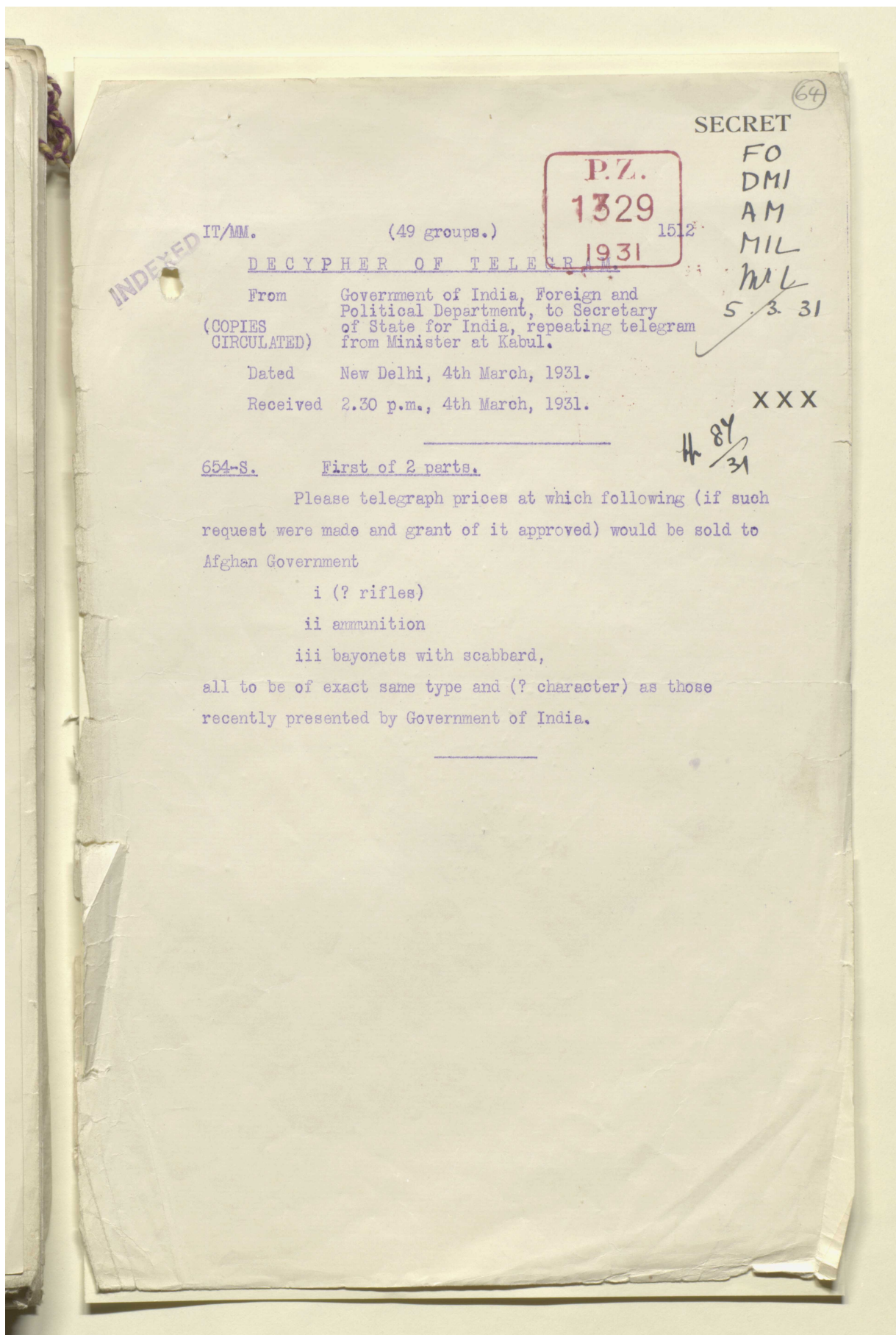
Here insert part two of my immediately succeeding telegram. Ends.

1239  
M 87 3/3

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [63v] (126/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [64r] (127/133)



64

SECRET

P.Z.  
1329  
1931

FO  
DMI  
AM  
MIL  
ML  
5.3.31

INDEXED

IT/MM. (49 groups.)

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM

From Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, to Secretary of State for India, repeating telegram from Minister at Kabul.

Dated New Delhi, 4th March, 1931.

