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Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/12/2194
Date(s)	28 Oct 1932-8 Nov 1934 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (59 folios)
Copyright for document	<u>Unknown</u>



About this record

Correspondence regarding a request by the Government of Afghanistan to import a sample teargas gun, canisters and accessories to Kabul, via India. The file concerns arrangements for the purchase and delivery of the sample, plus British and Indian concerns over the potential import or manufacture of non-lethal and lethal chemical weapons by the Afghan Government, and the corresponding readiness of the Government of India to meet such a threat.

The file contains letters received by the Foreign Office from the Afghan Legation in London, plus correspondence between the India Office Political Department, the Government of India Foreign and Political Department, the Foreign Office, and HM Minister at Kabul (Richard Maconachie). The file also includes reports by Maconachie on meetings held with the Kabul-based merchant Herr Ebner, regarding the Afghan Government's interest in chemical weapons, the possibility of establishing a manufacturing facility in Afghanistan, and the reported intention to use the weapons to suppress any uprising by the Pathan tribe.

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 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [front] (1/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [front-i] (2/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [2r] (3/118)

Previous File:

Next File:

IOR/L/PS/12/2194

No. 7

File 26

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT.
COLLECTION.

GENERAL HEADING

Arms & Ammunition.

Afghanistan.

SUB-HEAD

Proposed purchase of Gas shells, etc., by
Afghan Govt.
Question of attitude of H. M. G.

Notes: coll 7/5. Purchase of arms from foreign sources, etc.

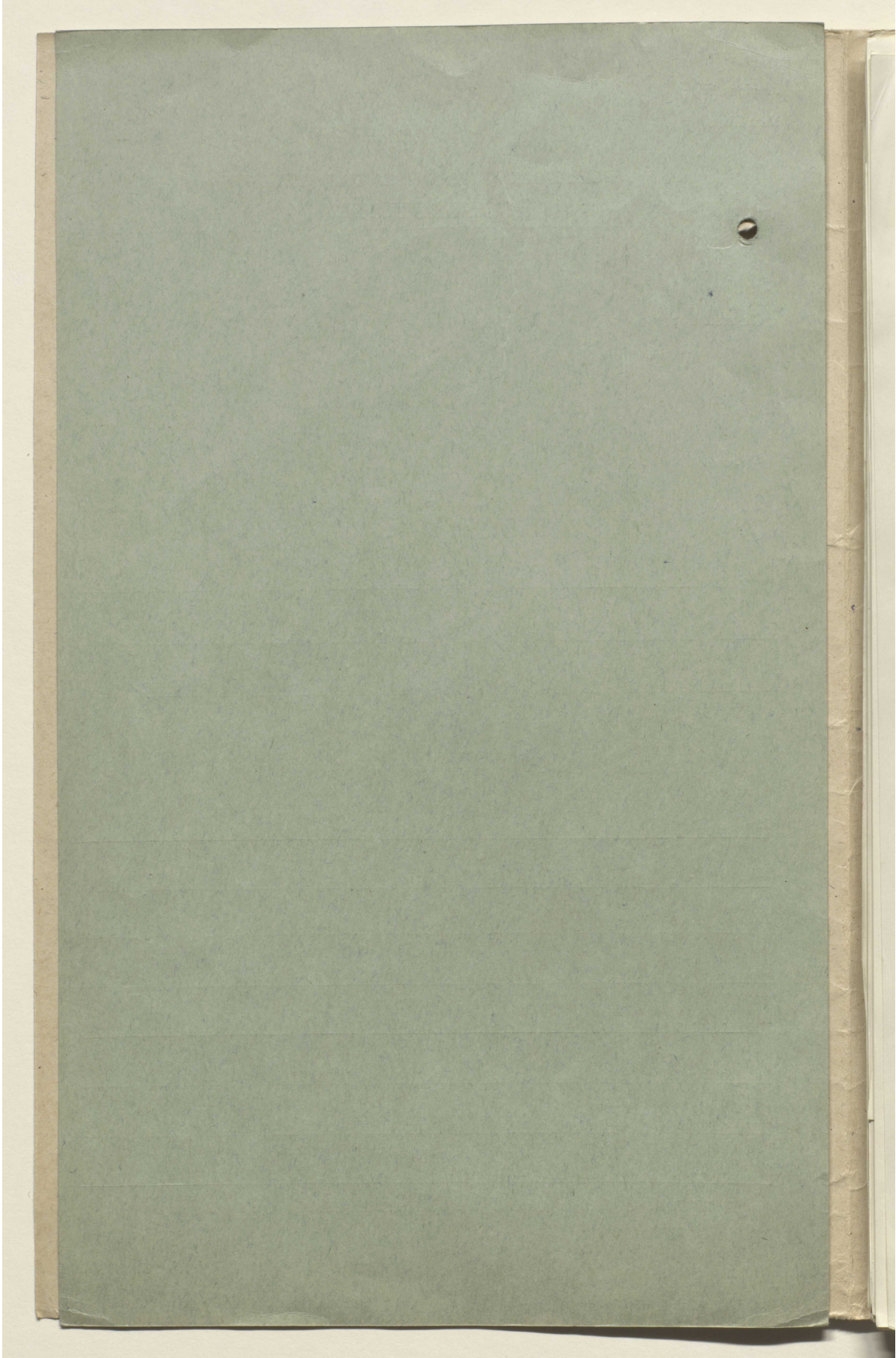
This File contains the following papers:—

YEAR.							
1932	P.Z.	6549	7249	7461	7587	7807	
1934	P.Z.	2871	3419	3921	4400	4898	5767 5910
1934	P.Z.	6582					
19	P.						
19	P.						
19	P.						
19	P.						
19	P.						

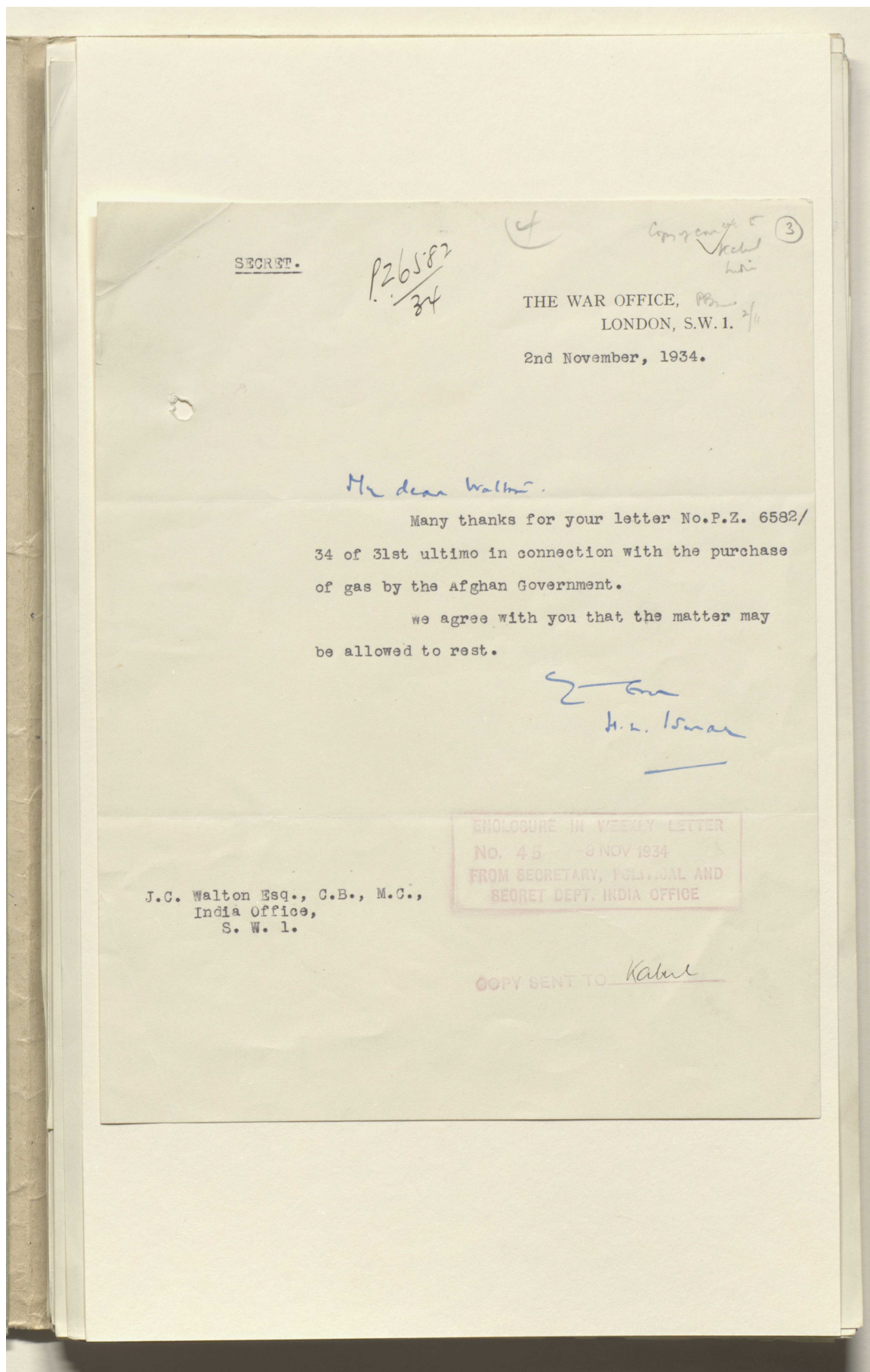
Papers may be removed from or placed within this File only by the Political Registry.

1250 1000 10.32

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [2v] (4/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [3r] (5/118)



SECRET.

P.26582
/34

Copy sent to Kabul (3)

THE WAR OFFICE, P.W. 2/11
LONDON, S.W. 1.

2nd November, 1934.

Mr dear Walton.

Many thanks for your letter No.P.Z. 6582/
34 of 31st ultimo in connection with the purchase
of gas by the Afghan Government.

we agree with you that the matter may
be allowed to rest.

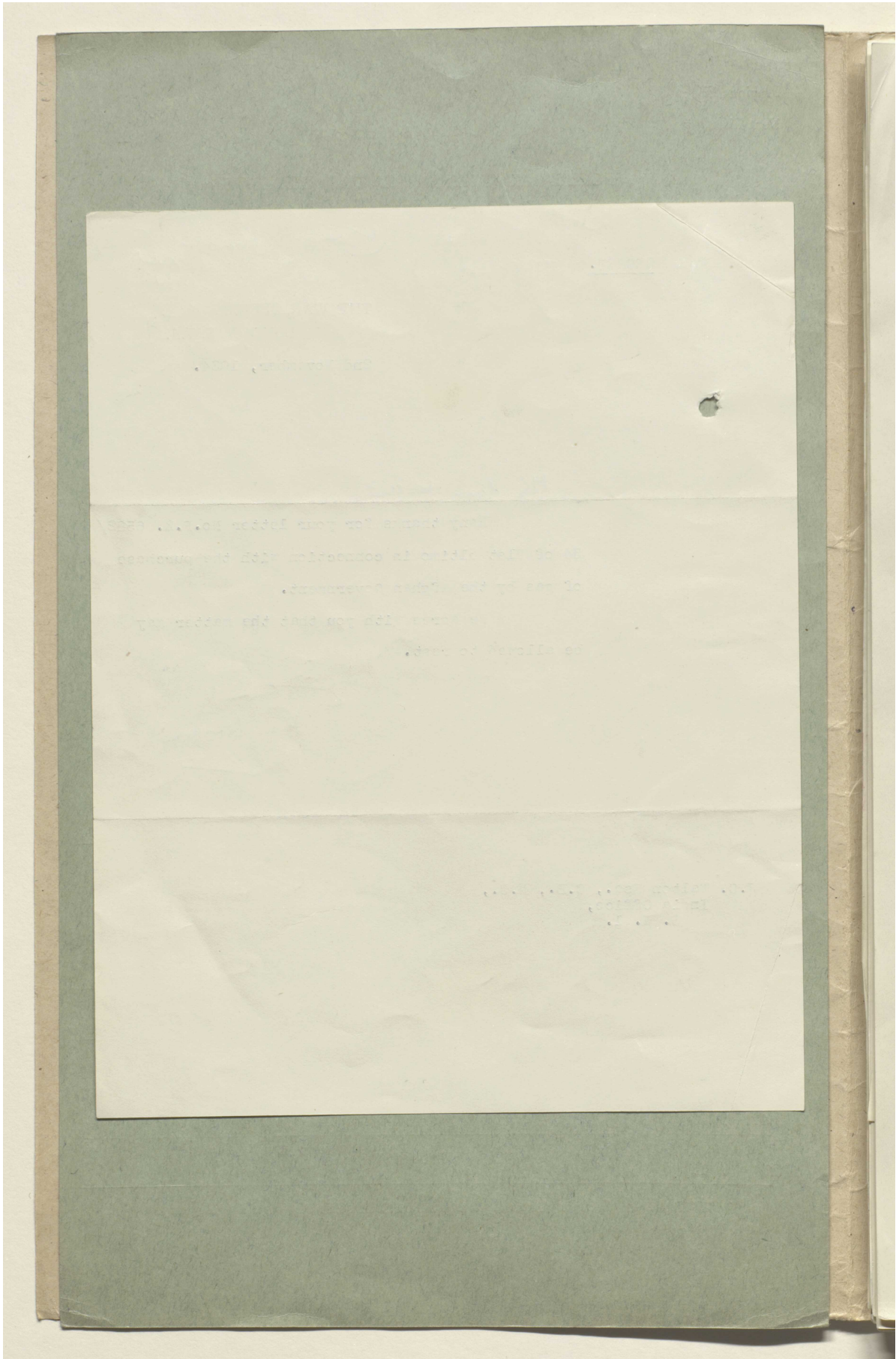
H. L. Ismael

J.C. Walton Esq., C.B., M.C.,
India Office,
S. W. 1.

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
NO. 45 8 NOV 1934
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

COPY SENT TO Kabul

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [3v] (6/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [4r] (7/118)

Minute Paper.

P26582/34

Political

Department.

1. Copy to India & Kabul of
letter to Col. Ismay

2. Put by
10/10
1/11

Military Secretary

The relevant previous papers are:

P.Z.2871/34. Sir R.Maconachie's letter reporting an enquiry from Herr Ebner as to the attitude of H.M.G. towards the supply of gas to the Afghan Government.

P.Z.3921/34. The views of the G. of I. on this enquiry.

P.Z.4898/34. The views of the War Office.

It appears from the Minister's talk with Herr Ebner now reported that the gas is desired for use against the Pathan tribes in the event of a really dangerous rising. But Herr Ebner's view is that the Afghans could not ~~however~~ proceed with the idea on any large scale for the time being owing to financial considerations. This is also Sir R. Maconachie's forecast ~~at~~ [P.Z.5767/34.]

It seems clear that we cannot carry the matter further at present and it is suggested that a letter should go to Colonel Ismay at the War Office in accordance with the draft attached.

Do you concur

17AF Rumbold
24.10.34.

I concur.

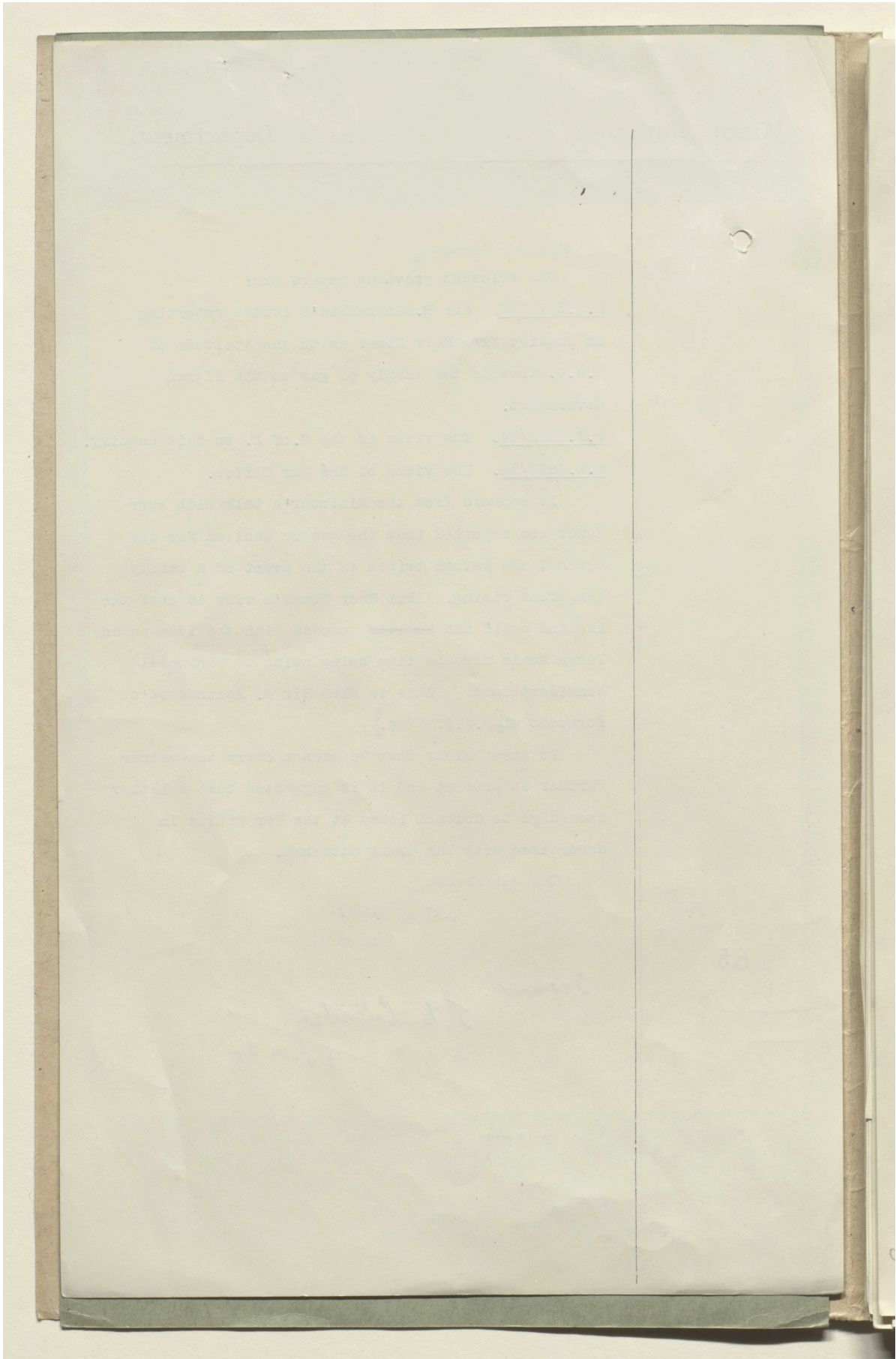
J. D. Colledge.

29.10.34

See 2 letters

just
30.10

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [4v] (8/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [5r] (9/118)

P.Z.6582/34. b 5

Draft Paper.

POLITICAL Department.

Secret.

DRAFT LETTER.

3/10 Oct. 1934.

Colonel H.L. Ismay, CB., DSO.,
War Office.

my dear Ismay,
Will you please refer to the
correspondence ending with ~~my personal~~^{it}
telegram of 18th September No.74 to
Maconachie, of which a copy was sent
to the War Office on 19th September
under India Office letter No.P.Z.5767/34
regarding the project of the Afghan
War Minister for the purchase of gas.

I enclose a copy of a
further letter dated 25th September
which I have received from Maconachie.

We think that we may allow the
matter to rest for the moment. If the
Afghans do take any further steps to
equip themselves with gas we cannot ^{hardly} fail
to hear of it and I have no doubt that
if, contrary to his expectations,
Maconachie has an opportunity he will
take the action authorised in my letter
of 16th August, of which a copy was
sent to the War Office under India Office
number P.Z.4898/34.

I am sending a copy of this
letter to Collier at the Foreign Office.

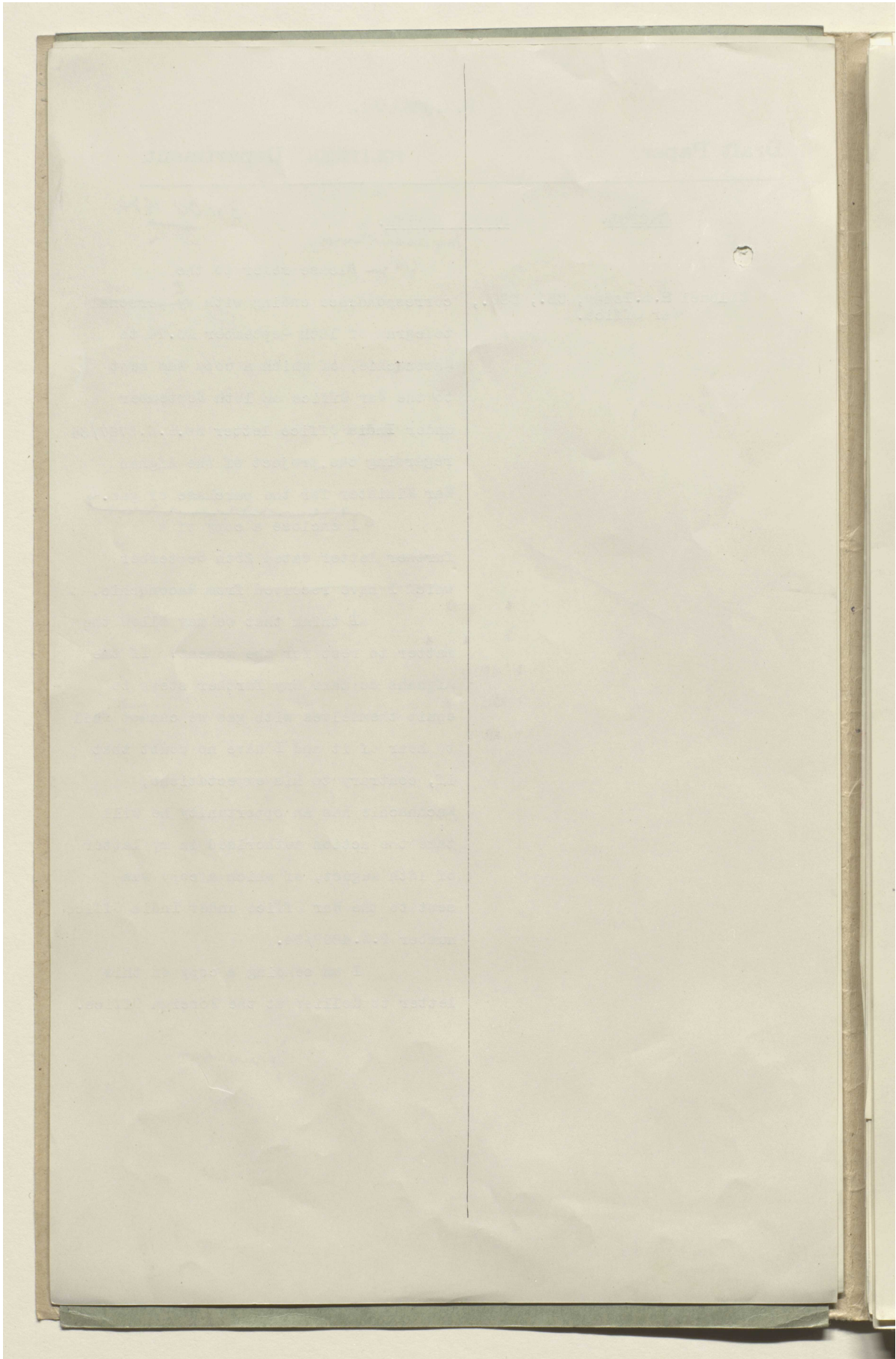
Yours ever,

(sd.) J. C. WALTON.