Received 2.30 p.m., 4th March, 1931.

XXX

H 84/31

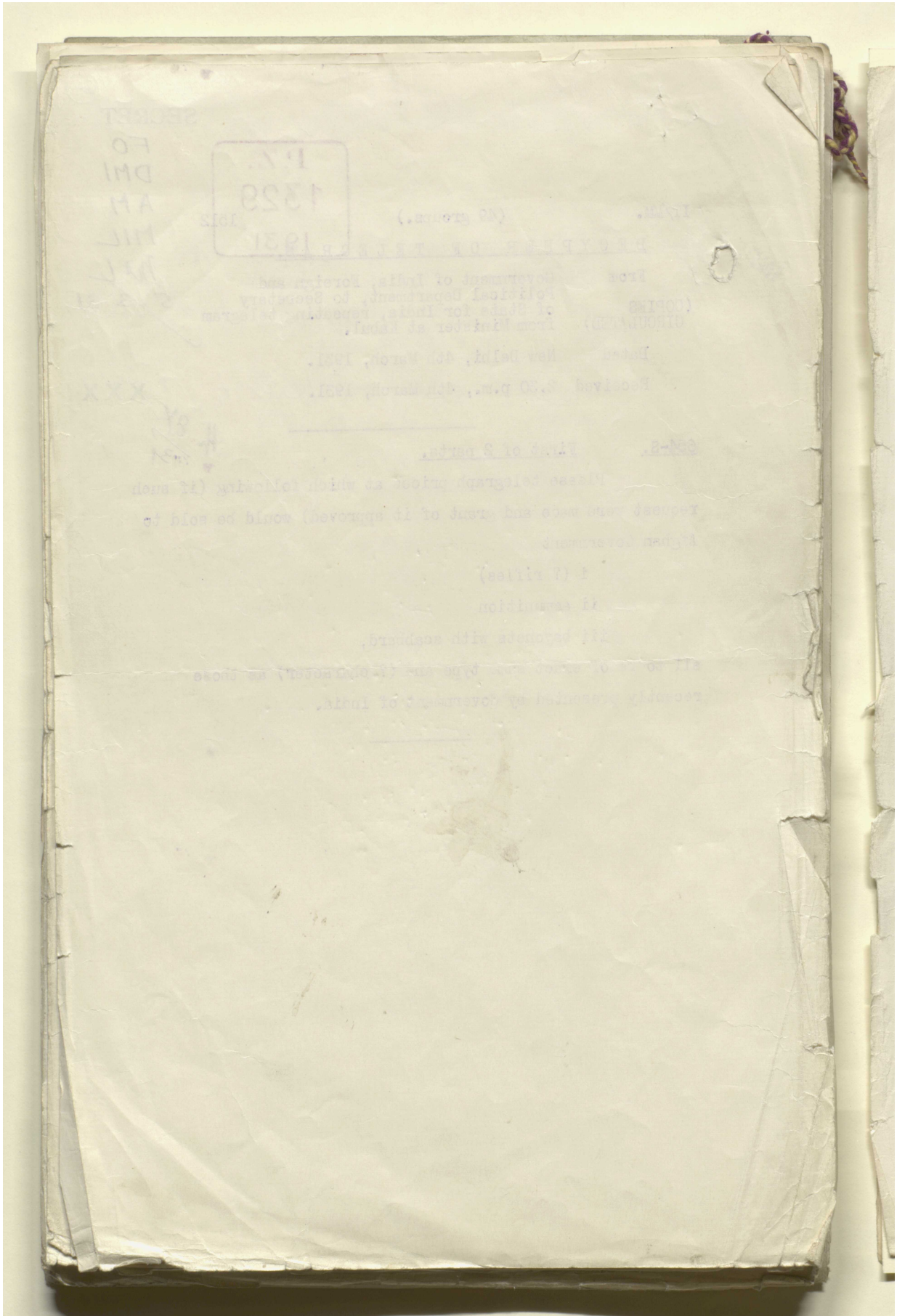
654-S. First of 2 parts.

Please telegraph prices at which following (if such request were made and grant of it approved) would be sold to Afghan Government

- i (? rifles)
  - ii ammunition
  - iii bayonets with scabbard,
- all to be of exact same type and (? character) as those recently presented by Government of India.