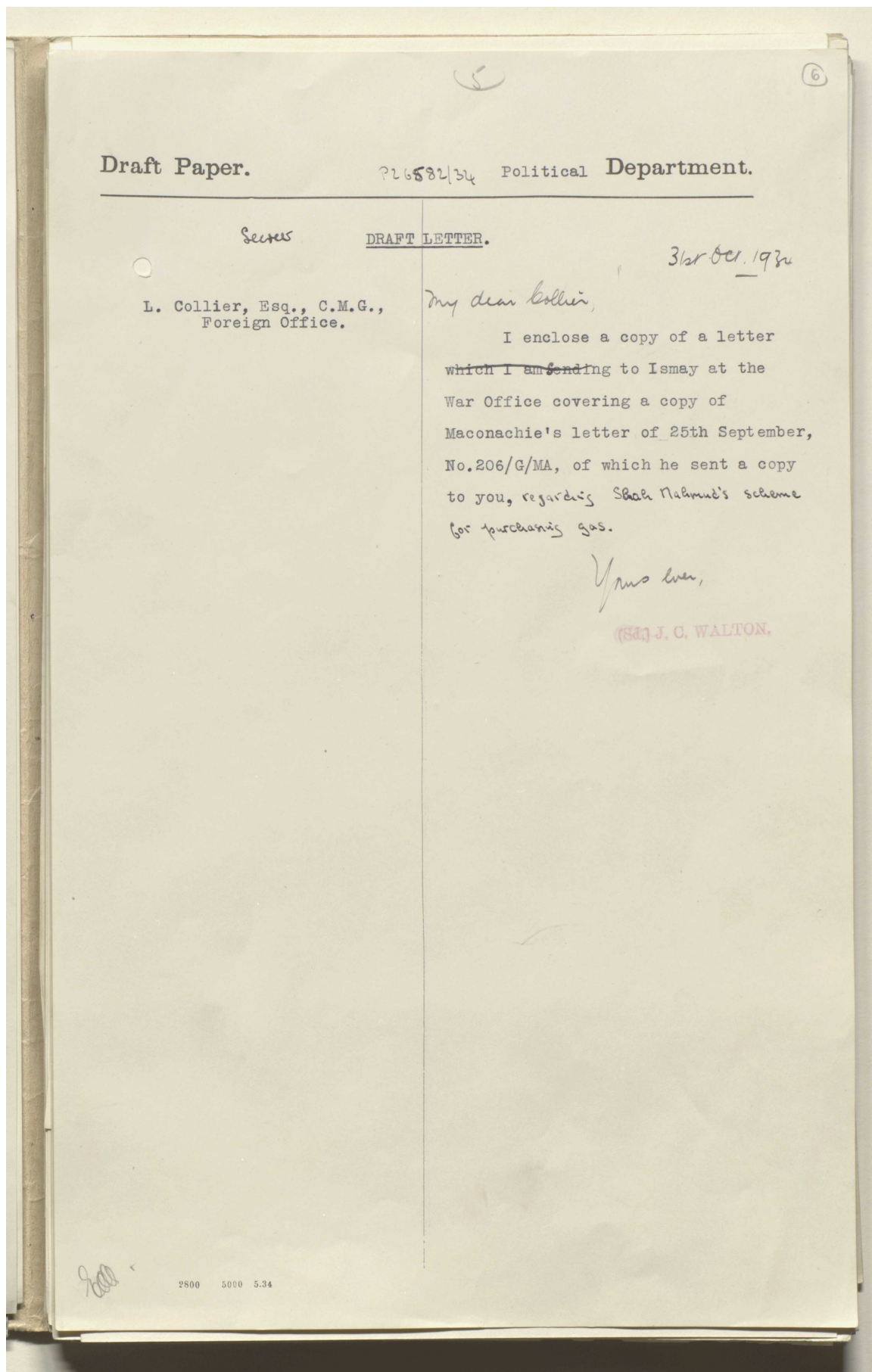
ENCLOSURE " " LETTER
No. 45 -8 NOV 1934
FROM SECRETARY OF STATE AND
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OFFICE

COPY SENT TO Kahl

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [5v] (10/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [6r] (11/118)



Draft Paper.

PLG 582/34 Political Department.

Secret

DRAFT LETTER.

31st Oct. 1932

L. Collier, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office.

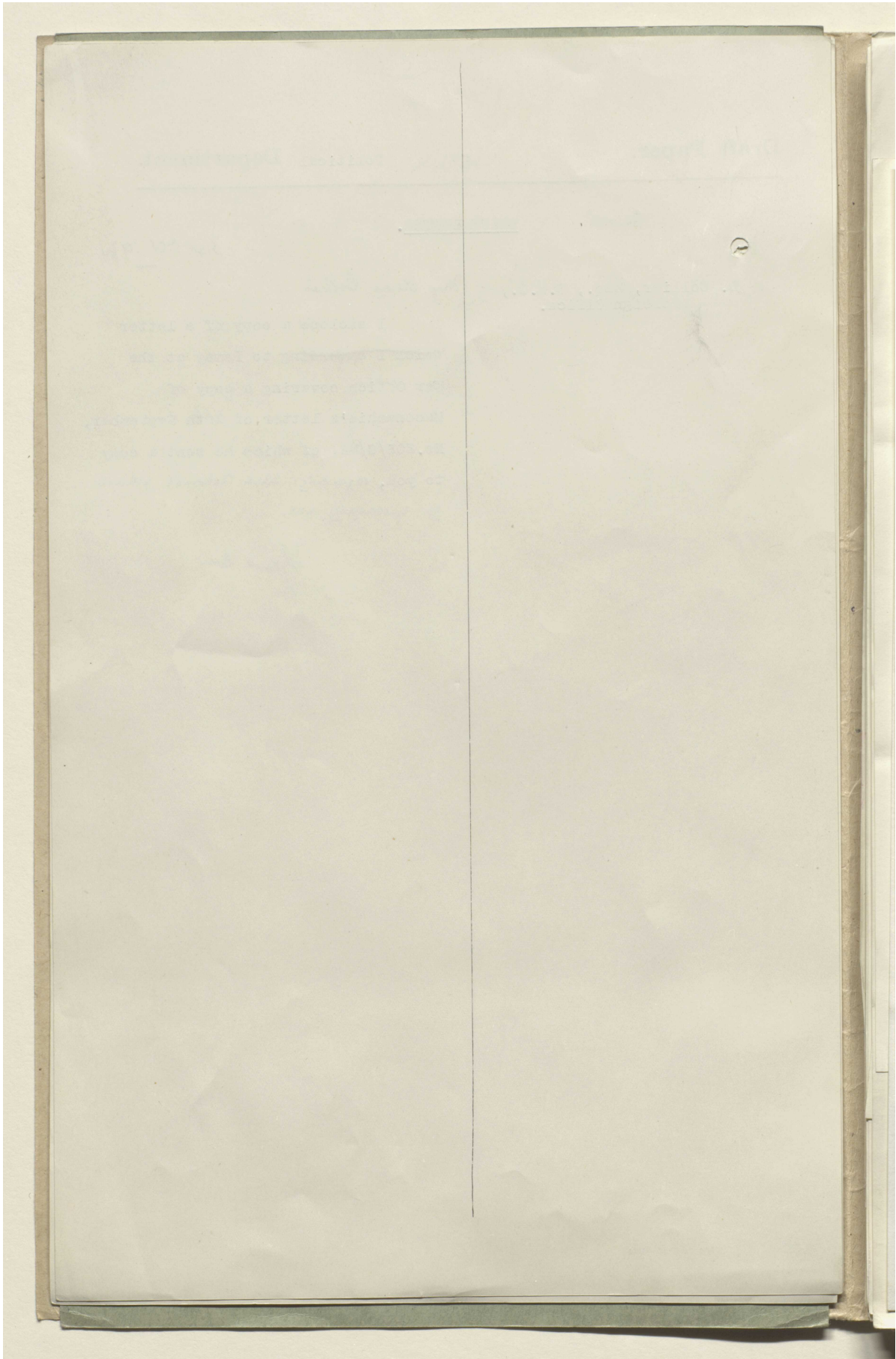
My dear Collier,

I enclose a copy of a letter which I am sending to Ismay at the War Office covering a copy of Maconachie's letter of 25th September, No. 206/G/MA, of which he sent a copy to you, regarding Shahi Mahmud's scheme for purchasing gas.

Yours ever,

(SA) J. C. WALTON.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [6v] (12/118)



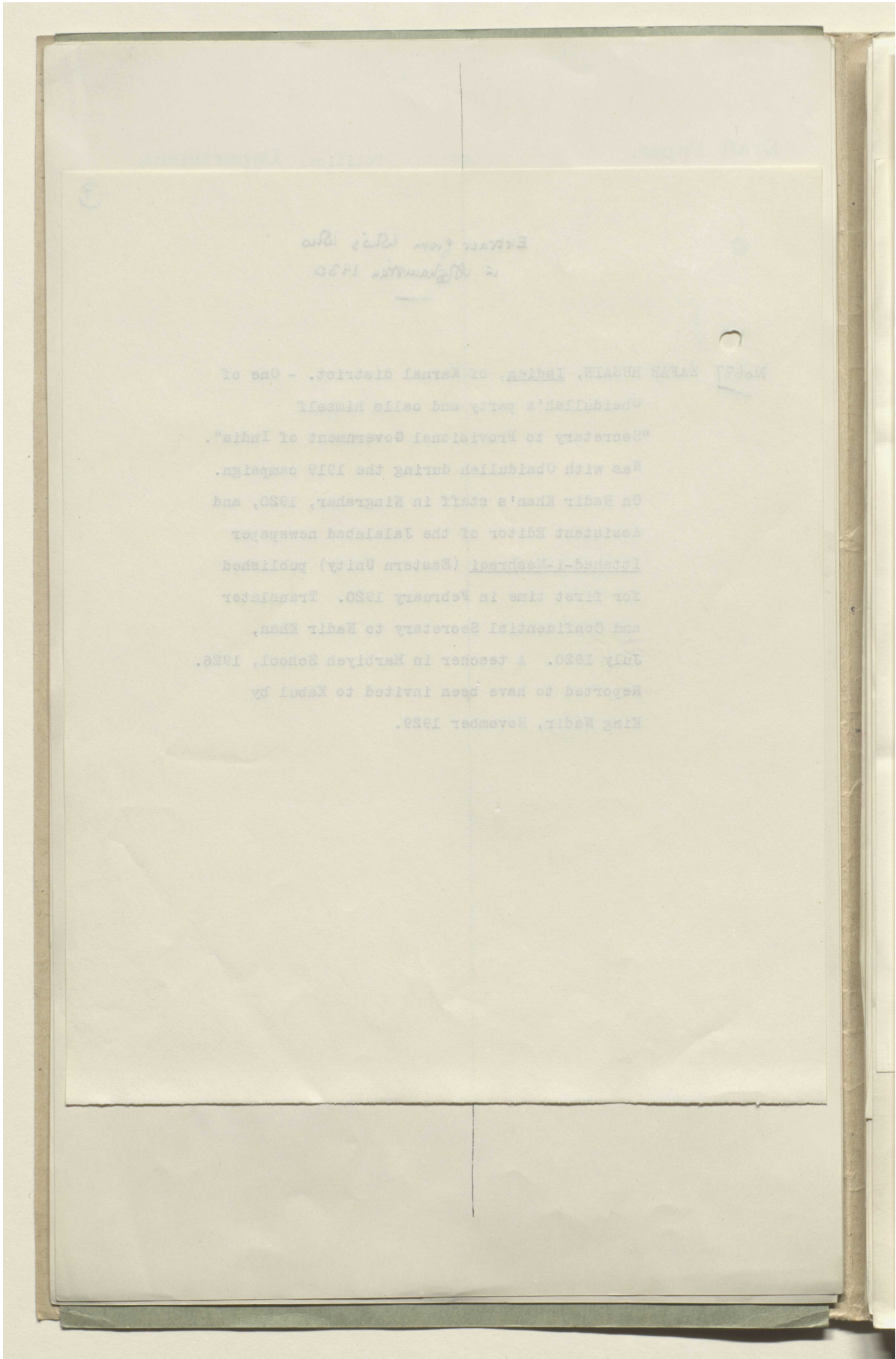
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [7r] (13/118)

Extract from Who's Who
in Afghanistan 1930

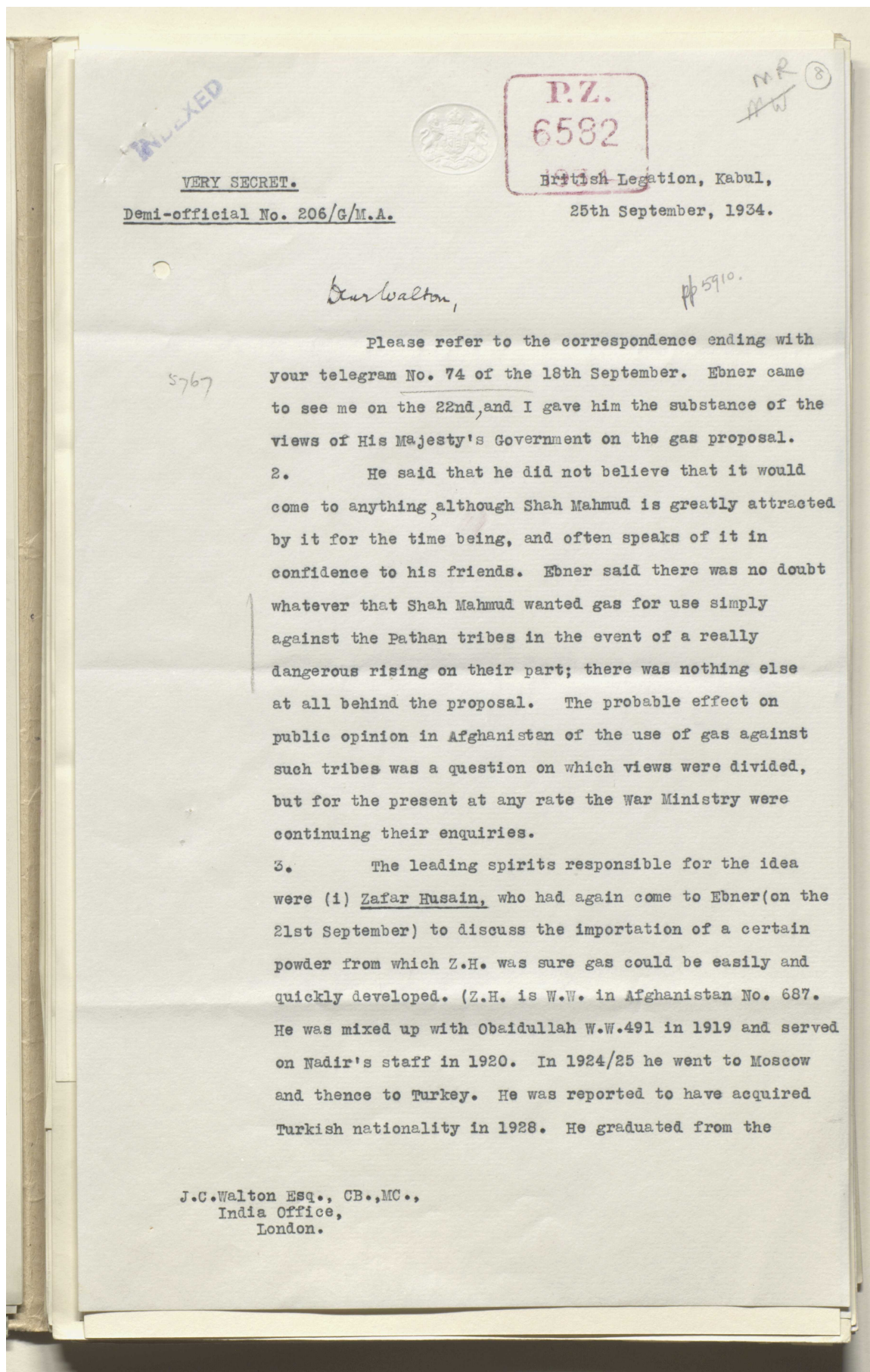
7

0
No 687 ZAFAR HUSAIN, Indian, of Karnal district. - One of Obaidullah's party and calls himself "Secretary to Provisional Government of India". Was with Obaidullah during the 1919 campaign. On Nadir Khan's staff in Ningrahar, 1920, and Assistant Editor of the Jalalabad newspaper Ittihad-i-Mashraqi (Eastern Unity) published for first time in February 1920. Translator and Confidential Secretary to Nadir Khan, July 1920. A teacher in Harbiyeh School, 1926. Reported to have been invited to Kabul by King Nadir, November 1929.

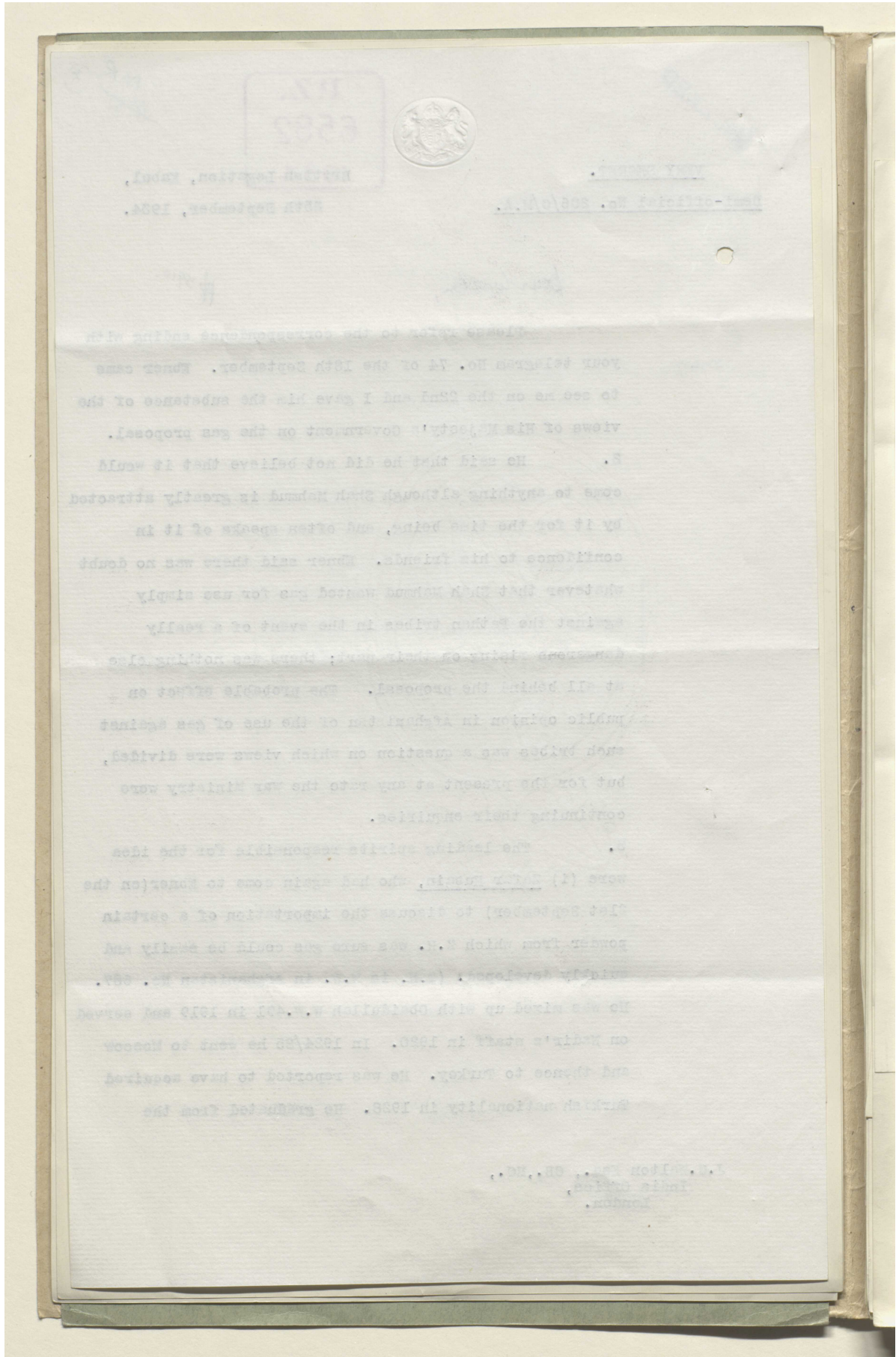
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [7v] (14/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [8r] (15/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [8v] (16/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [9r] (17/118)



-2-

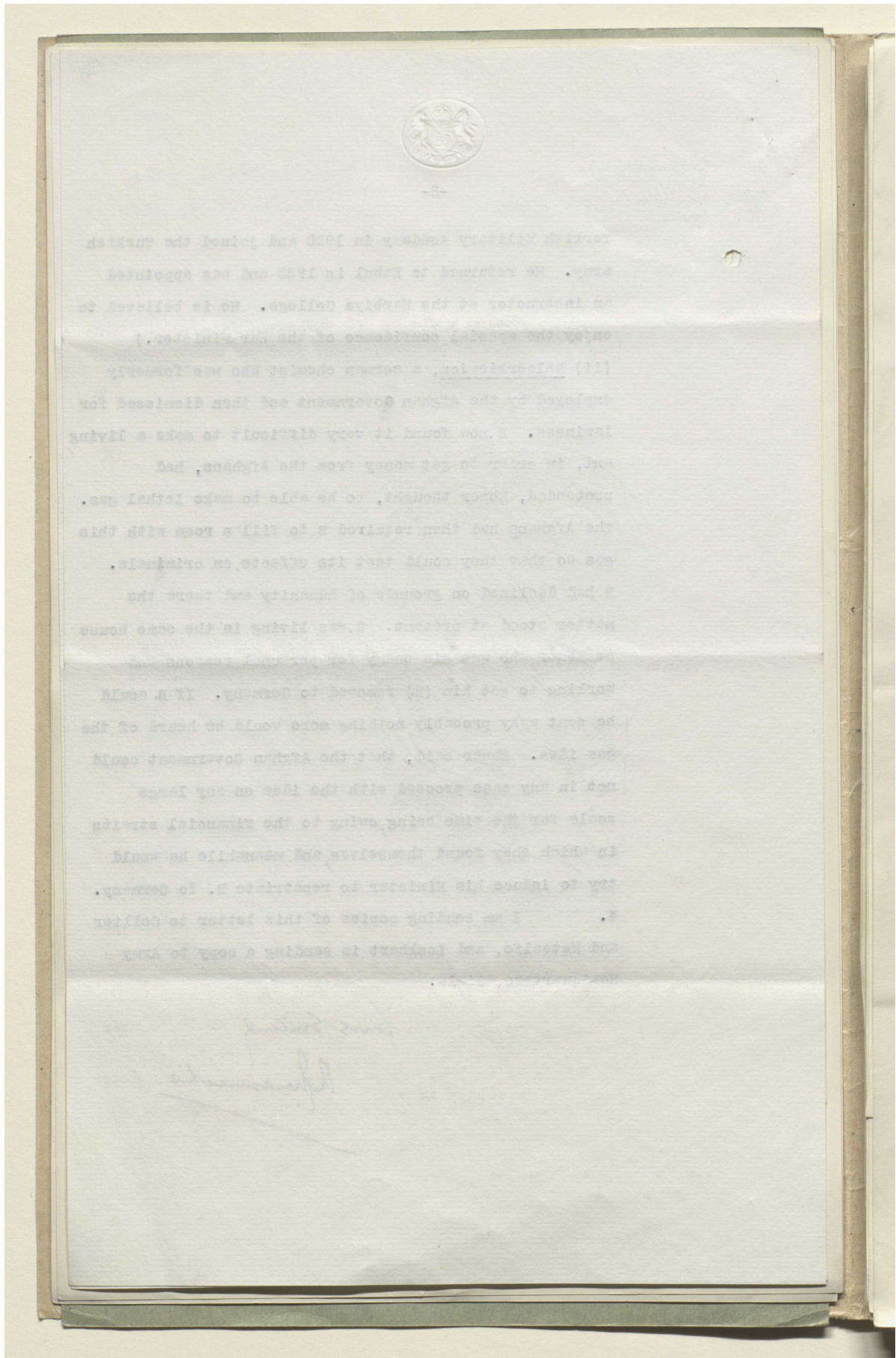
Turkish Military Academy in 1930 and joined the Turkish army. He returned to Kabul in 1933 and was appointed an instructor at the Harbiya College. He is believed to enjoy the special confidence of the War Minister.)

(ii) Balcerkiewicz, a German chemist who was formerly employed by the Afghan Government and then dismissed for laziness. B. now found it very difficult to make a living and, in order to get money from the Afghans, had pretended, Ebner thought, to be able to make lethal gas. The Afghans had then required B. to fill a room with this gas so that they could test its effects on criminals. B. had declined on grounds of humanity and there the matter stood at present. B. was living in the same house as Ebner, who was his enemy for personal reasons and working to get him (B.) removed to Germany. If B. could be sent away probably nothing more would be heard of the gas idea. Ebner said, that the Afghan Government could not in any case proceed with the idea on any large scale for the time being, owing to the financial straits in which they found themselves, and meanwhile he would try to induce his Minister to repatriate B. to Germany.

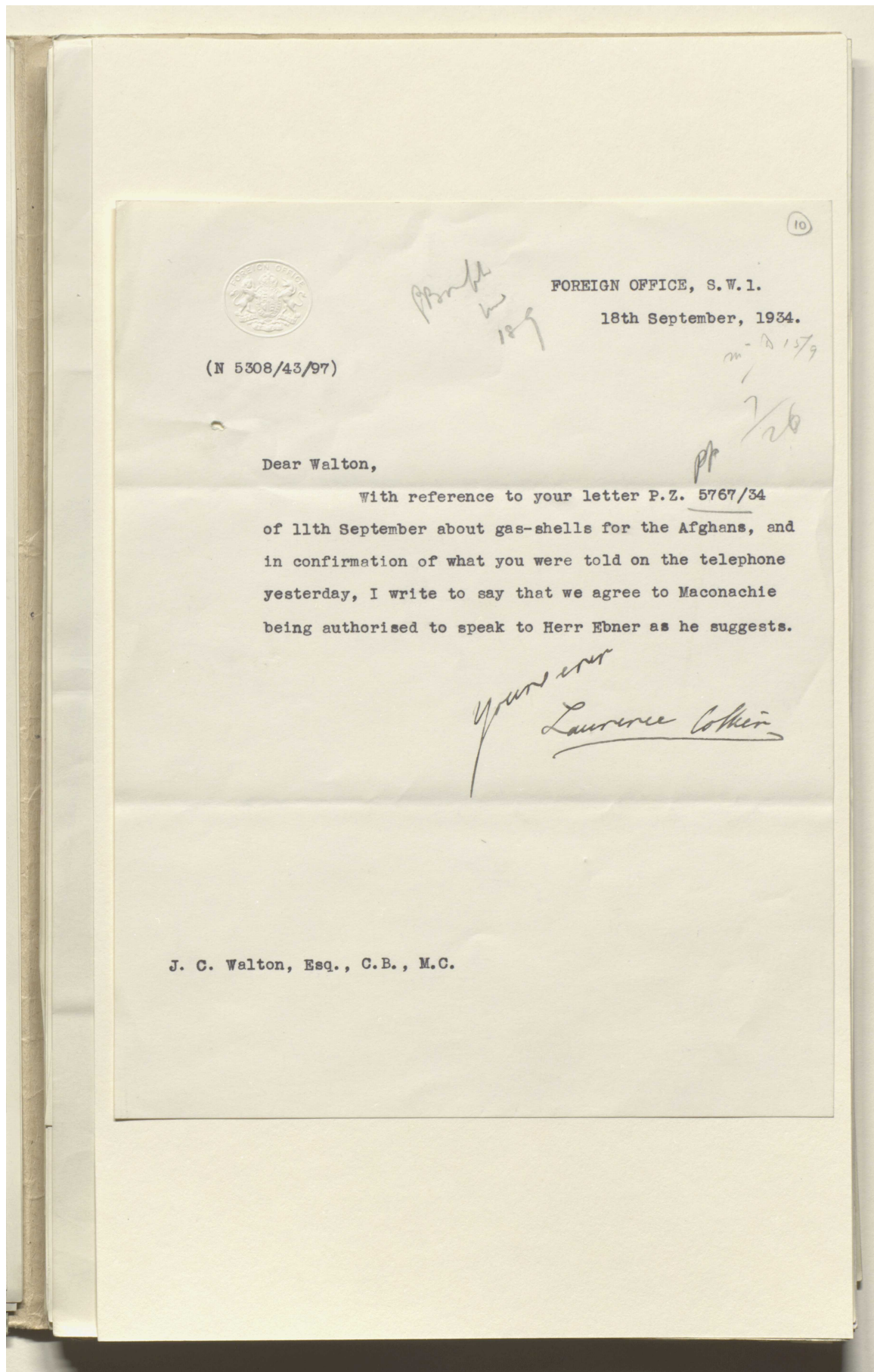
4. I am sending copies of this letter to Collier and Metcalfe, and Lockhart is sending a copy to Army Headquarters, Simla.

Louis Simla
R. J. Macdonald

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [9v] (18/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [10r] (19/118)



(N 5308/43/97)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

18th September, 1934.

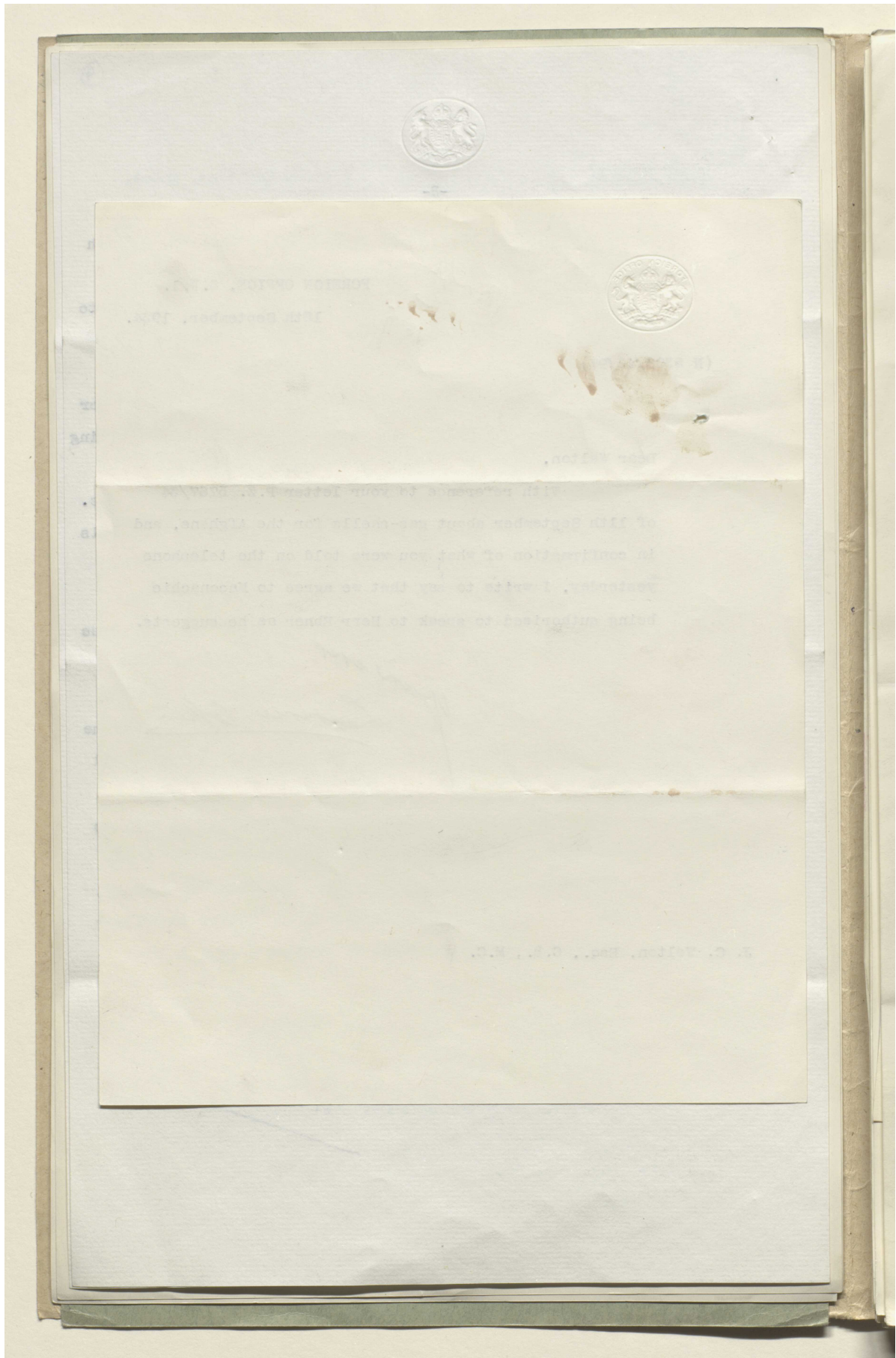
Dear Walton,

With reference to your letter P.Z. 5767/34 of 11th September about gas-shells for the Afghans, and in confirmation of what you were told on the telephone yesterday, I write to say that we agree to Maconachie being authorised to speak to Herr Ebner as he suggests.

Your ever
Lawrence Collier

J. C. Walton, Esq., C.B., M.C.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [10v] (20/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [11r] (21/118)

①

DRAFT TELEGRAM.

#5 pms
1 Blue
PZ 5767/34

SECRETARY OF STATE *WFA*

TO
HM Minister Kabul *74* Katodon 98 Walton to
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, FOREIGN AND *Maconachie - Metcalfe. Gas.*
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT. *Have considered War Office & Foreign Office. There is no*
2. No objection to your
proposal if Govt. agree.

(Retamilla)

From: Ka
Peshawar

Alpha xxx

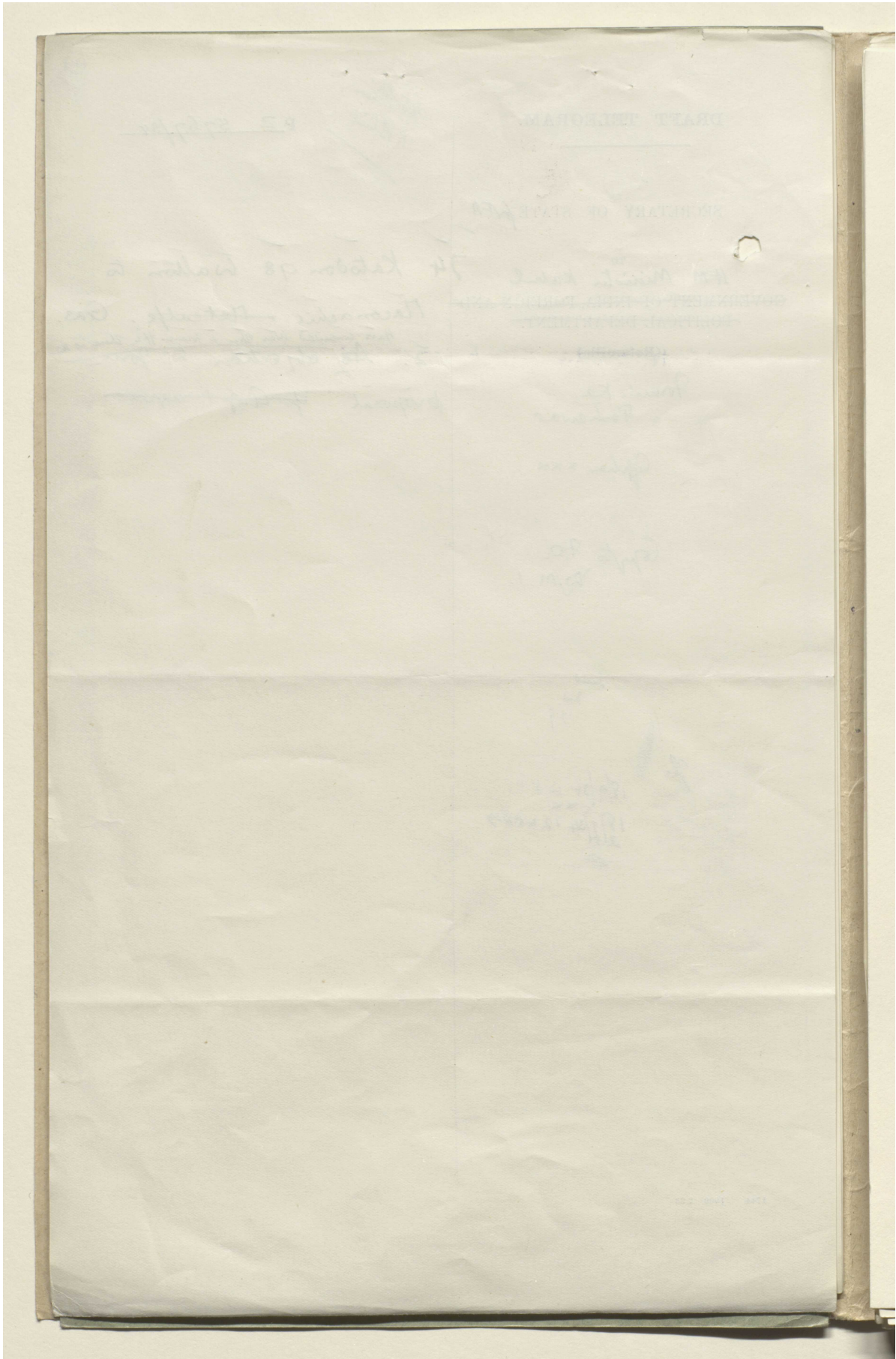
Copy to *70*
W.M.I.

*Send
has
179*

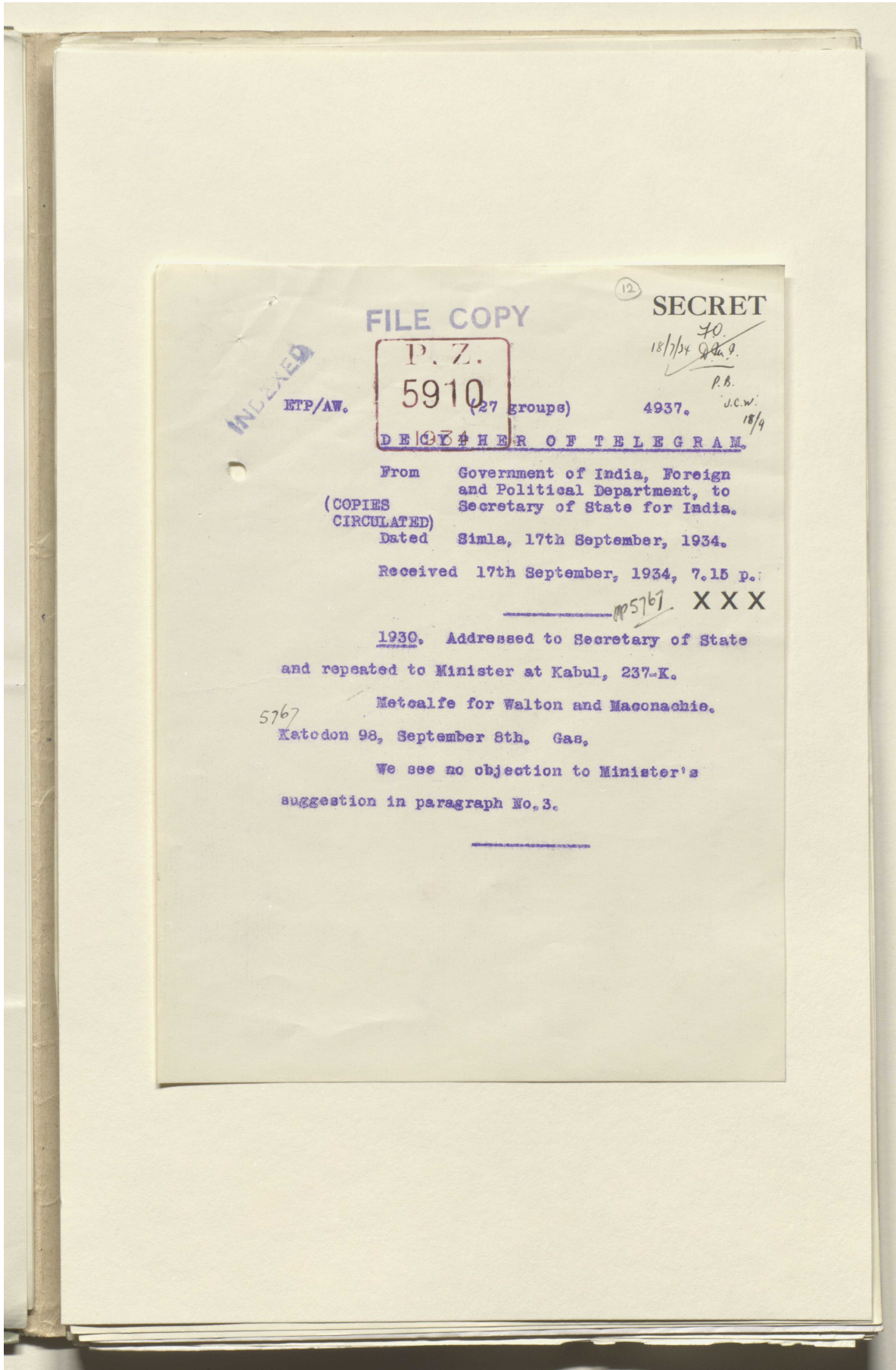
SEEN BY <i>P.</i>	DATE	TIME
RFCD IN TEL. BCH.	<i>18/9/34</i>	<i>12.5 PM</i>
CODE, X or XX	<i>XX</i>	
DESPATCHED	<i>18/9/34</i>	<i>12.25 PM</i>
NO. OF WORDS	<i>25</i>	
SENDER'S INITIALS	<i>P.</i>	

1744 1000 333

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [11v] (22/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [12r] (23/118)



FILE COPY

12
SECRET

P. Z.

5910

(27 groups)

4937.

DEPARTMENT OF TELEGRAM

INDEXED

ETP/AW.

(COPIES
CIRCULATED)

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

Dated Simla, 17th September, 1934.

Received 17th September, 1934, 7.15 p.m.

XXX

1930. Addressed to Secretary of State

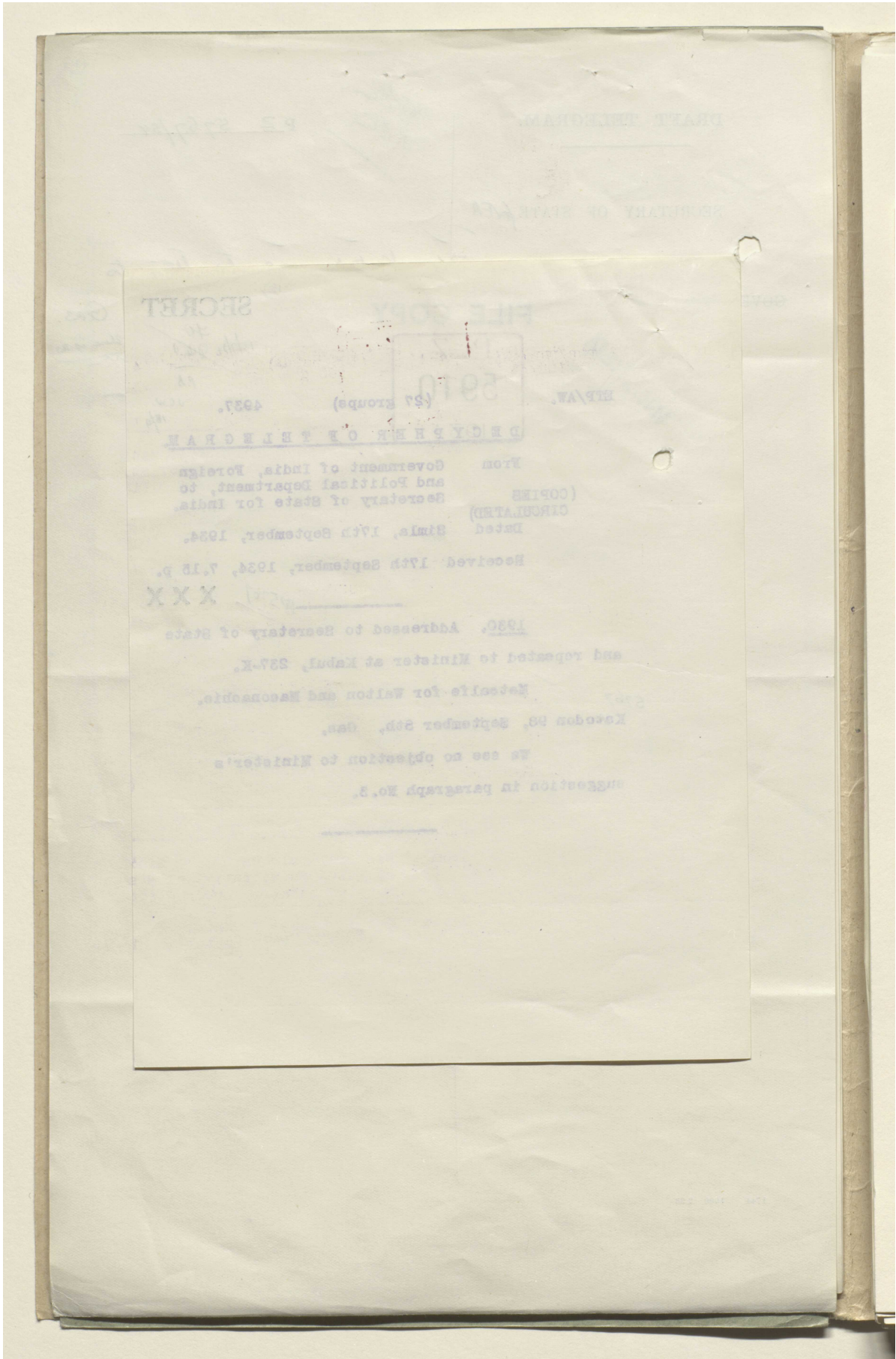
and repeated to Minister at Kabul, 237-K.

Metcalf for Walton and Macdonachie.