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [64v] (128/133)



Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [65r] (129/133)

(65)  
SECRET

FHB/MM.

(61 groups.)

1515

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

From Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, to Secretary of State for India, repeating telegram to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Kabul.  
(COPIES CIRCULATED)

Dated Delhi, 4th March, 1931.

XXX

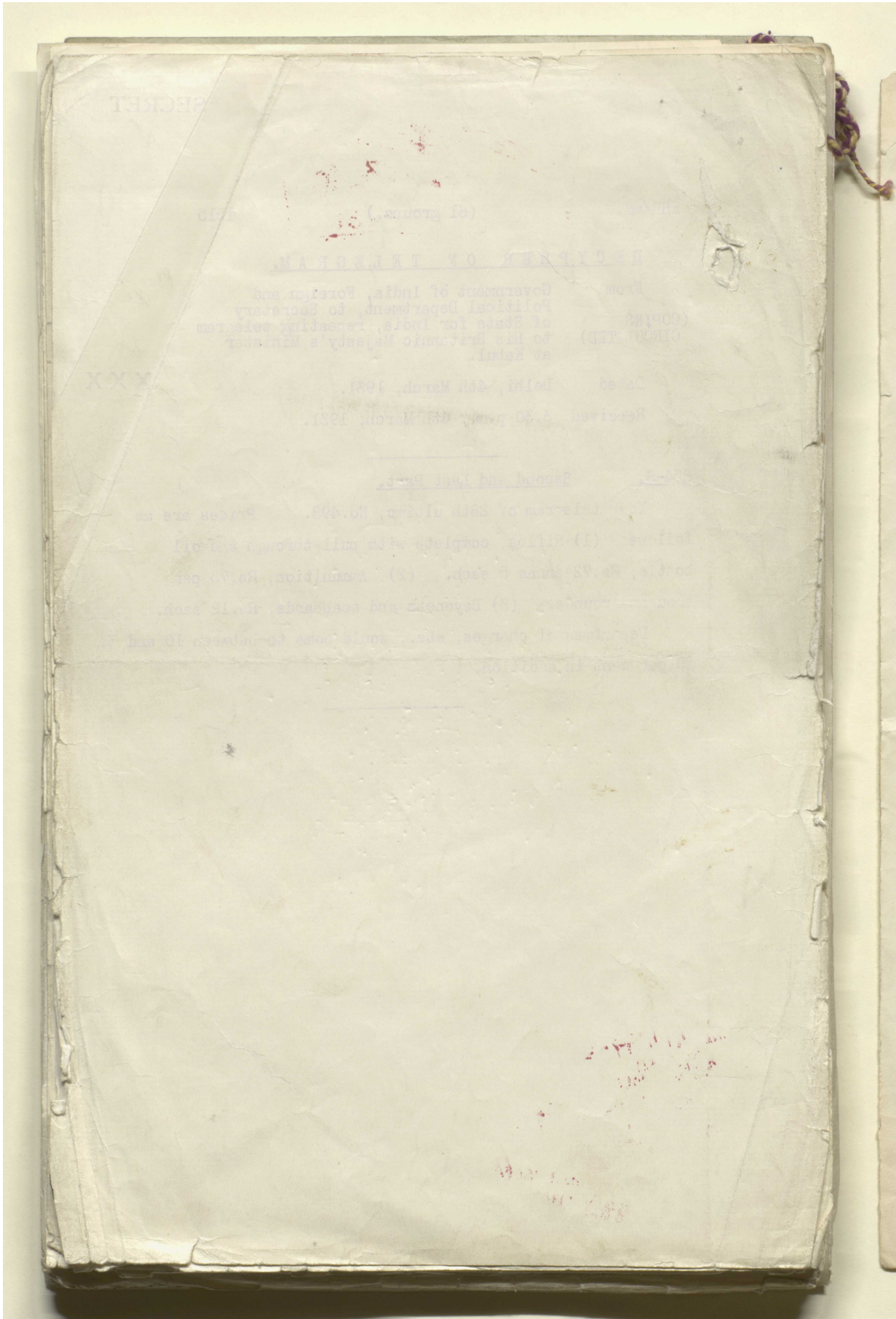
Received 3.30 p.m., 4th March, 1931.