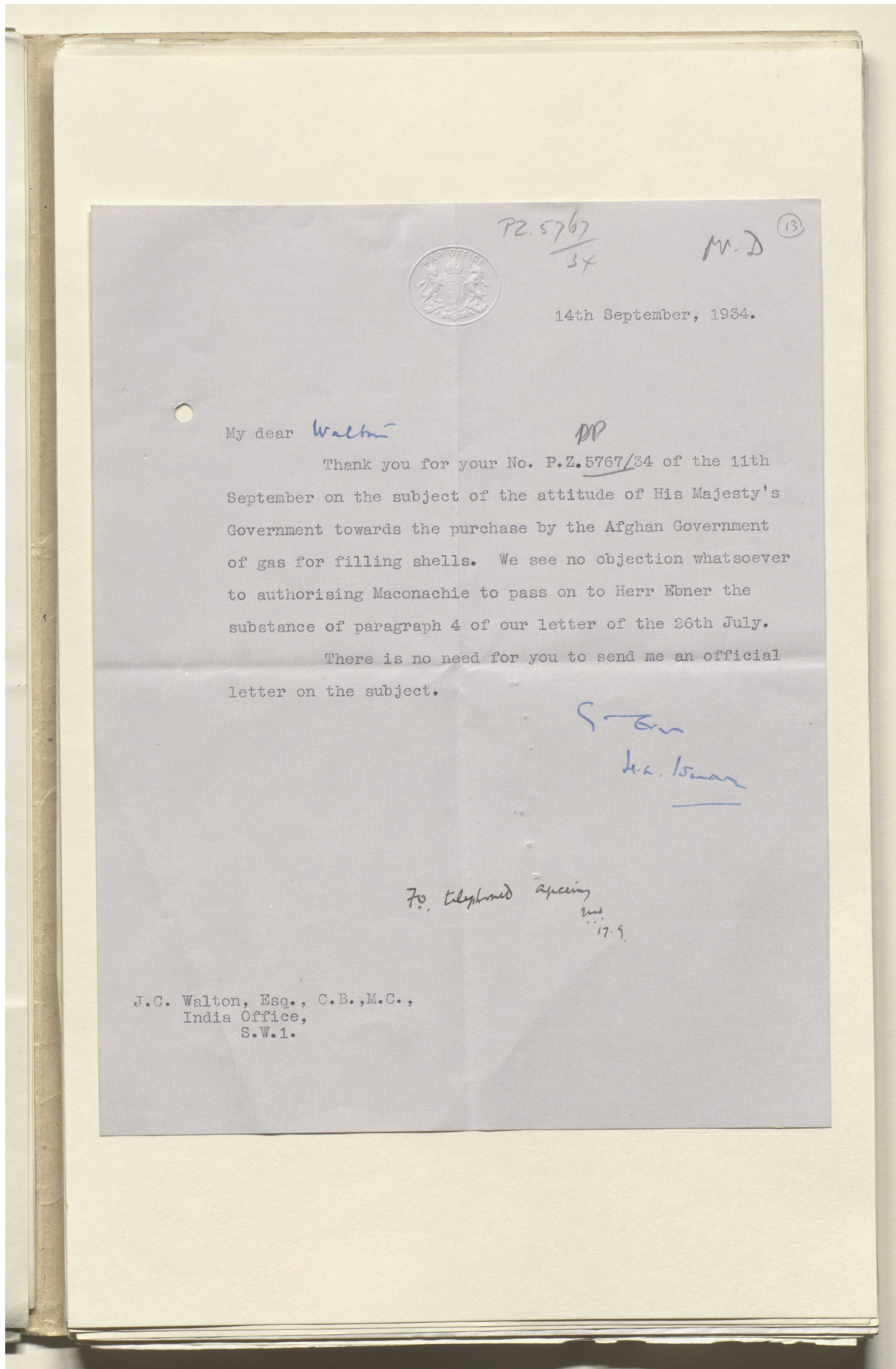
5767
Katonon 98, September 8th. Gas.

We see no objection to Minister's
suggestion in paragraph No. 3.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [12v] (24/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [13r] (25/118)



PZ. 5767/34 M.D. (13)



14th September, 1934.

My dear *Walton*

PP

Thank you for your No. P.Z. 5767/34 of the 11th September on the subject of the attitude of His Majesty's Government towards the purchase by the Afghan Government of gas for filling shells. We see no objection whatsoever to authorising Maconachie to pass on to Herr Ebner the substance of paragraph 4 of our letter of the 26th July.

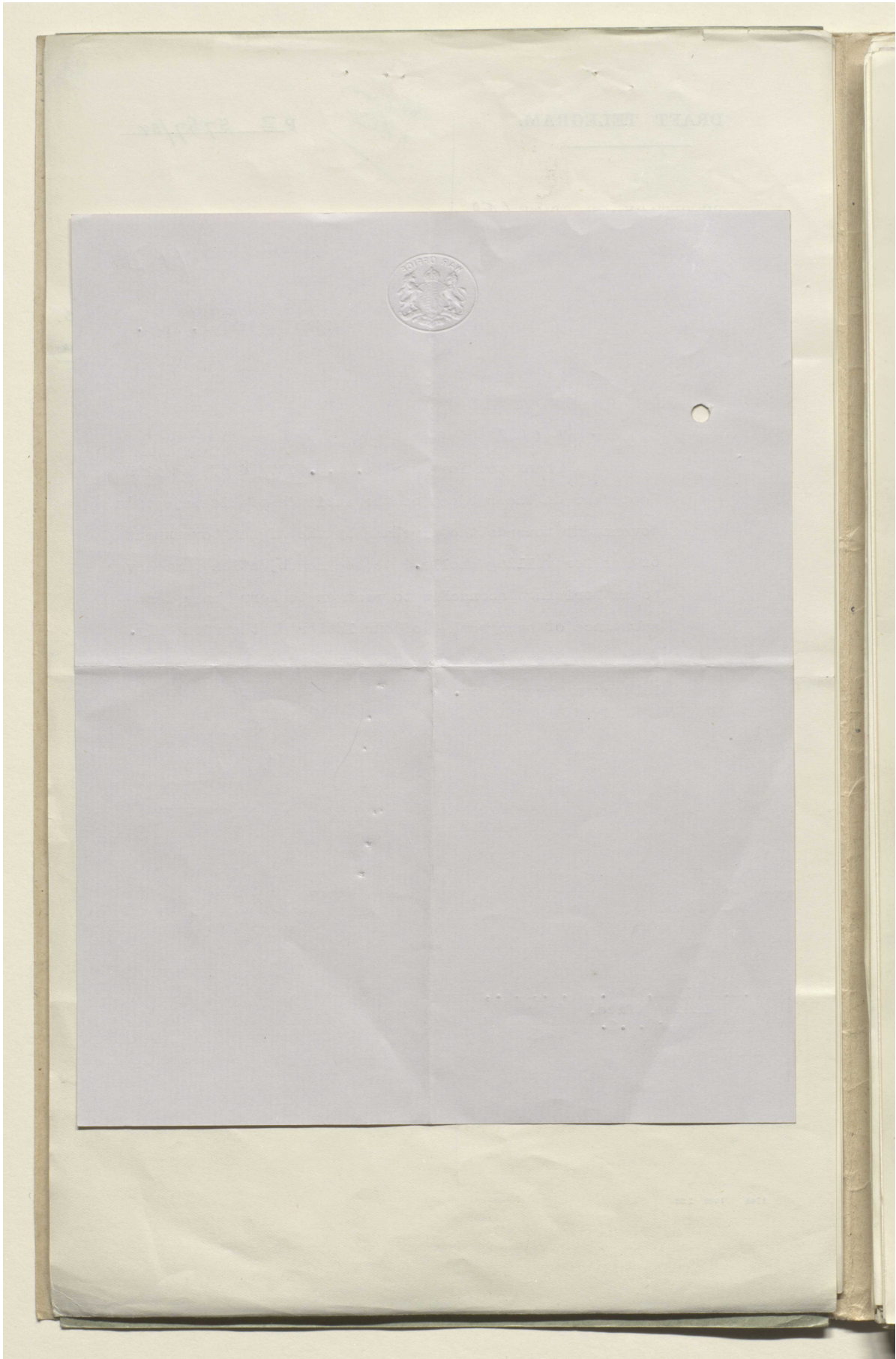
There is no need for you to send me an official letter on the subject.

H.A. Isman

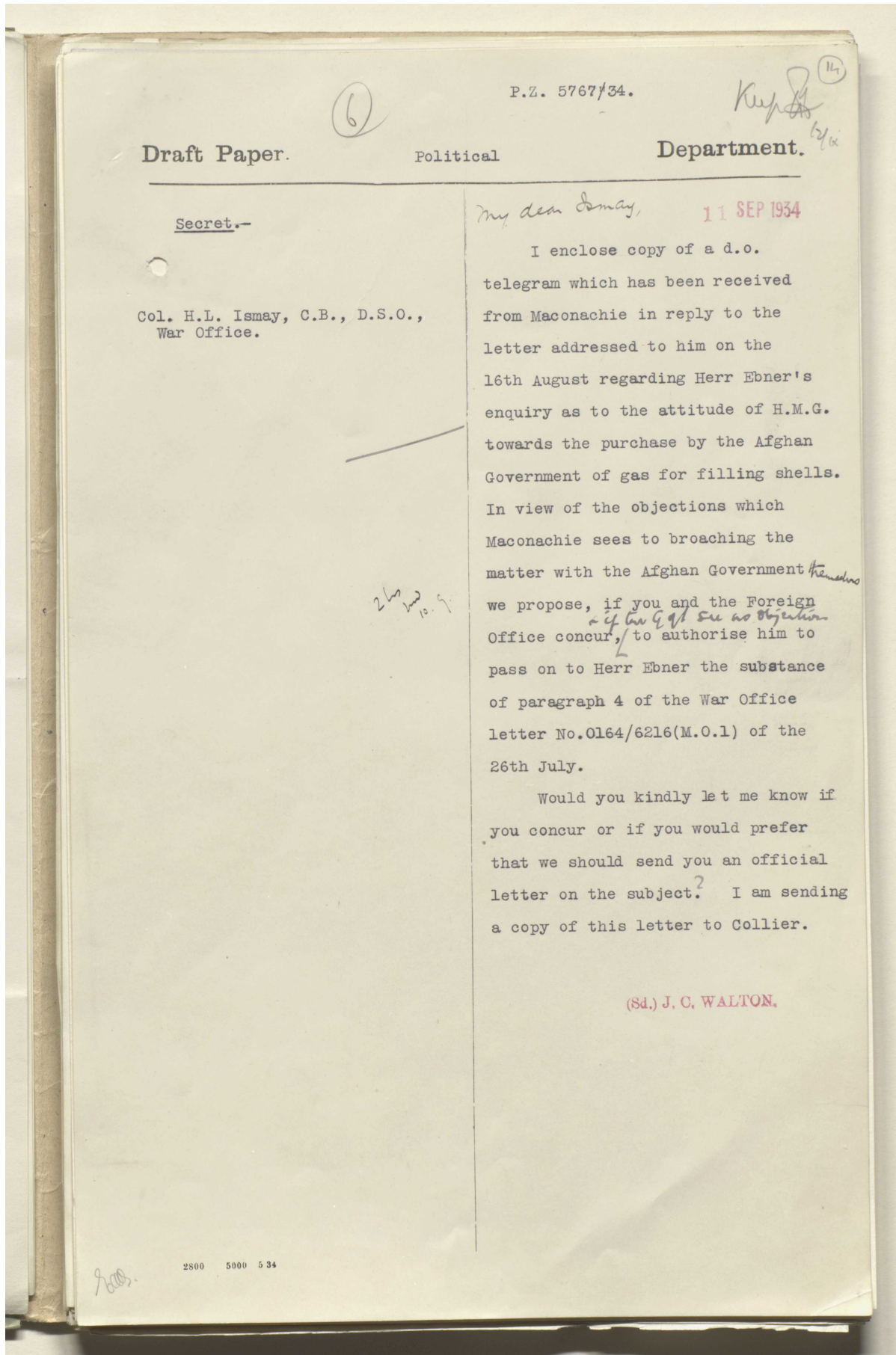
To telephoned speaking ... 17.9.

J.C. Walton, Esq., C.B., M.C.,
India Office,
S.W.1.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [13v] (26/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [14r] (27/118)



P.Z. 5767/34.

⑥
Draft Paper.

Political

Department. ¹¹⁴
Kup

Secret.-

Col. H.L. Ismay, C.B., D.S.O.,
War Office.

My dear Ismay,

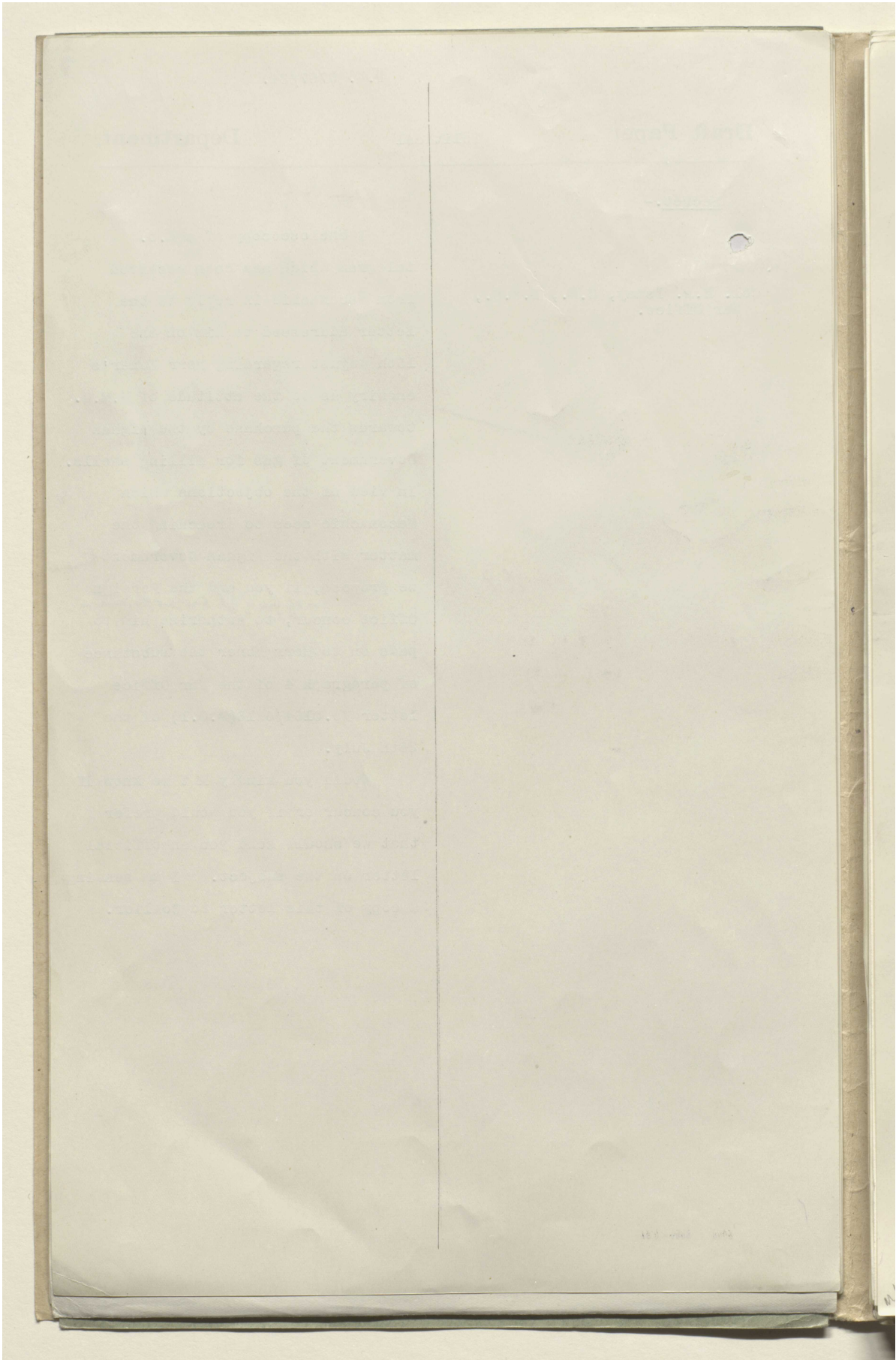
11 SEP 1934

I enclose copy of a d.o. telegram which has been received from Maconachie in reply to the letter addressed to him on the 16th August regarding Herr Ebner's enquiry as to the attitude of H.M.G. towards the purchase by the Afghan Government of gas for filling shells. In view of the objections which Maconachie sees to broaching the matter with the Afghan Government ^{themselves} we propose, if you and the Foreign Office concur, ^{if the Govt see no objection} to authorise him to pass on to Herr Ebner the substance of paragraph 4 of the War Office letter No.0164/6216(M.O.1) of the 26th July.

Would you kindly let me know if you concur or if you would prefer that we should send you an official letter on the subject? I am sending a copy of this letter to Collier.

(Sd.) J. C. WALTON.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [14v] (28/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [15r] (29/118)

(15)

(6) P.Z. 5767/34.

Draft Paper. Political **Department.**

Secret.

L. Collier, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office.

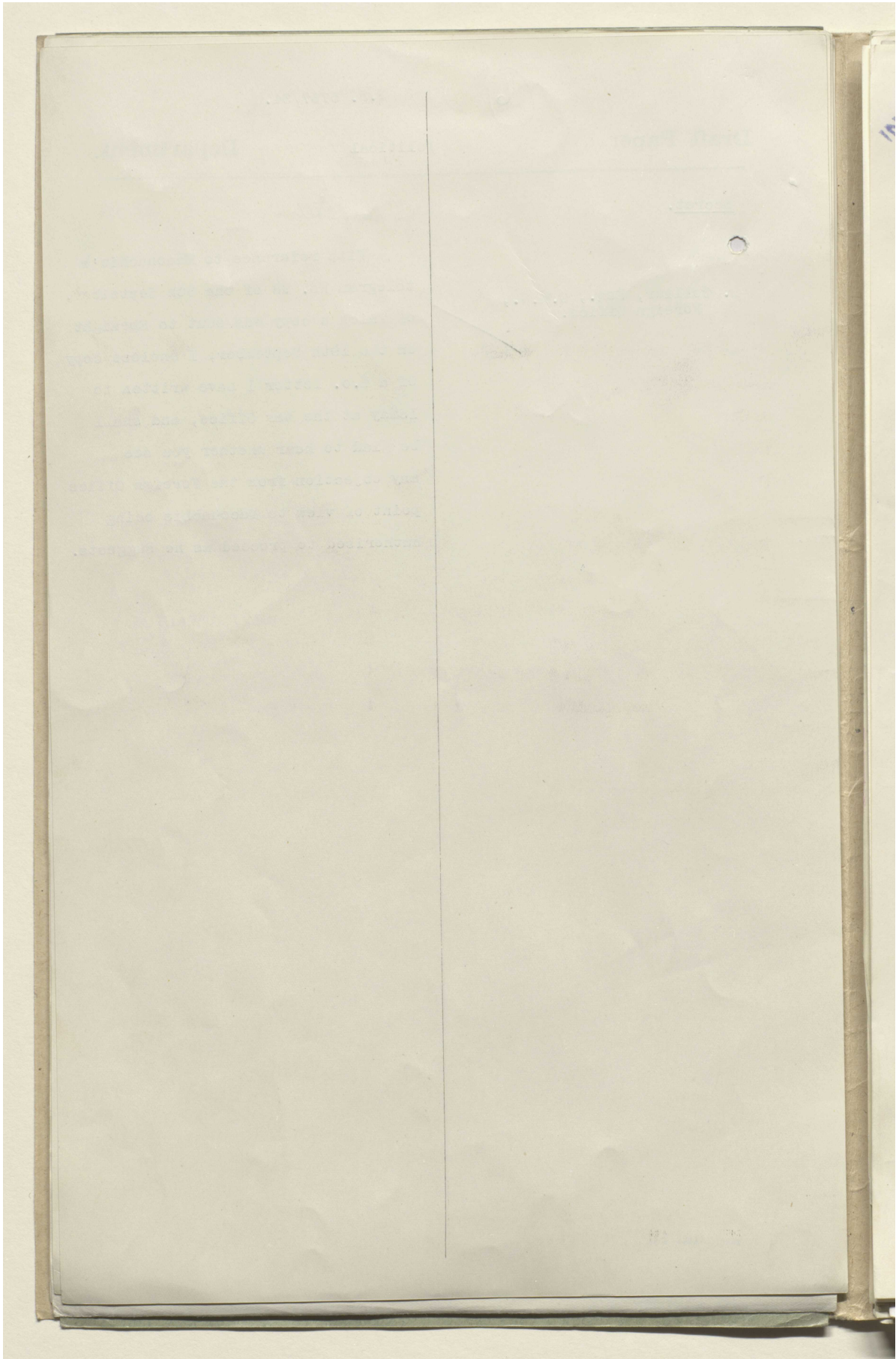
My dear Collier 11 SEP 1934

With reference to Maconachie's telegram No. 98 of the 8th September, of which a copy was sent to Speaight on the 10th September, I enclose copy of a d.o. letter I have written to Ismay at the War Office, and shall be glad to hear whether you see any objection from the Foreign Office point of view to Maconachie being authorised to proceed as he suggests.

(Sd.) J. C. WALTON.

2800 5000 534

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [15v] (30/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [16r] (31/118)

INDEXED

FILE COPY

SECRET

P. Z.
5767
1934

m. Speight (70.)
10/9/34
MD

FRE/LJS/MM.

(89 groups.)

4795.

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

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

Dated Kabul, 8th September, 1934.

Received 4.45 p.m., 8th September, 1934.

XXX

MP 4898

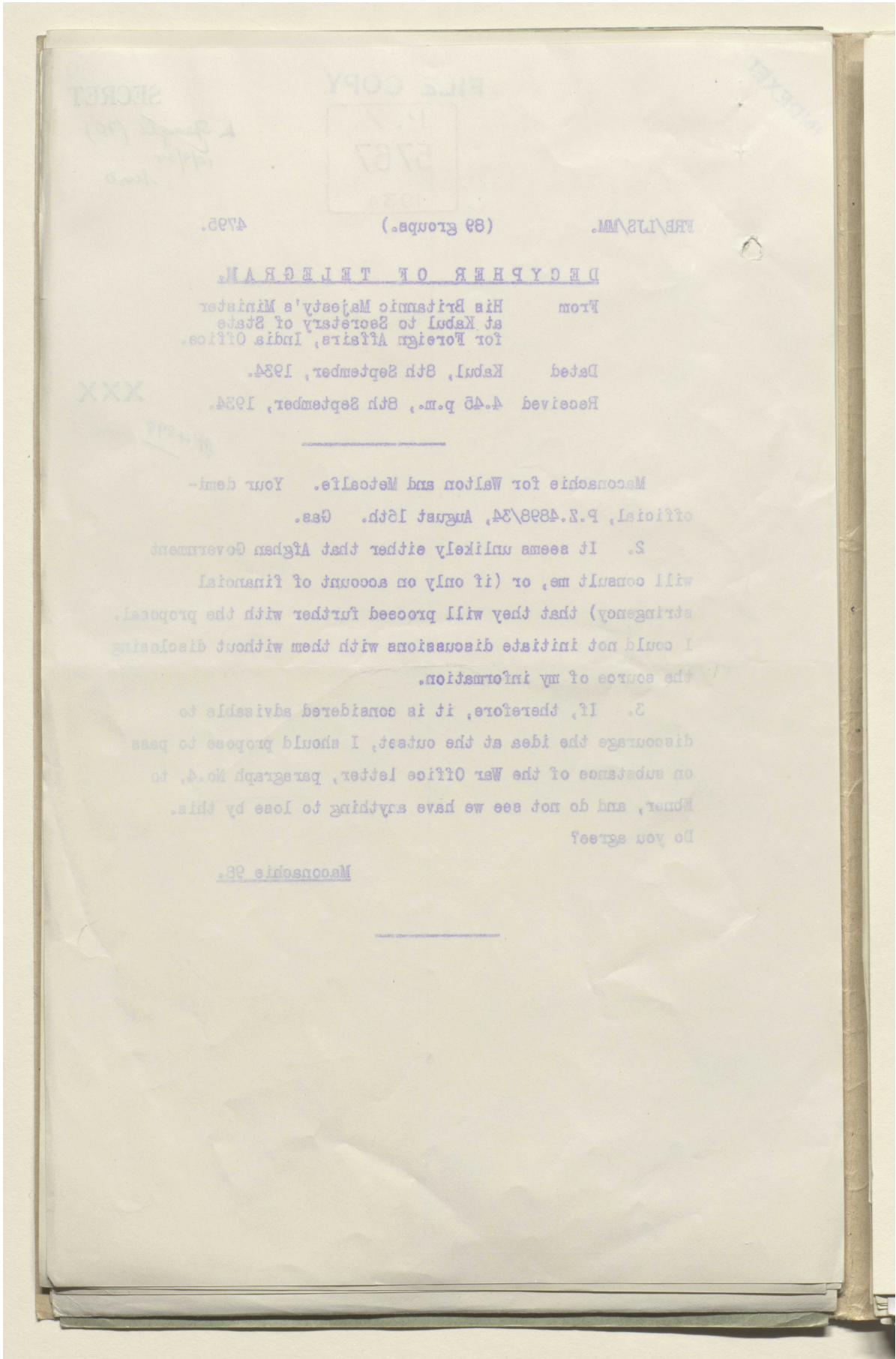
Maconachie for Walton and Metcalfe. Your demi-official, P.Z.4898/34, August 16th. Gas.

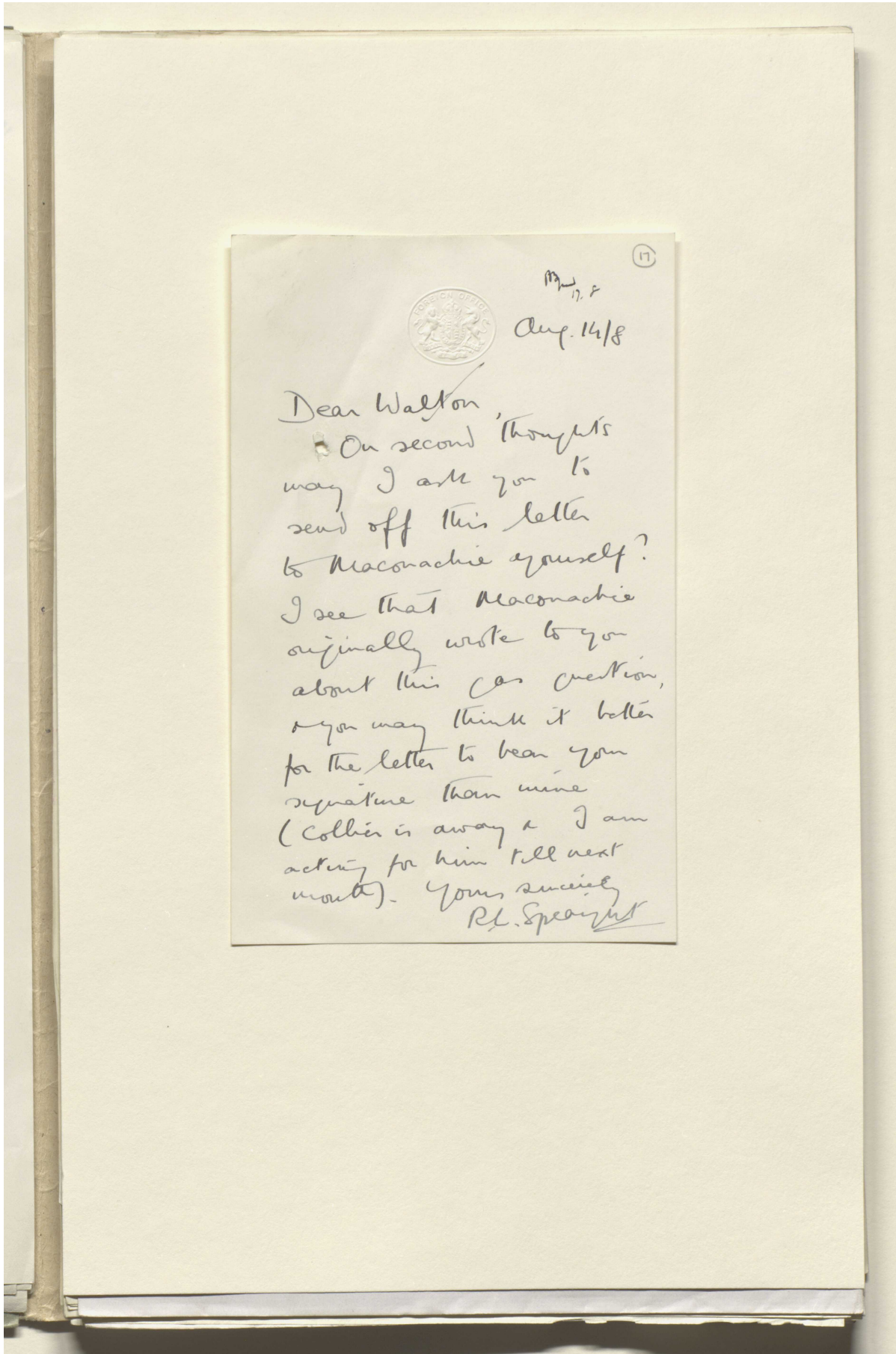
2. It seems unlikely either that Afghan Government will consult me, or (if only on account of financial stringency) that they will proceed further with the proposal. I could not initiate discussions with them without disclosing the source of my information.

3. If, therefore, it is considered advisable to discourage the idea at the outset, I should propose to pass on substance of the War Office letter, paragraph No.4, to Ebner, and do not see we have anything to lose by this. Do you agree?

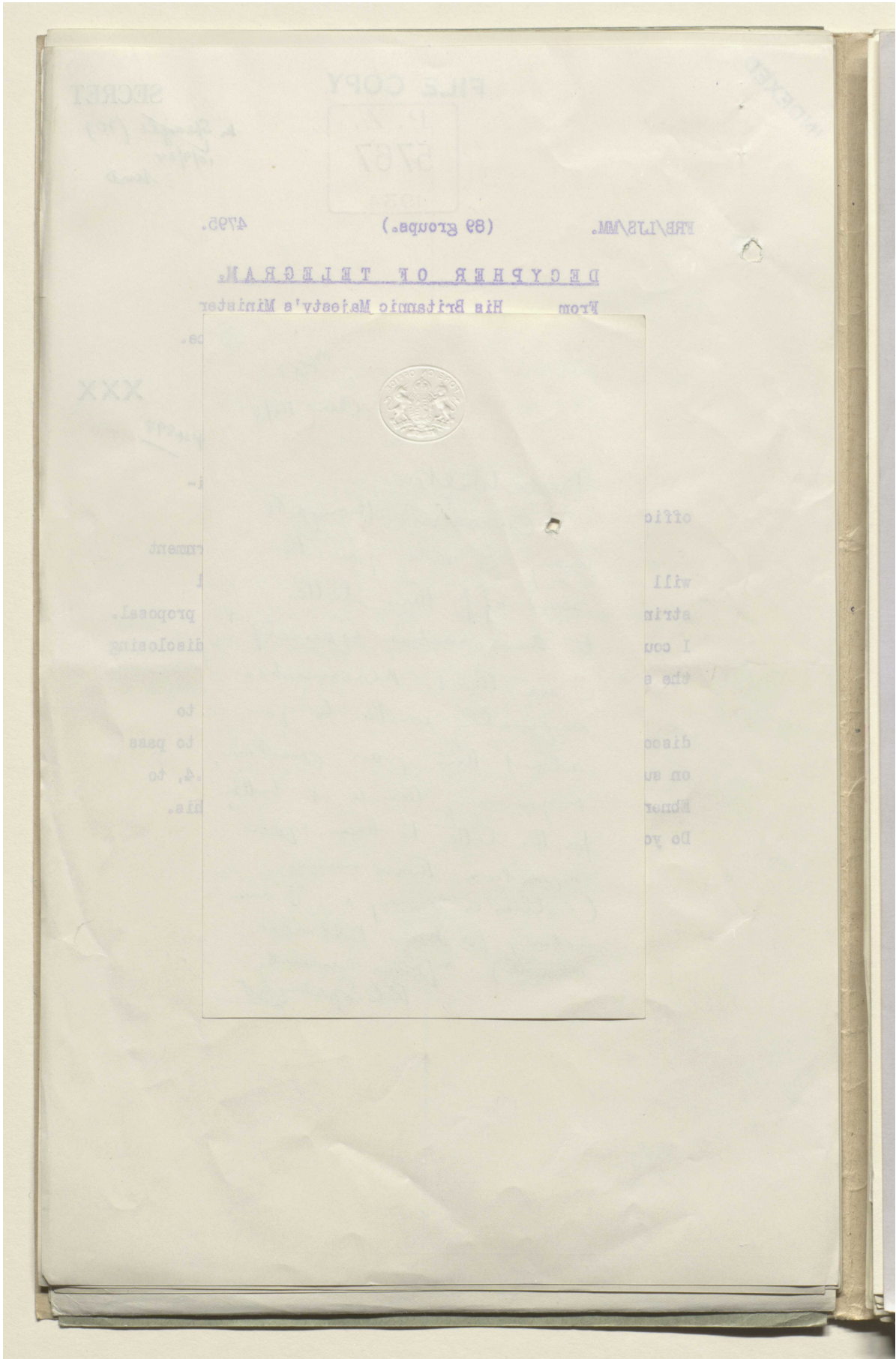
Maconachie 98.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [16v] (32/118)





Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [17v] (34/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [18r] (35/118)

(18)

Register No. P. Z. 4898/34.	SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
--	--

Letter from _____ Dated _____ 19 .
 Telegram Rec. _____

Formally acknowledged _____

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Chairman..... Under Secretary Secretary of State... Committee..... Under Secretary.... Secretary of State....	8.8.	[Handwritten initials]	<u>AFGHANISTAN:</u> Enquiry by Herr Ebner as to the attitude of H.M.G. towards purchase of gas shells by the Afghan Government.

Northern Dept., F.O. Copy of letter to [Handwritten] 70/110
 7.8 [Handwritten mark] 56 AUG 1934

FOR USE BY DEPARTMENTS ONLY.

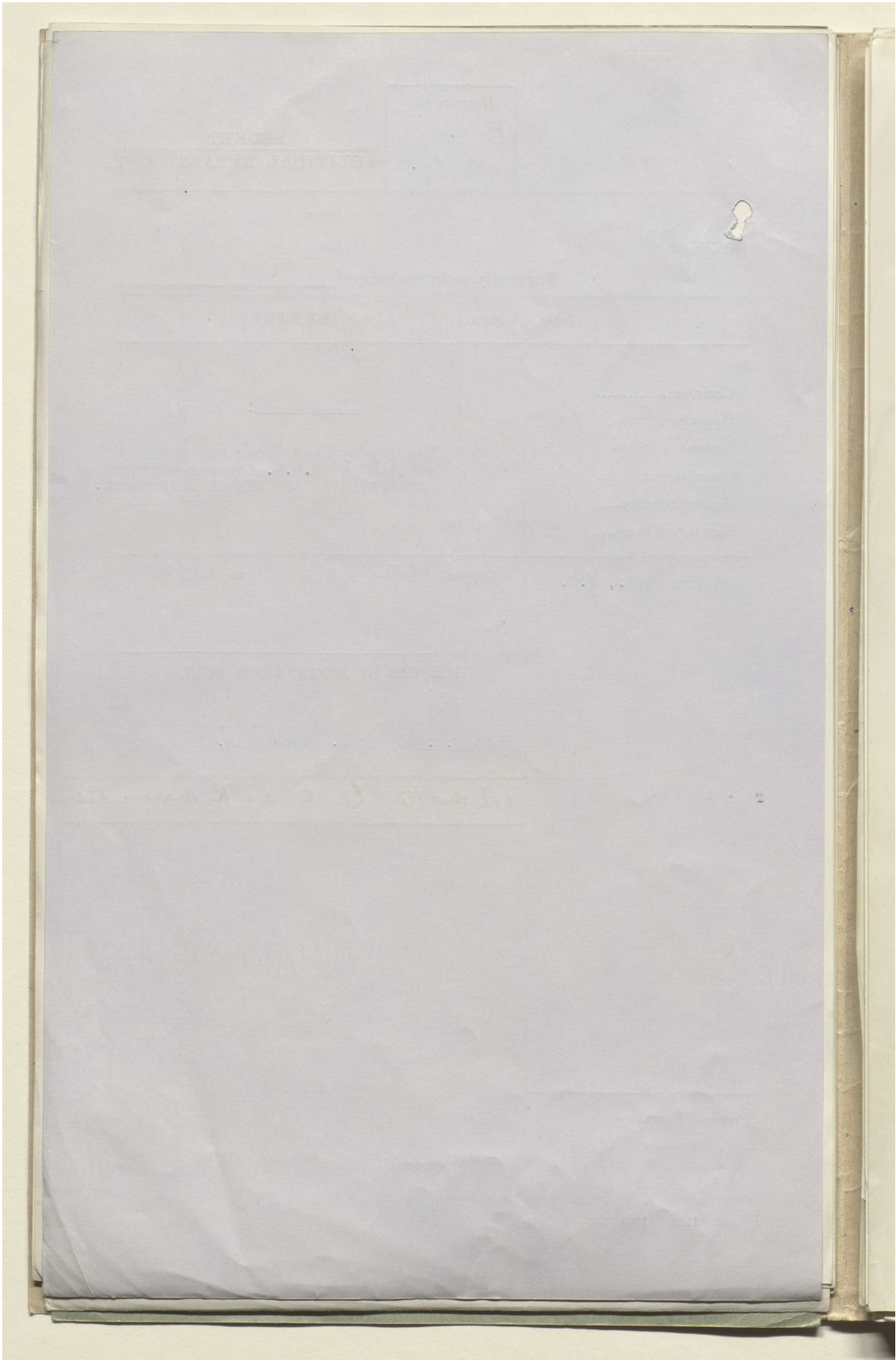
letter
 Draft d.o. to Sir R. Maconachie.

16th Aug 1934 Ltr to Sir R. Maconachie

Previous Papers :—

1140 1000 8.32

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [18v] (36/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [19r] (37/118)

19

P.Z. 4898/34.

Minute Paper.

Department.

Military Secretary,

Please see the noting on papers P.Z. 2871/34
the official letter to the W.O. of 6 July P.Z. 4400/34.
and ~~3921/34~~. The official reply from the War Office has
now been received, and, subject to your concurrence and
that of the Foreign Office, it is proposed to reply to
Sir R. Maconachie, suggesting that he should in the first
instance impress upon the Afghan Government the practical
difficulties, dangers and cost of the project, with a
view to discouraging them, if possible, from further
entertaining the idea.

It will be seen that the Army Council agree with
the Government of India and the Commander-in-Chief in
their view of this matter, ~~and~~ The line suggested in
paragraph 4 of the War Office letter seems to provide the
best means of approach as a start.

A draft d.o. letter to Sir R. Maconachie is
accordingly attached for the favour of your
observations.

J. D. Coleridge
1. viii. 34

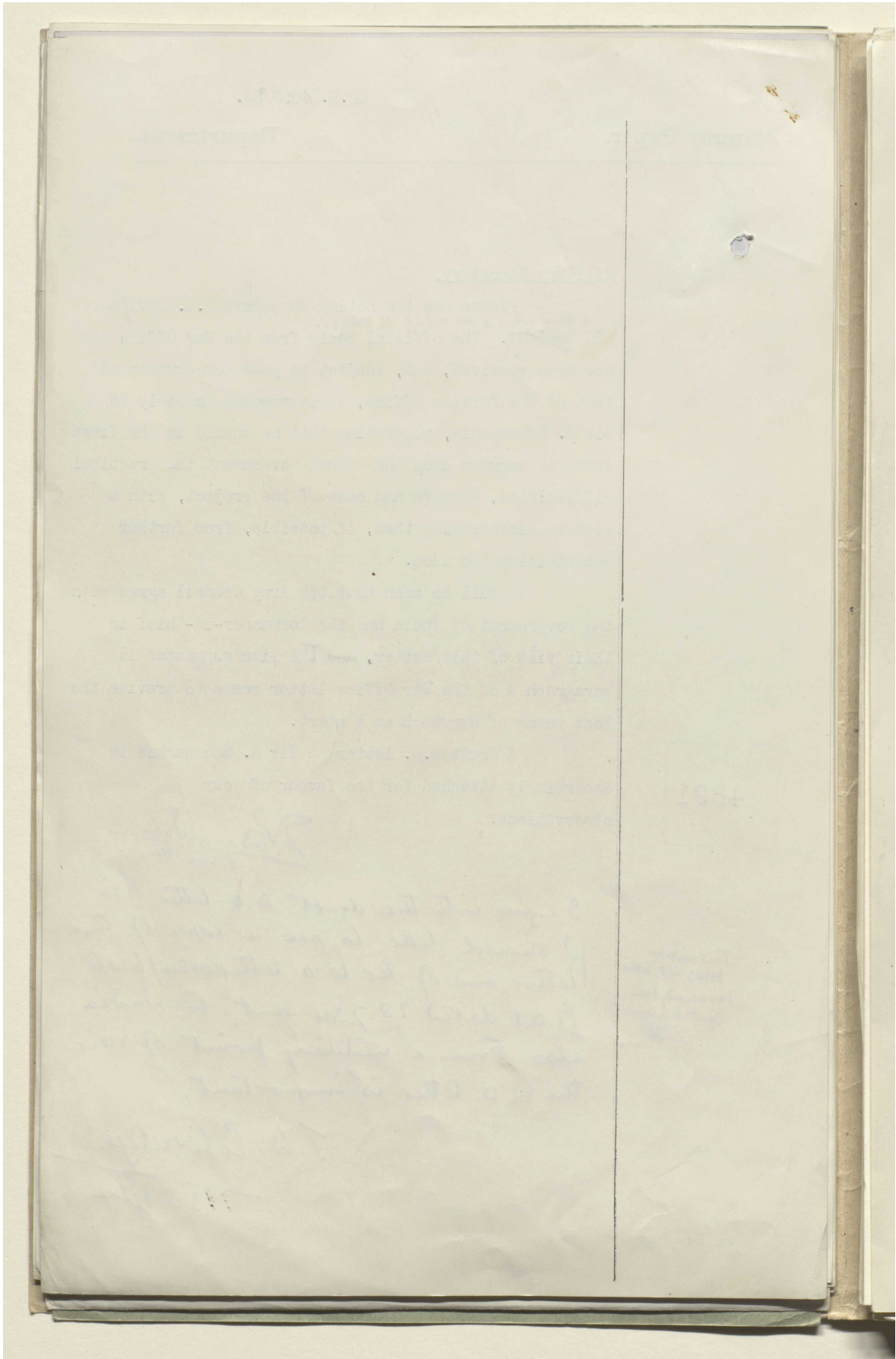
I agree with the draft d.o. letter.
I should like to see a copy of this
letter, and of the W.O. letter 0164/6216
M.O.1 dated 28.7.34 sent to India
also. From a military point of view
the W.O. letter is important.

J. D. Coleridge.
3.8.1934

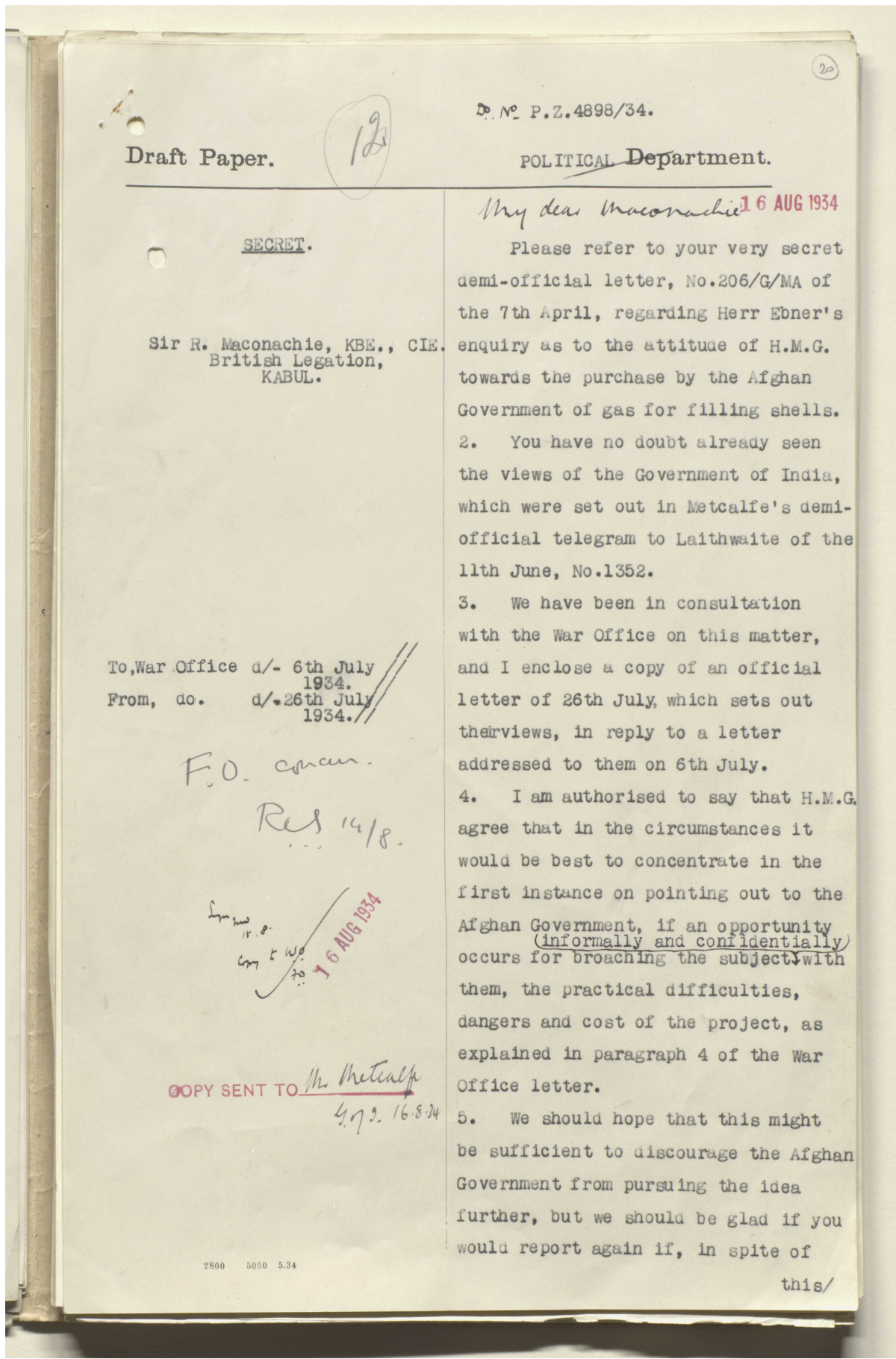
M
4891
334

*This will be
done; W.O. letter
has already been
sent to India.
JH*

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [19v] (38/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [20r] (39/118)



D. No P.Z. 4898/34.

Draft Paper.

POLITICAL Department.

SECRET.

Sir R. Maconachie, KBE., CIE.
British Legation,
KABUL.

To, War Office d/- 6th July
1934.
From, do. d/- 26th July
1934.

F.O. concn.

Res 14/8.

See
14.8.

Copy to
to

16 AUG 1934

COPY SENT TO

Mr Metcalfe

4.7.9. 16.8.34

2800 5000 534

My dear Maconachie 16 AUG 1934

Please refer to your very secret demi-official letter, No.206/G/MA of the 7th April, regarding Herr Ebner's enquiry as to the attitude of H.M.G. towards the purchase by the Afghan Government of gas for filling shells.