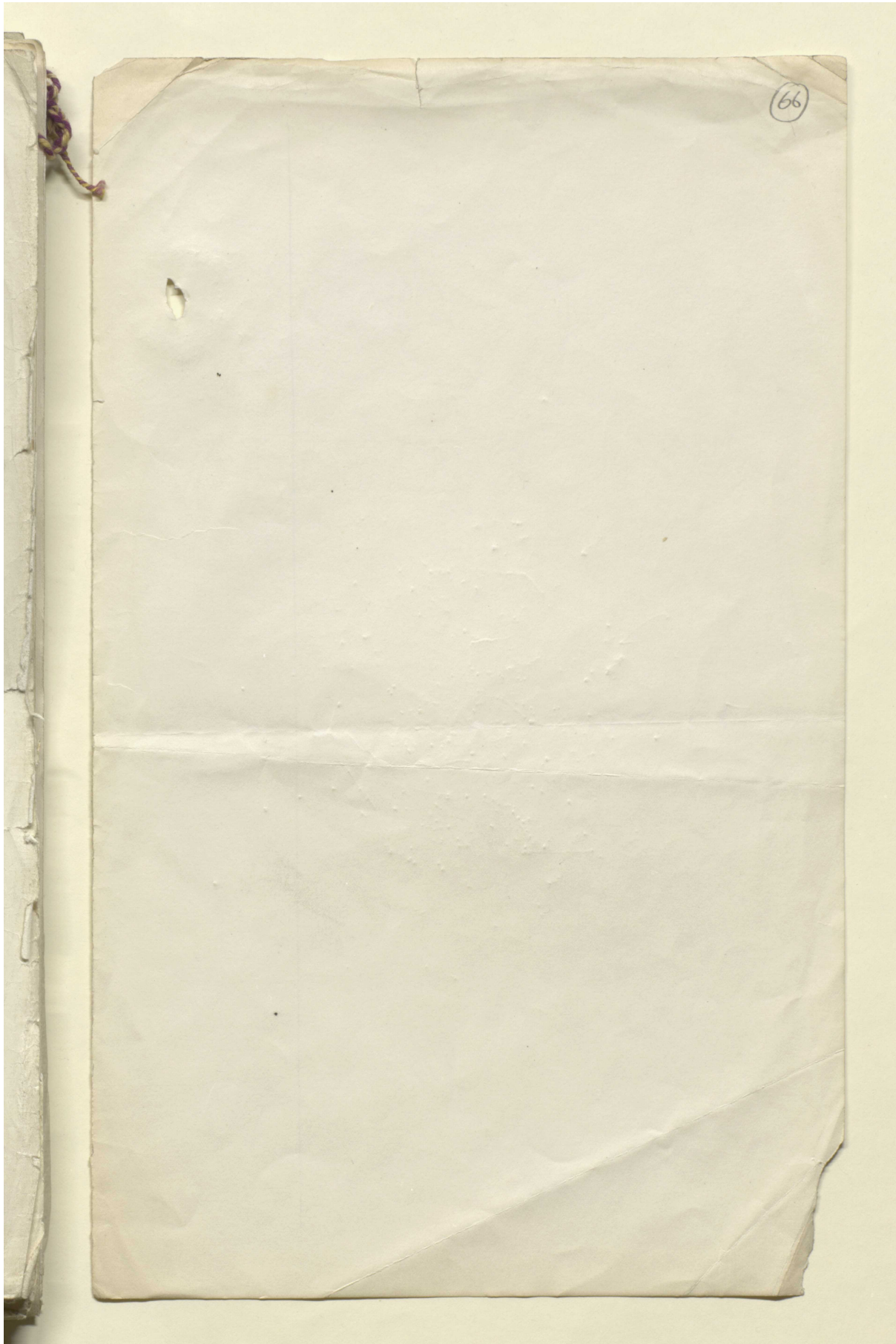
654-S. Second and Last Part.

Your telegram of 28th ultimo, No.498. Prices are as follows:- (1) Rifles, complete with pull-through and oil bottle, Rs.72 annas 5 each. (2) Ammunition, Rs.75 per thousand rounds. (3) Bayonets and scabbards, Rs.12 each.

Departmental charges, etc., would come to between 10 and 15 per cent in addition.

Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India' [65v] (130/133)





Coll 7/2 'Afghanistan: purchase of arms by Afghan Government from financial assistance granted by Government of India'  
[back-i] (132/133)