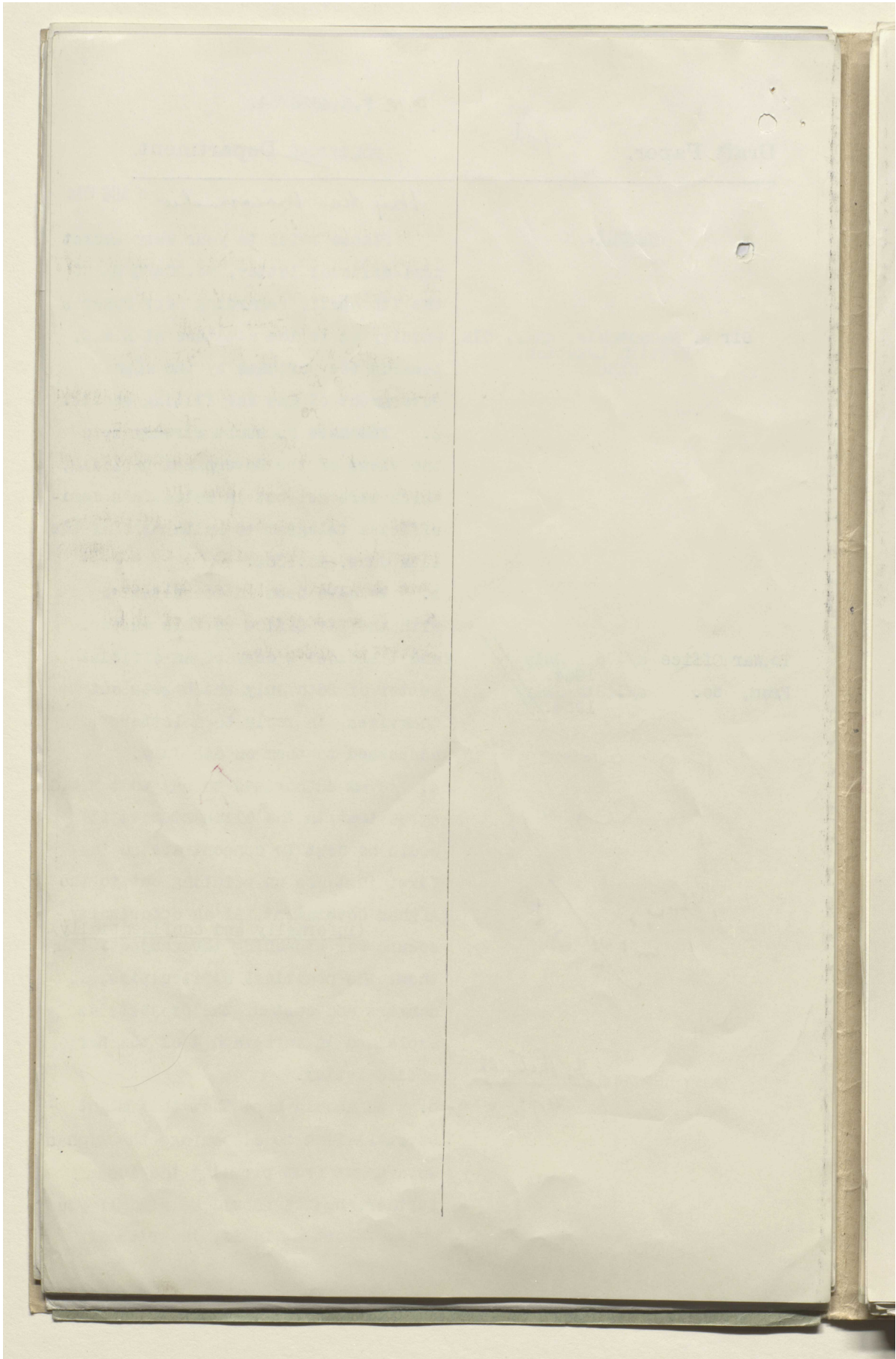
2. You have no doubt already seen the views of the Government of India, which were set out in Metcalfe's demi-official telegram to Laithwaite of the 11th June, No.1352.

3. We have been in consultation with the War Office on this matter, and I enclose a copy of an official letter of 26th July, which sets out their views, in reply to a letter addressed to them on 6th July.

4. I am authorised to say that H.M.G. agree that in the circumstances it would be best to concentrate in the first instance on pointing out to the Afghan Government, if an opportunity (informally and confidentially) occurs for broaching the subject with them, the practical difficulties, dangers and cost of the project, as explained in paragraph 4 of the War Office letter.

5. We should hope that this might be sufficient to discourage the Afghan Government from pursuing the idea further, but we should be glad if you would report again if, in spite of this/

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [20v] (40/118)



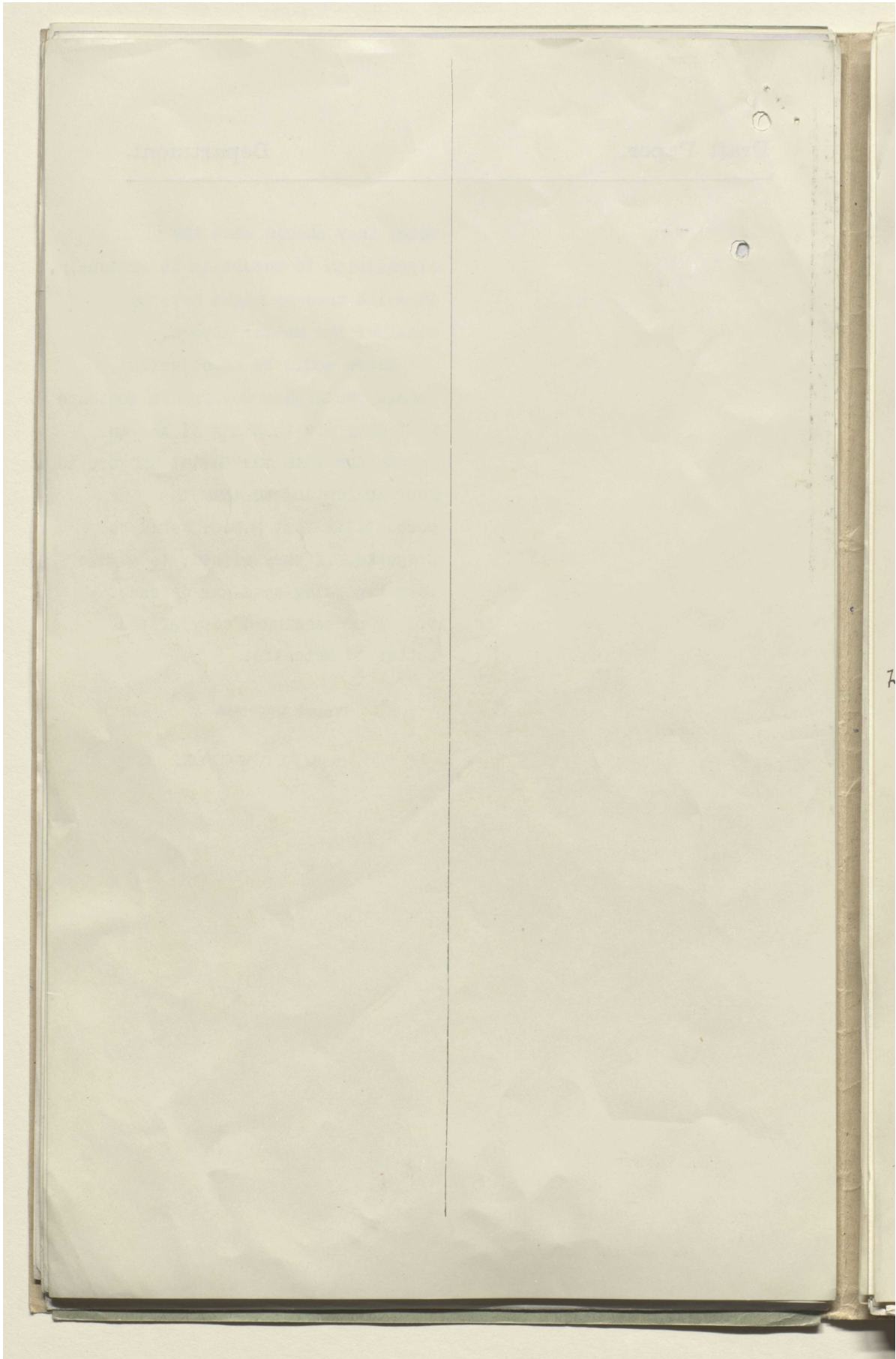
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [21r] (41/118)

(2)

Draft Paper.	Department.
	<p>this, they should show any disposition to entertain it seriously, in which case we might have to consider the matter afresh.</p> <p>There would be no objection, should the Afghan Government indicate that they are thinking of gas in connection with the Soviet danger, to your indicating to them the possibility that H.M.G. would be prepared, if they wished, to advise them regarding anti-gas defence.</p> <p>6. I am sending a copy of this letter to Metcalfe.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours sincerely,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Sd.) J. C. WALTON,</p>

2800 5090 5.34

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [21v] (42/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [22r] (43/118)

22

P.Z. 4898/34.

Draft Paper.

Department.

SECRET.

Sir R. Maconachie, K.B.E., C.I.E.,
British Legation,
KABUL.

Please refer to your very secret demi-official letter, No. 206/G/MA of the 7th April, regarding Herr Ebner's enquiry as to the attitude of H.M.G. towards the purchase by the Afghan Government of gas for filling shells.

2. You have no doubt already seen the views of the Government of India, which were set out in Metcalfe's demi-official telegram to Laithwaite of the 11th June, No. 1352.

3. We have ^{been in} ~~now~~ consulted ^{with} the War Office on this matter, and I enclose a copy of ^{an} ~~their~~ official letter, ^{of 26 July} which sets out the views of the Army Council.

To Mr. G. 6 July 1934
From - Dated 26th July, 1934.

^{in reply to a letter addressed to them on 6 July} 4. I am authorised to say that H.M.G. agree that in the circumstances it ^{would} ~~will~~ be best to concentrate in the first instance on pointing out to the Afghan Government, the practical difficulties, dangers and cost of the project, as explained in paragraph 4 of the War Office letter.

*if an opportunity occurs for
broaching the subject informally
confidentially with them,*

5. We ^{should hope} ~~think~~ that this ^{might} ~~should~~ be sufficient to discourage the Afghan Government from pursuing the idea further, but we should be glad if you would report again ^{in spite of this,} if they should show any disposition to ^{maintain it} ~~regard~~ the matter ~~more~~ seriously, in which case we might have to consider ^{the matter} ~~it~~ afresh. [There would be no objection, should the Afghan

Government/

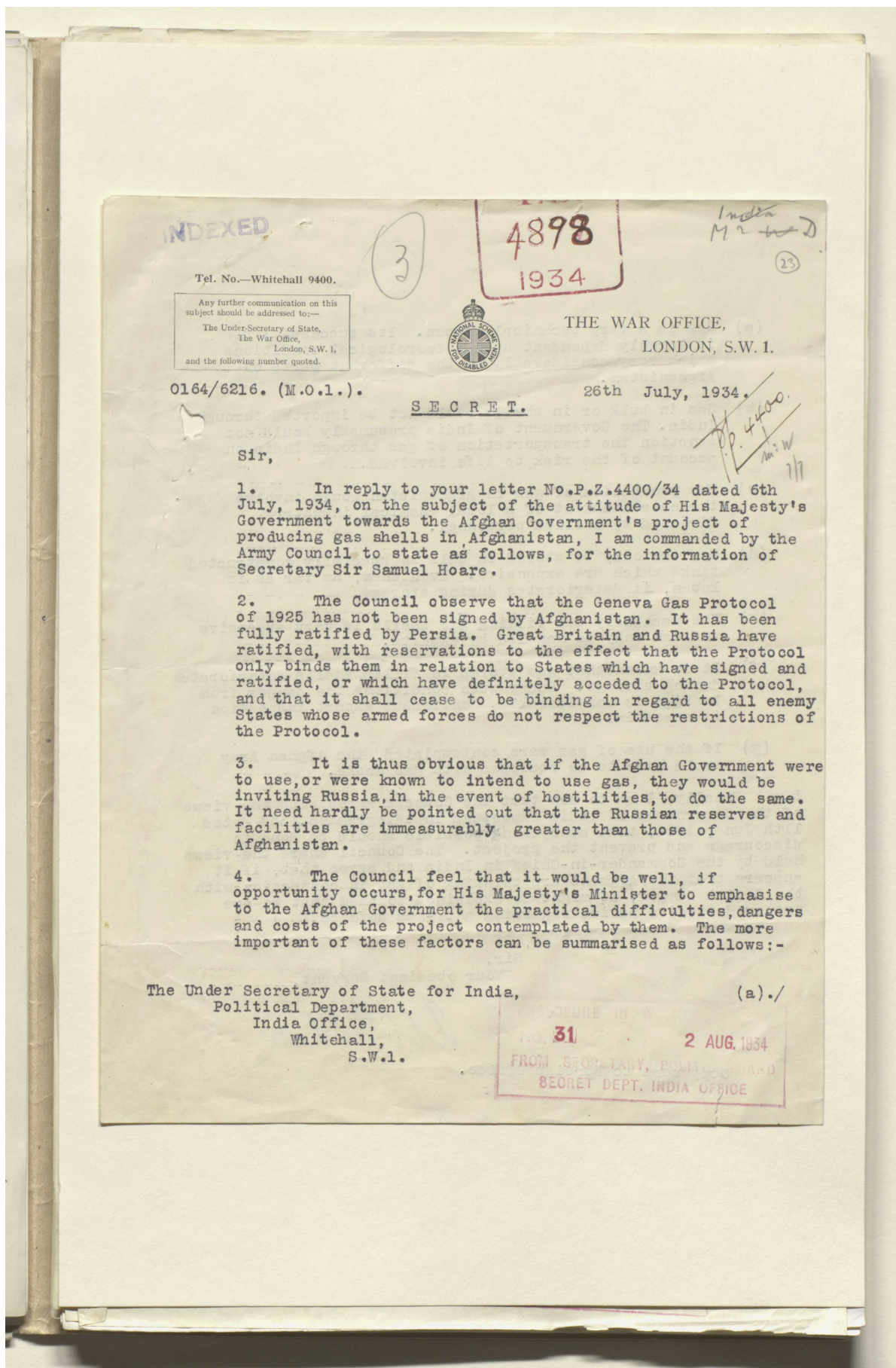
2531 5000 234

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [22v] (44/118)

Government indicate that they are thinking
of gas in connection with the Soviet
danger, to ^{you} indicate to them the
possibility that H.M.G. would be prepared, if they wished,
to advise them regarding anti-gas
defence.

*6. / am sending a copy of this
letter to Talcott.*

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [23r] (45/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [23v] (46/118)

- (a) Gas is a very technical weapon. Its successful use is largely dependent upon meteorological conditions which vary considerably in the different parts of Afghanistan.
- (b) Gas in bulk or in shells could not be imported through India. The Government of India presumably would not sanction the transportation of gas through India on account of the risk to life involved.
- (c) The production of gas in Afghanistan would involve the establishment of a local chemical industry directed by skilled personnel.
- (d) Gas can only be stored in bulk in specially constructed tanks which are expensive. Even then, as far as is known, it deteriorates during storage.
- (e) The machinery for filling gas shells is very expensive and can only be handled by experts.
- (f) It is known that gas stored in filled shells deteriorates during storage. Under such conditions the danger from leakage is considerable. Continuous expert inspection is essential.
- (g) If the use of gas were contemplated, the Afghan Army would have to be equipped with gas masks.

5. Finally, I am to say that the Council agree with the views of the Government of India expressed in telegram No.1352 dated 11th June, 1934, that everything possible should be done to discourage and prevent the project. The Council share the views held by the Commander-in-Chief in India and agree that, if it appears that the Afghans are thinking of gas in connection with the Soviet danger, it might be explained to them that we are prepared to give advice regarding anti-gas defence.

I am,

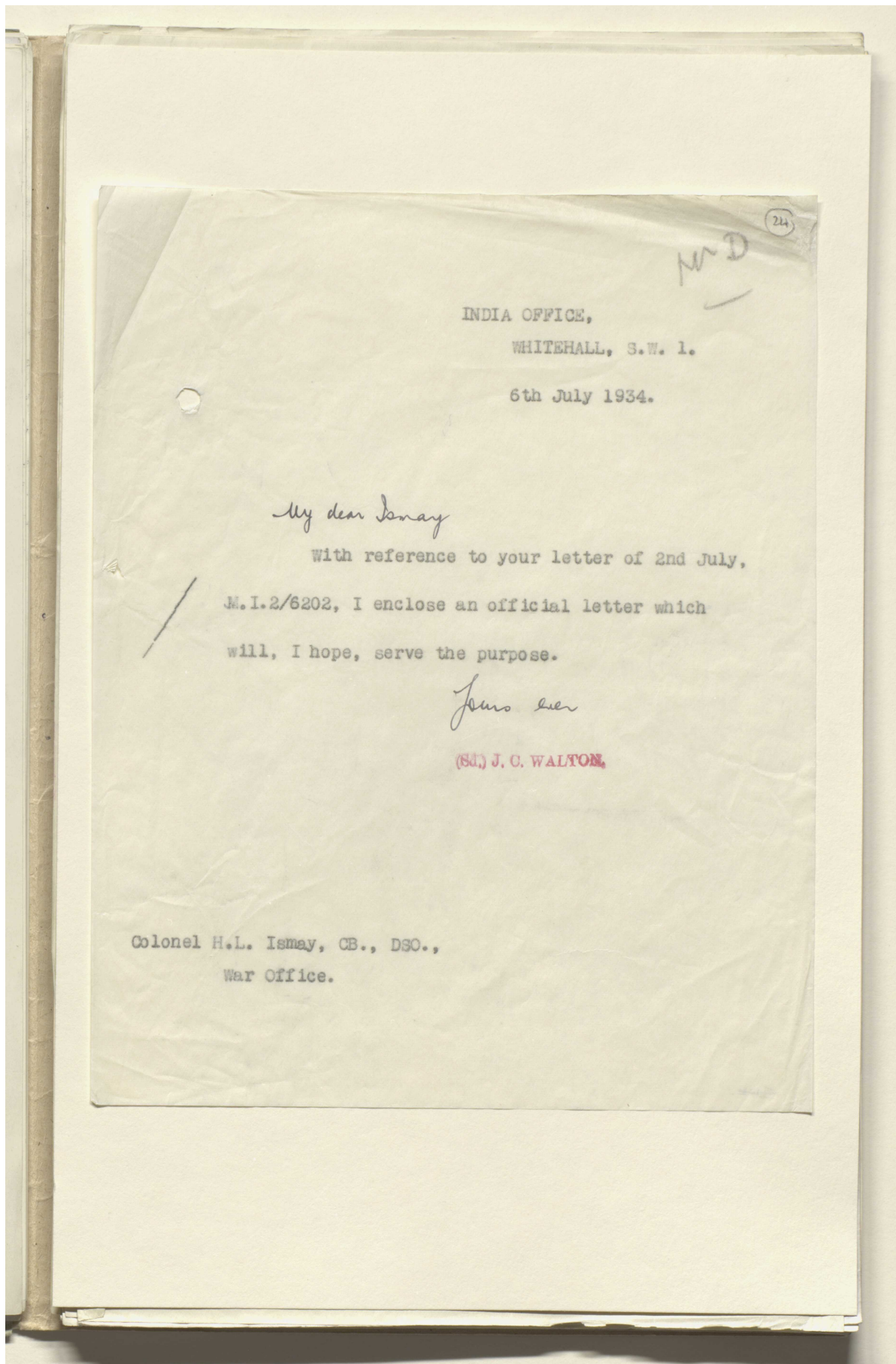
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. Widdows

Copy sent to Foreign Office.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [24r] (47/118)



INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W. 1.

6th July 1934.

My dear Ismay

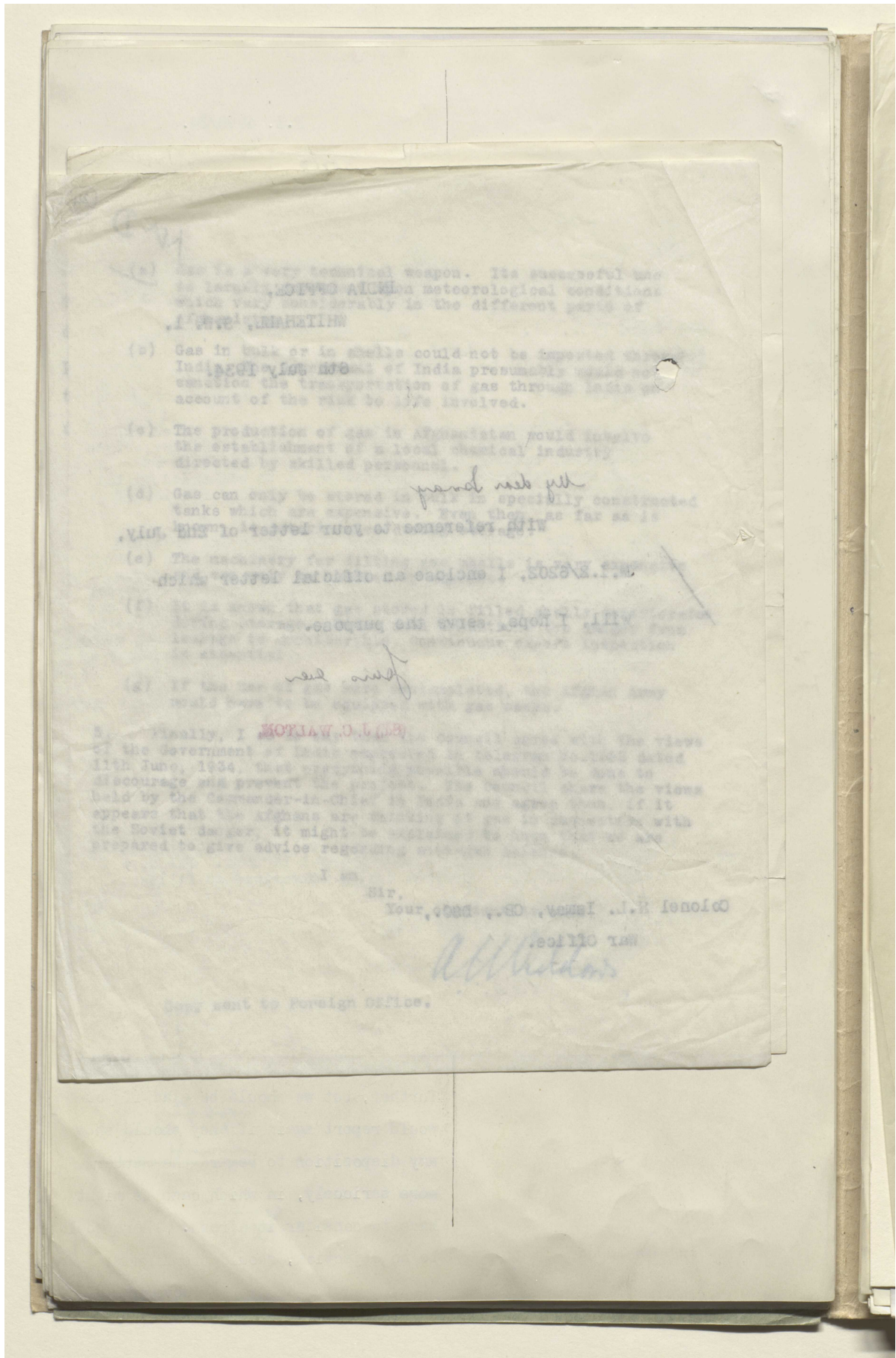
With reference to your letter of 2nd July,
M.I.2/6202, I enclose an official letter which
will, I hope, serve the purpose.

J. C. Walton

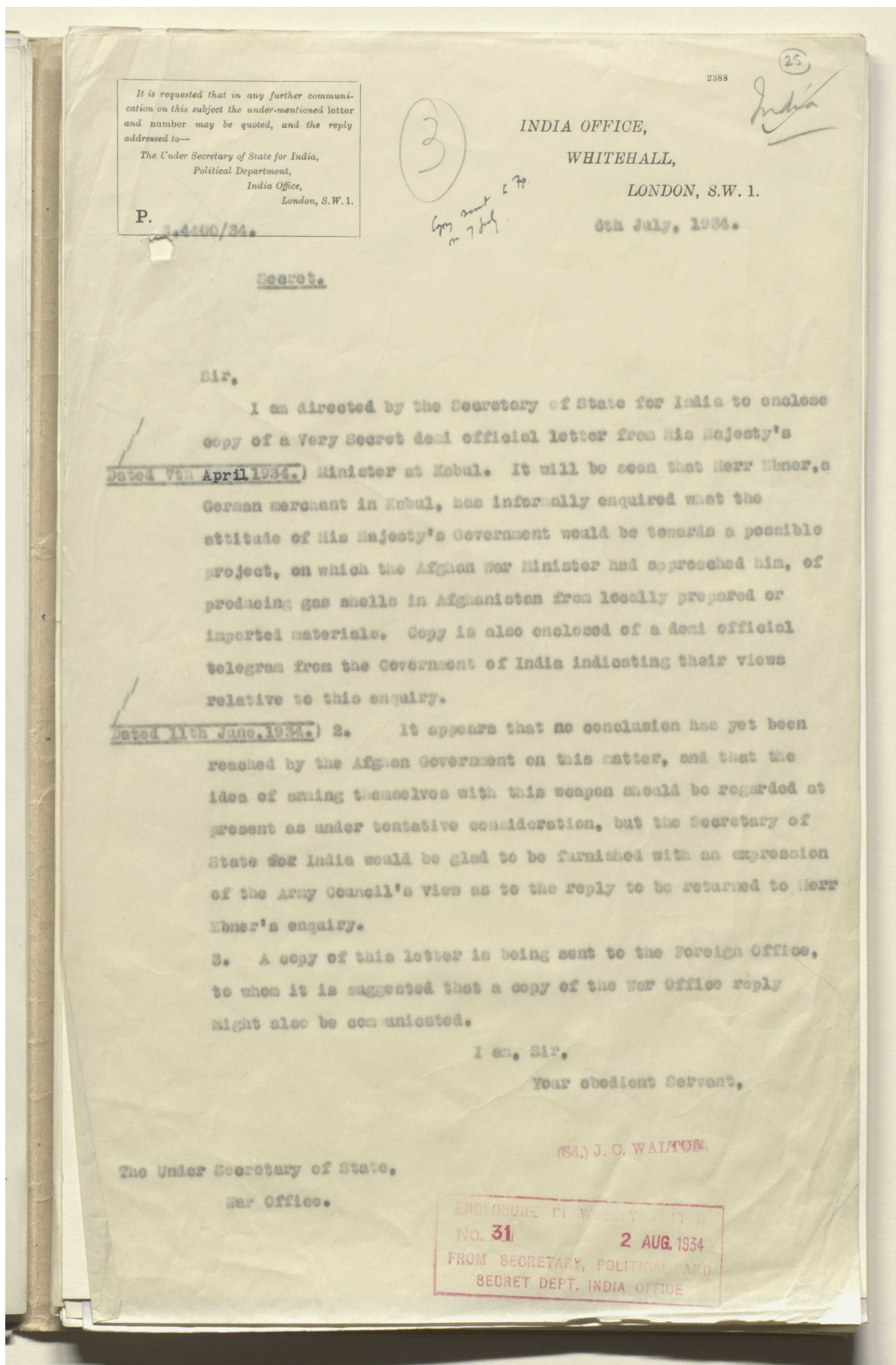
(Sd.) J. C. WALTON.

Colonel H.L. Ismay, CB., DSO.,
War Office.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [24v] (48/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [25r] (49/118)



It is requested that in any further communication on this subject the under-mentioned letter and number may be quoted, and the reply addressed to—
The Under Secretary of State for India,
Political Department,
India Office,
London, S.W. 1.
P. 34400/34.

2388
25
India

3

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W. 1.
6th July, 1934.

Copy sent to Mr. 7 July.

Secret.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to enclose copy of a Very Secret despatch official letter from His Majesty's Dated 7th April 1934. Minister at Kabul. It will be seen that Herr Ebner, a German merchant in Kabul, has informally enquired what the attitude of His Majesty's Government would be towards a possible project, on which the Afghan War Minister had approached him, of producing gas shells in Afghanistan from locally prepared or imported materials. Copy is also enclosed of a despatch official telegram from the Government of India indicating their views relative to this enquiry.

Dated 11th June, 1934. 2. It appears that no conclusion has yet been reached by the Afghan Government on this matter, and that the idea of arming themselves with this weapon should be regarded at present as under tentative consideration, but the Secretary of State for India would be glad to be furnished with an expression of the Army Council's view as to the reply to be returned to Herr Ebner's enquiry.

3. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Foreign Office, to whom it is suggested that a copy of the War Office reply might also be communicated.

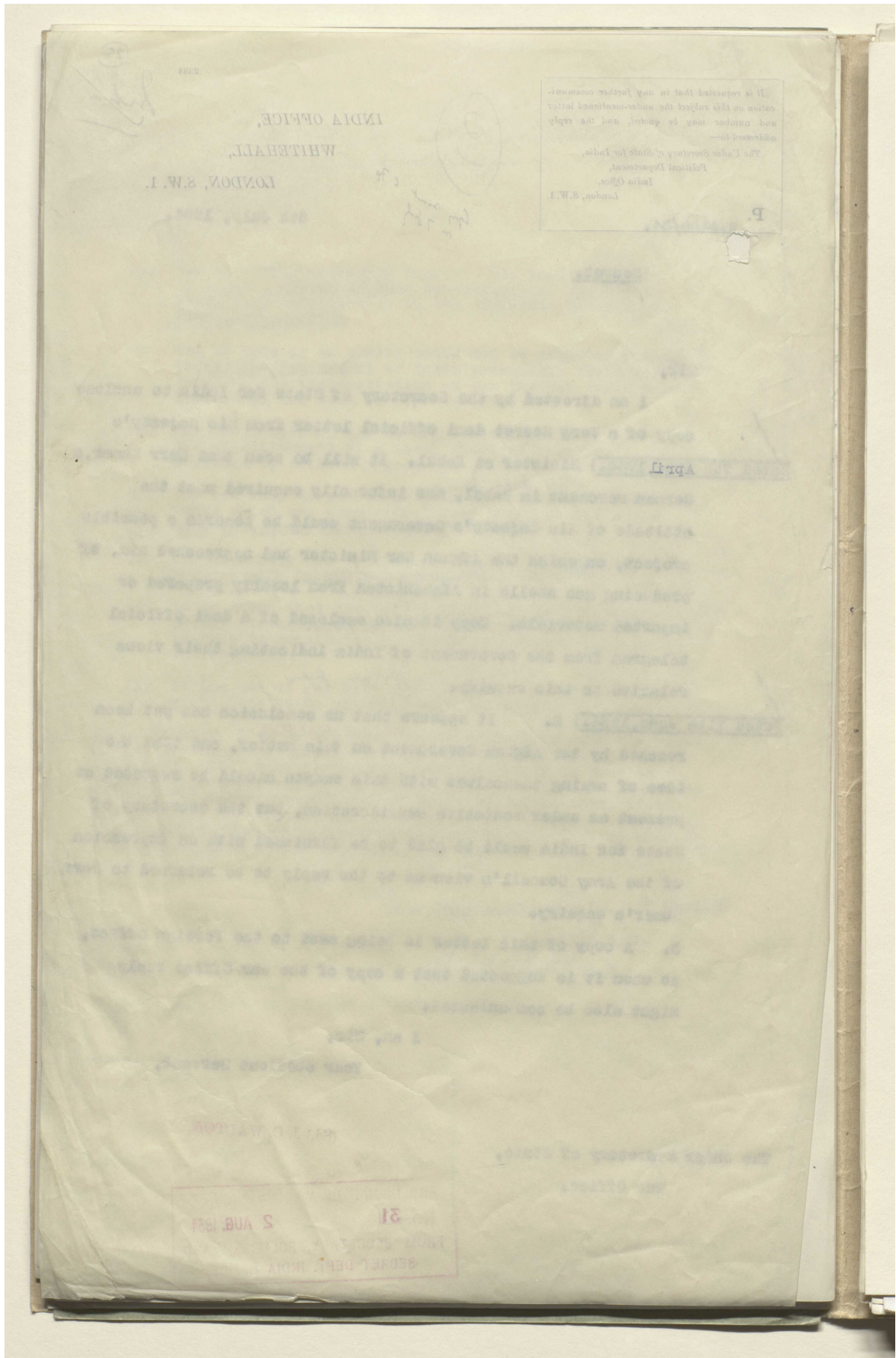
I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(sd.) J. C. WALTON

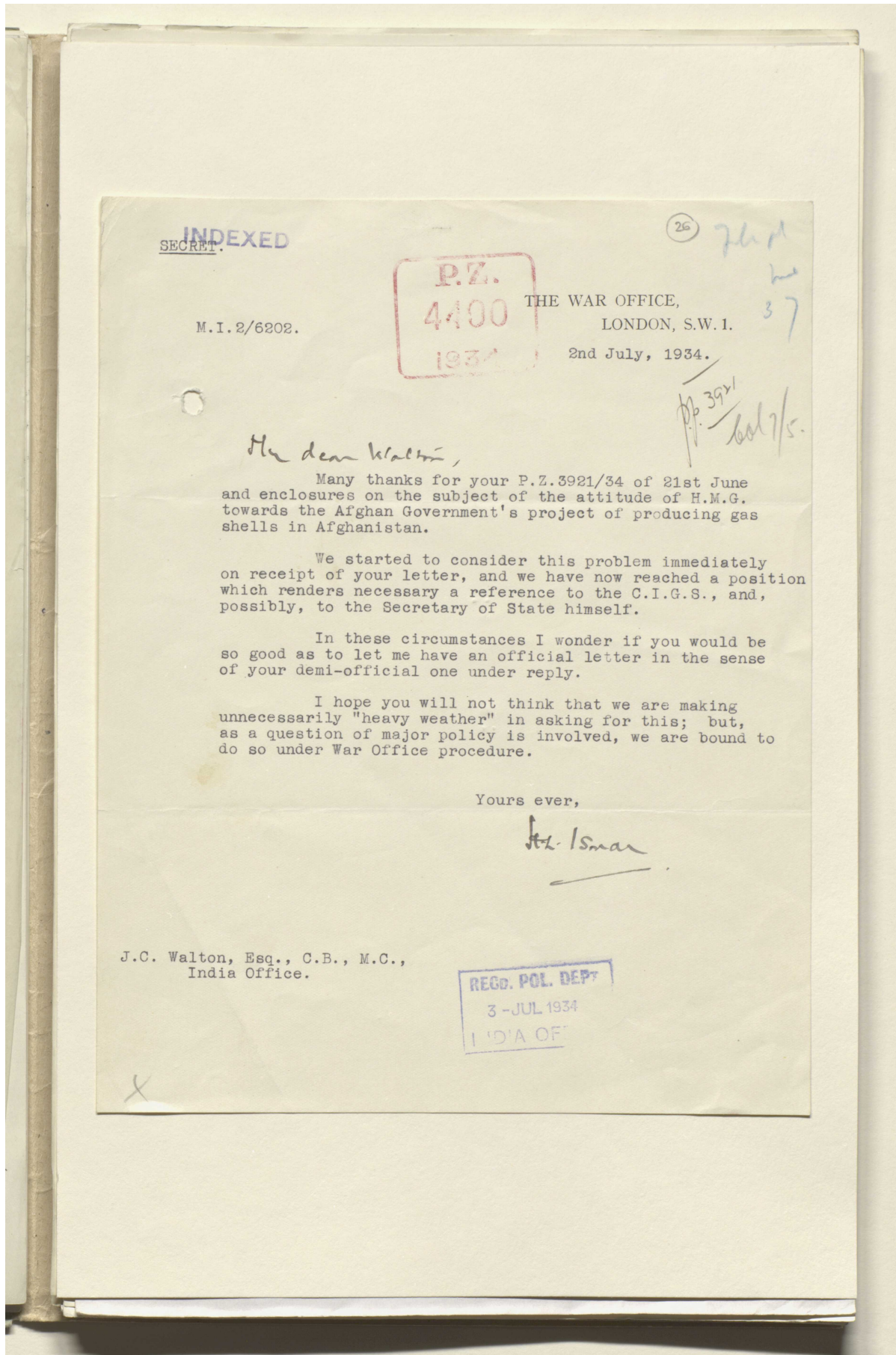
The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

ENCLOSURE IN WRITING
No. 31
2 AUG. 1934
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

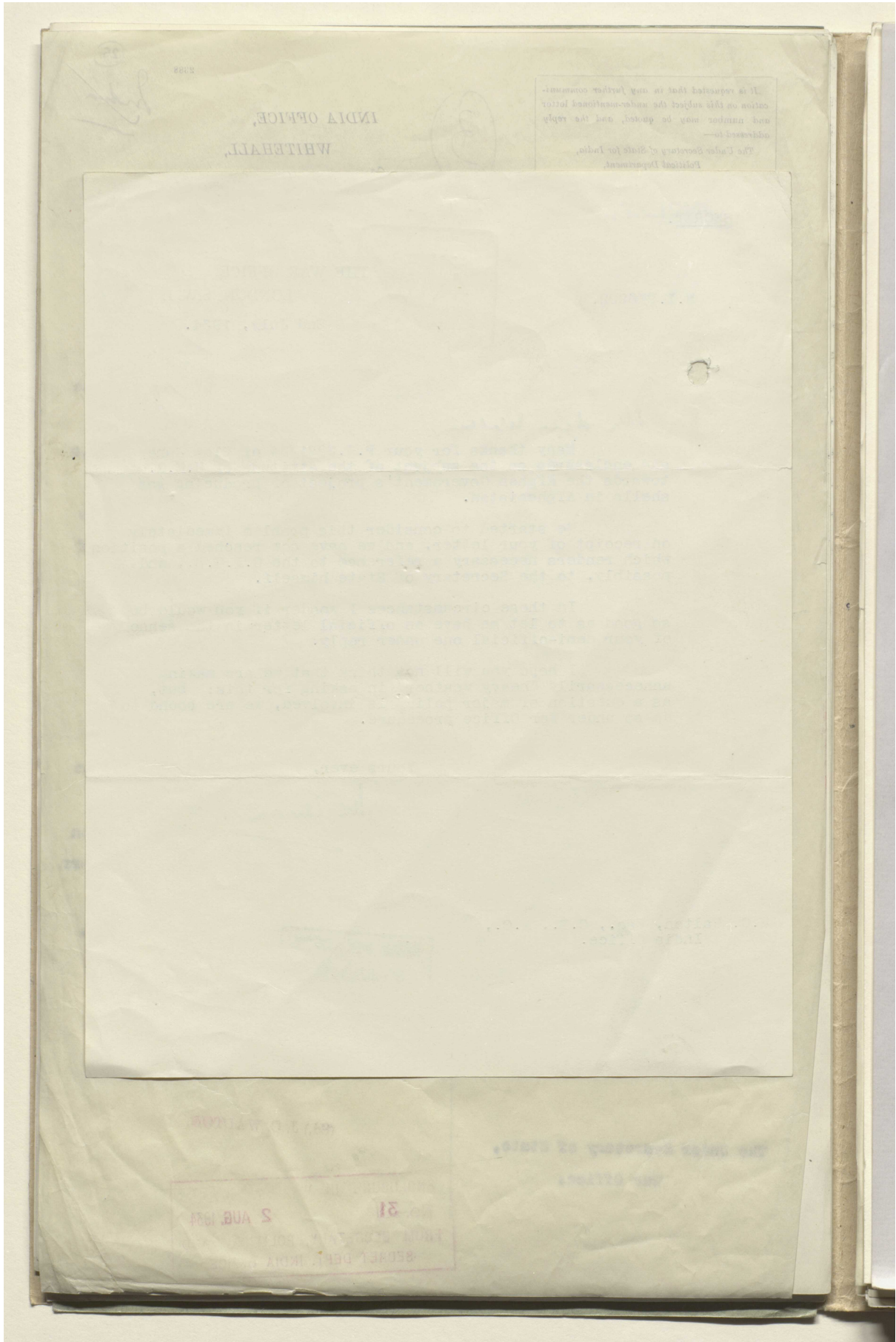
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [25v] (50/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [26r] (51/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [26v] (52/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [27r] (53/118)

(27)
Keep off ref.

Register No.
P. Z. 3921/34

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Letter from _____ Dated _____ 19 .
 Telegram _____ Rec. _____

Formally acknowledged _____

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
<p>To</p> <p>Chairman.....</p> <p>Under Secretary</p> <p>Secretary of State...</p> <p>Committee.....</p> <p>Under Secretary.....</p> <p>Secretary of State....</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AFGHANISTAN.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Enquiry by Herr Ebner as to the attitude of H.M.G. towards the purchase of gas shells by the Afghan Government</u></p>

Northern Department,
Foreign Office.

Sign
20.6

Copy of _____ to _____

FOR USE BY DEPARTMENTS ONLY.

Draft d.o. letter to Colonel Ismay, War Office inviting observations.

9

21 JUN 1934

Letter to Col. Ismay, W.O.

Previous Papers :—

1140 1000 8.32

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [27v] (54/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [28r] (55/118)

P.Z. 3921/34.

28

Minute Paper.

Political

Department.

Please see the note on papers P.Z. 2871/34 on which it was decided to ask Mr. Metcalfe demi-officially for the Government of India's views.

These have now been received and it appears that the Government of India are anxious that everything possible should be done to discourage the Afghan Government from arming themselves with lethal or mustard gas though there would not be the same objection to lachrymatory gas.

It seems desirable to consult the War Office on this matter and a draft demi-official letter to Colonel Ismay is accordingly suggested.

Military Secretary.

For any observations.

J. D. Coleridge
14. vi. 34

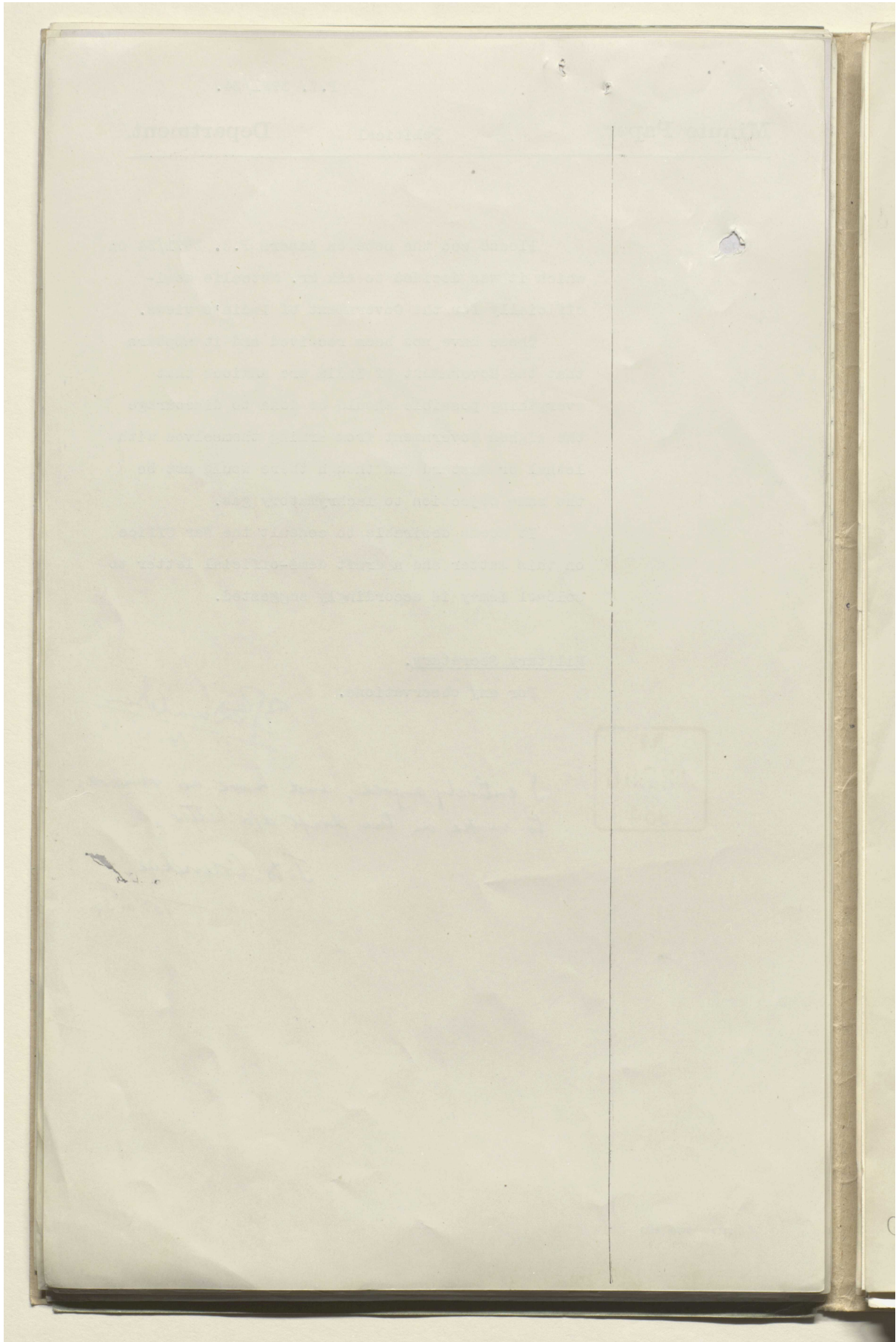
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1934

I entirely agree, and have no remarks to make on the draft d/o letter.

J. D. Coleridge.

15. 6. 34

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [28v] (56/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [29r] (57/118)

29

P.Z. 3921/34.

Draft Paper.

Political.

Department.

21 JUN 1934

SECRET

Col. H.L. Ismay, ^{CB.} D.S.O.,
War Office,
S.W.1.

2.11.34

or production

My dear Ismay

I enclose a copy of a secret demi-official letter from Maconachie of the 7th April, in which he reports that Herr Ebner, a German merchant in Kabul, enquired the attitude of H.M.G. towards the Afghan Government's project of producing gas shells in Afghanistan from locally prepared or imported materials.
~~We thought it wise to ascertain, demi-officially,~~ the views of the Government of India on this proposal, and I have now received from Metcalfe the telegram of which I enclose a copy.

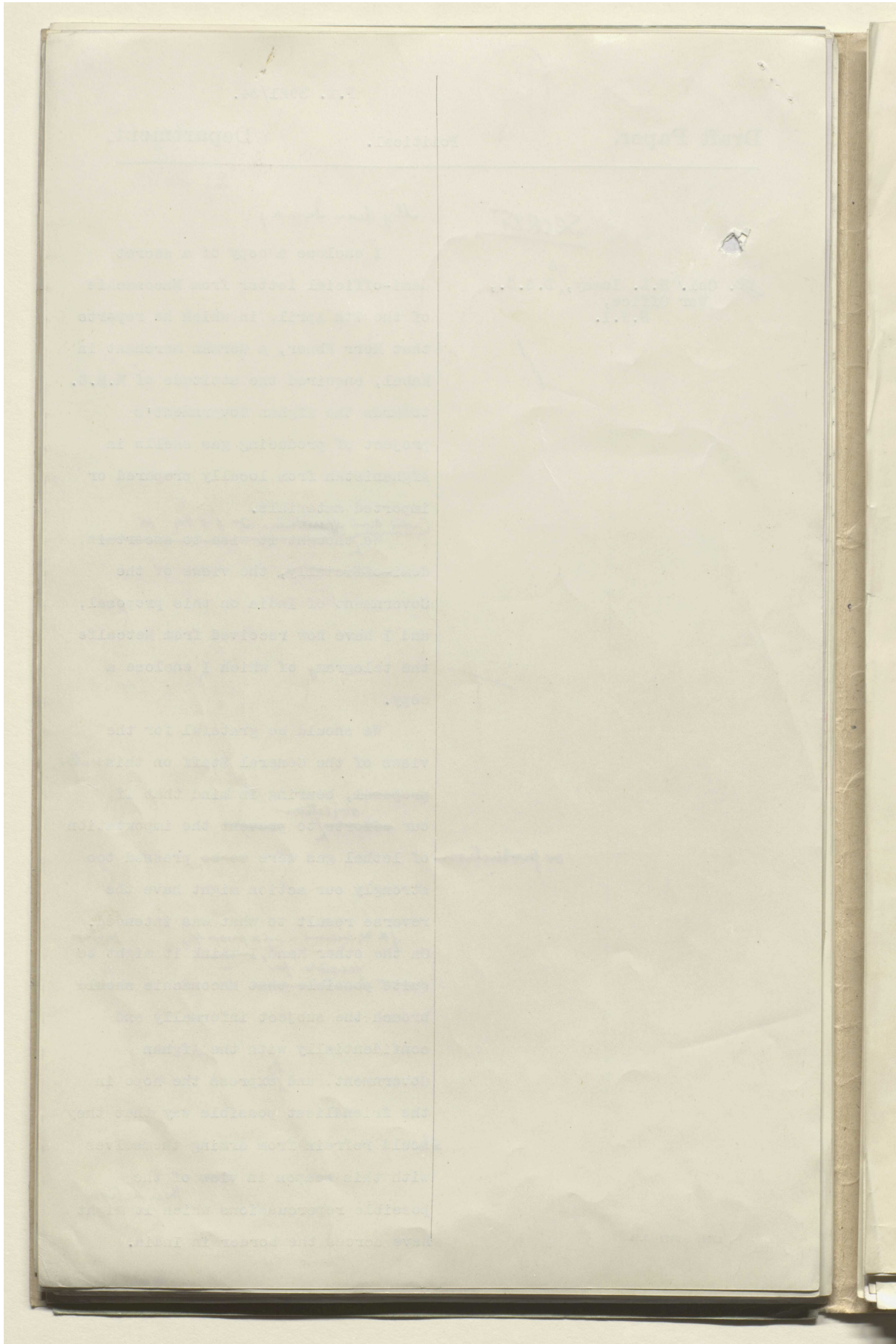
We should be grateful for the views of the General Staff on this ~~proposal~~ ^{matter,} bearing in mind that if our ~~efforts~~ ^{objections} to ~~prevent~~ the importation of lethal gas were ~~to be~~ pressed too strongly, our action might have the reverse result to what was intended. On the other hand, ^{perhaps,} I think it might be quite ^{feasible for} ~~possible~~ that Maconachie should broach the subject informally and confidentially with the Afghan Government, and ^{to} express the hope in the friendliest possible way that they should refrain from arming themselves with this weapon in view of the possible repercussions which ^{their action} ~~it~~ might have across the border in India.

Yours ever

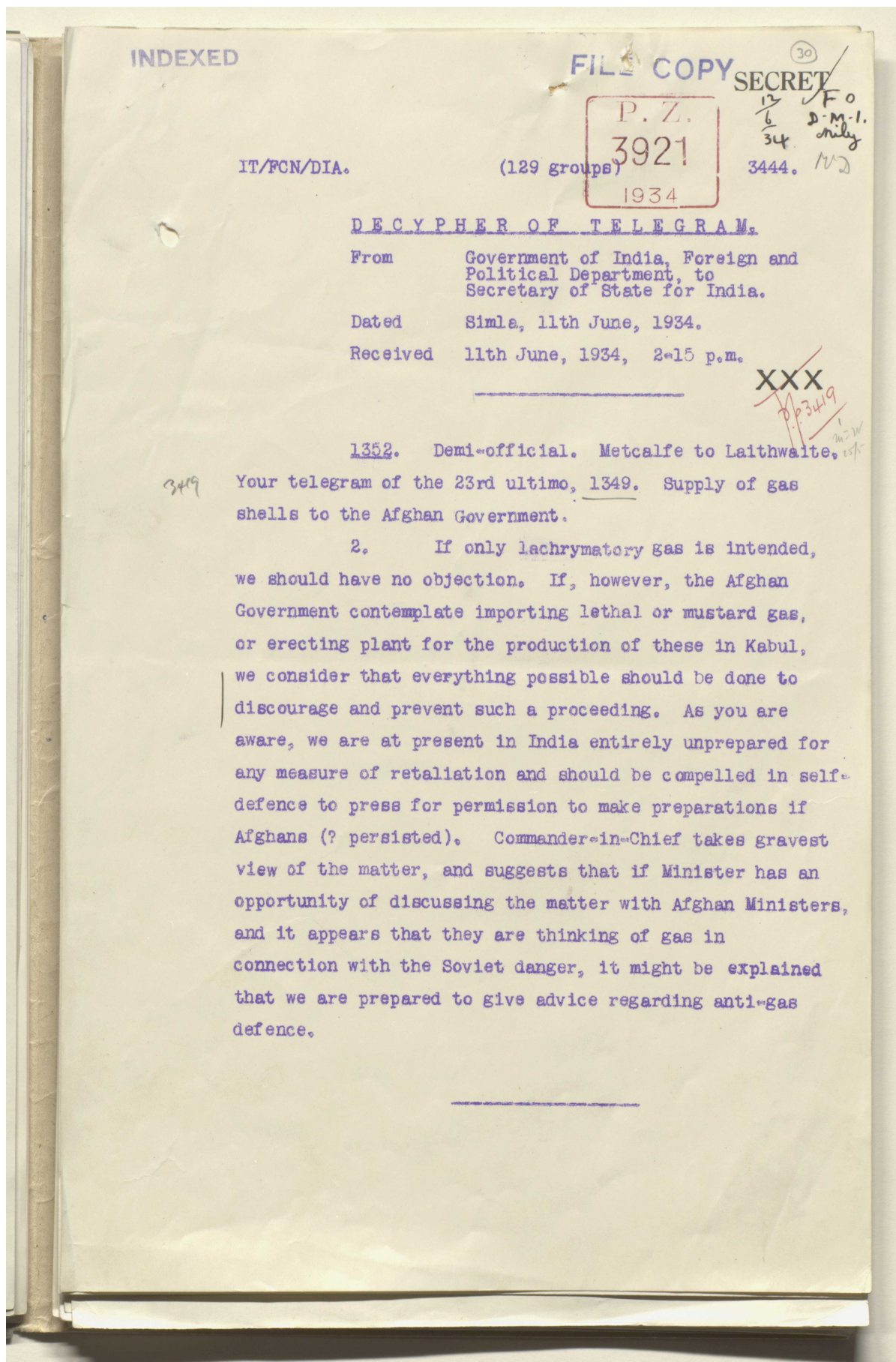
(Sd.) J. C. WALTON.

2531 5000 2.34

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [29v] (58/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [30r] (59/118)



INDEXED

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3921
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3444.

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

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

Dated Simla, 11th June, 1934.

Received 11th June, 1934, 2-15 p.m.

XXX
P. 3419
m-w
1934

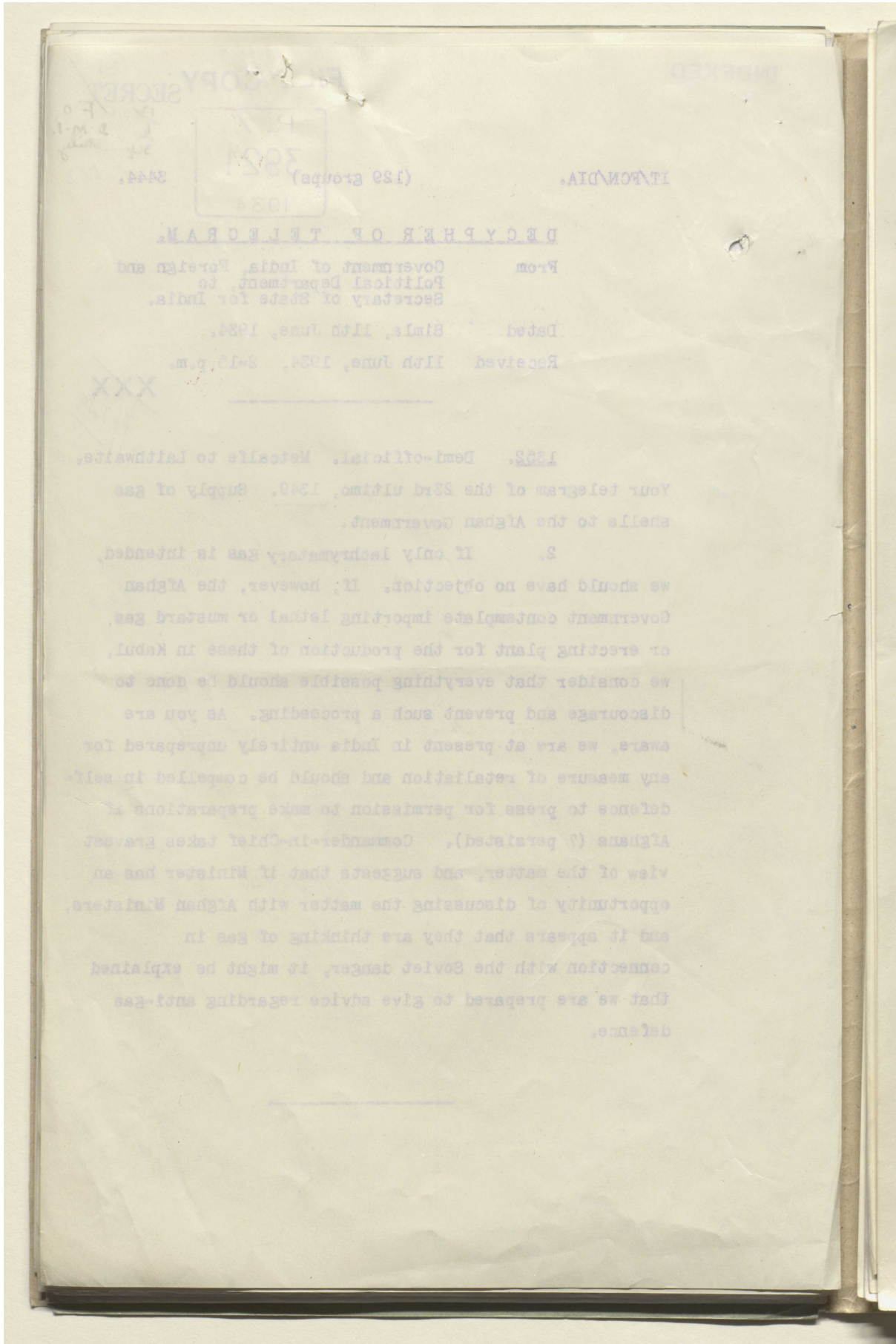
1352. Demi-official. Metcalfe to Laithwaite.

3419

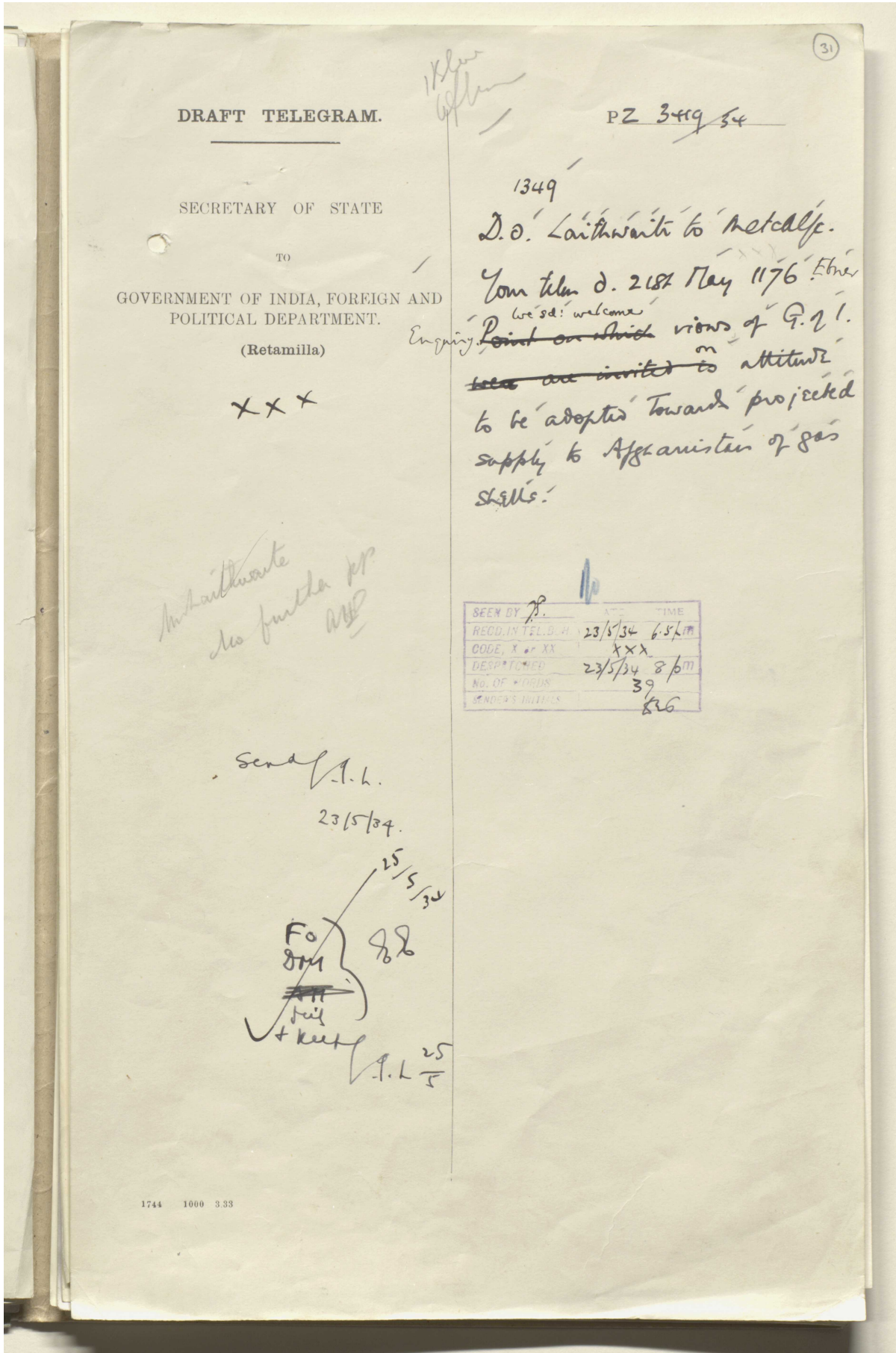
Your telegram of the 23rd ultimo, 1349. Supply of gas shells to the Afghan Government.

2. If only lachrymatory gas is intended, we should have no objection. If, however, the Afghan Government contemplate importing lethal or mustard gas, or erecting plant for the production of these in Kabul, we consider that everything possible should be done to discourage and prevent such a proceeding. As you are aware, we are at present in India entirely unprepared for any measure of retaliation and should be compelled in self-defence to press for permission to make preparations if Afghans (? persisted). Commander-in-Chief takes gravest view of the matter, and suggests that if Minister has an opportunity of discussing the matter with Afghan Ministers, and it appears that they are thinking of gas in connection with the Soviet danger, it might be explained that we are prepared to give advice regarding anti-gas defence.

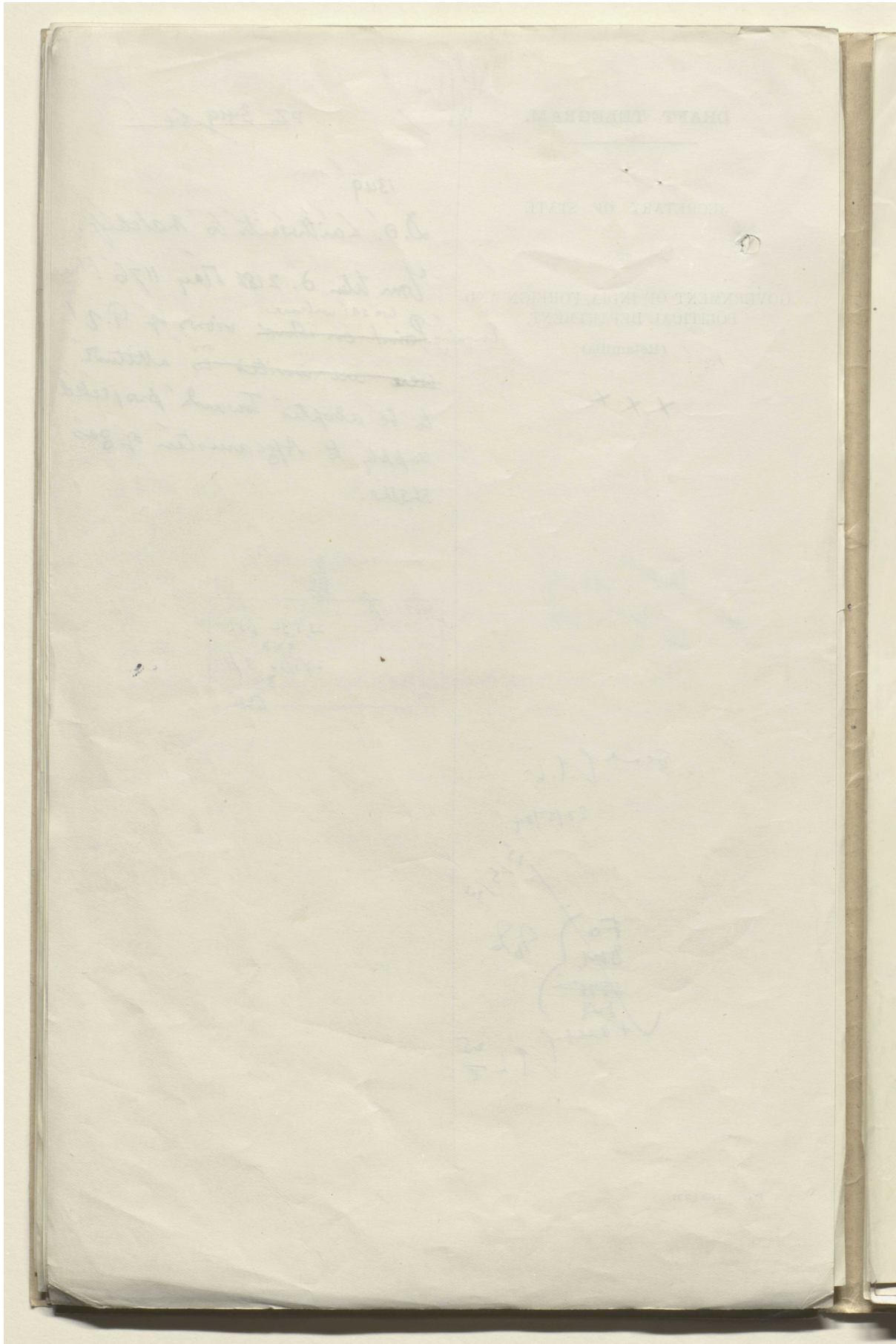
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [30v] (60/118)



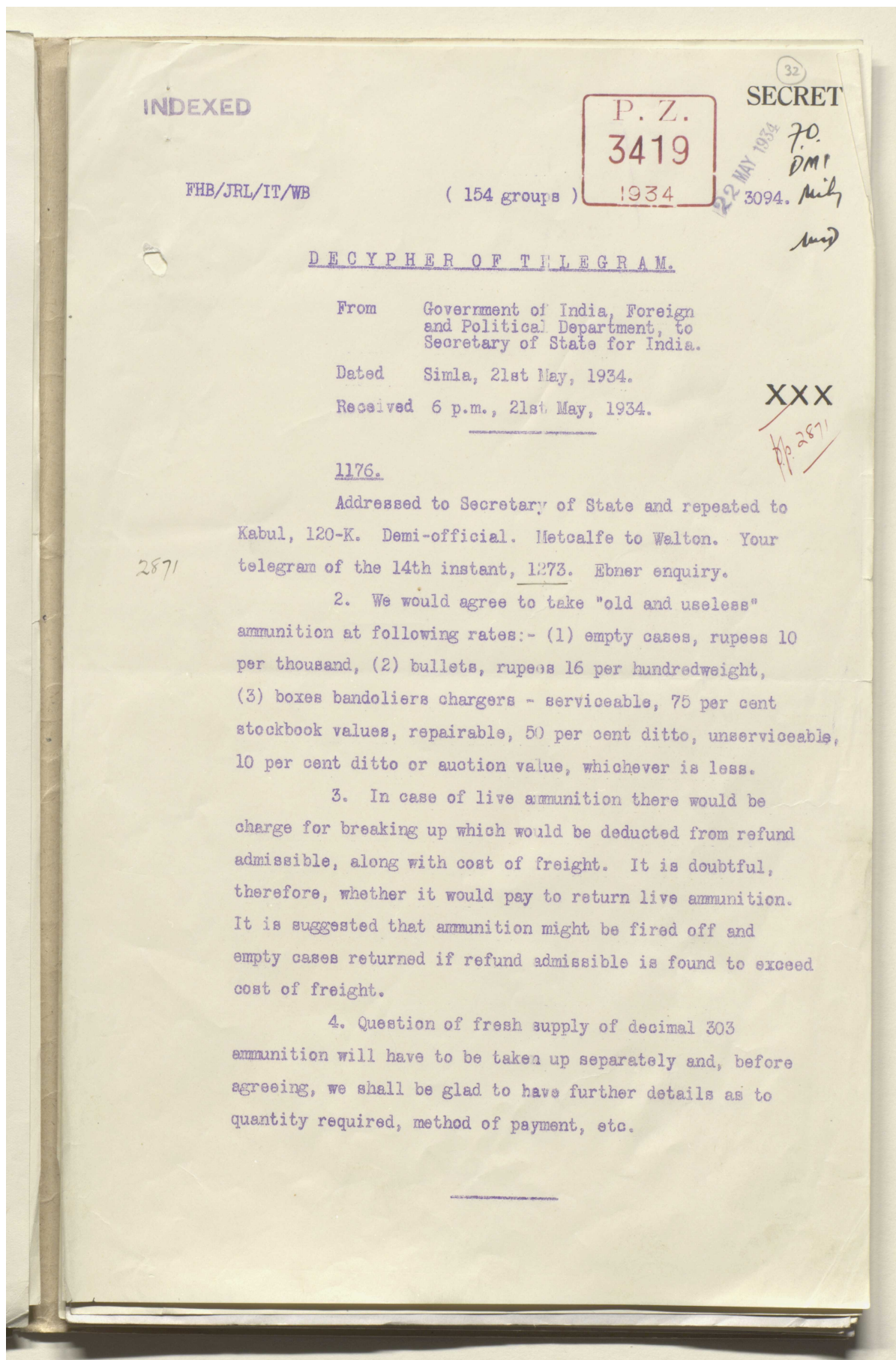
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [31r] (61/118)



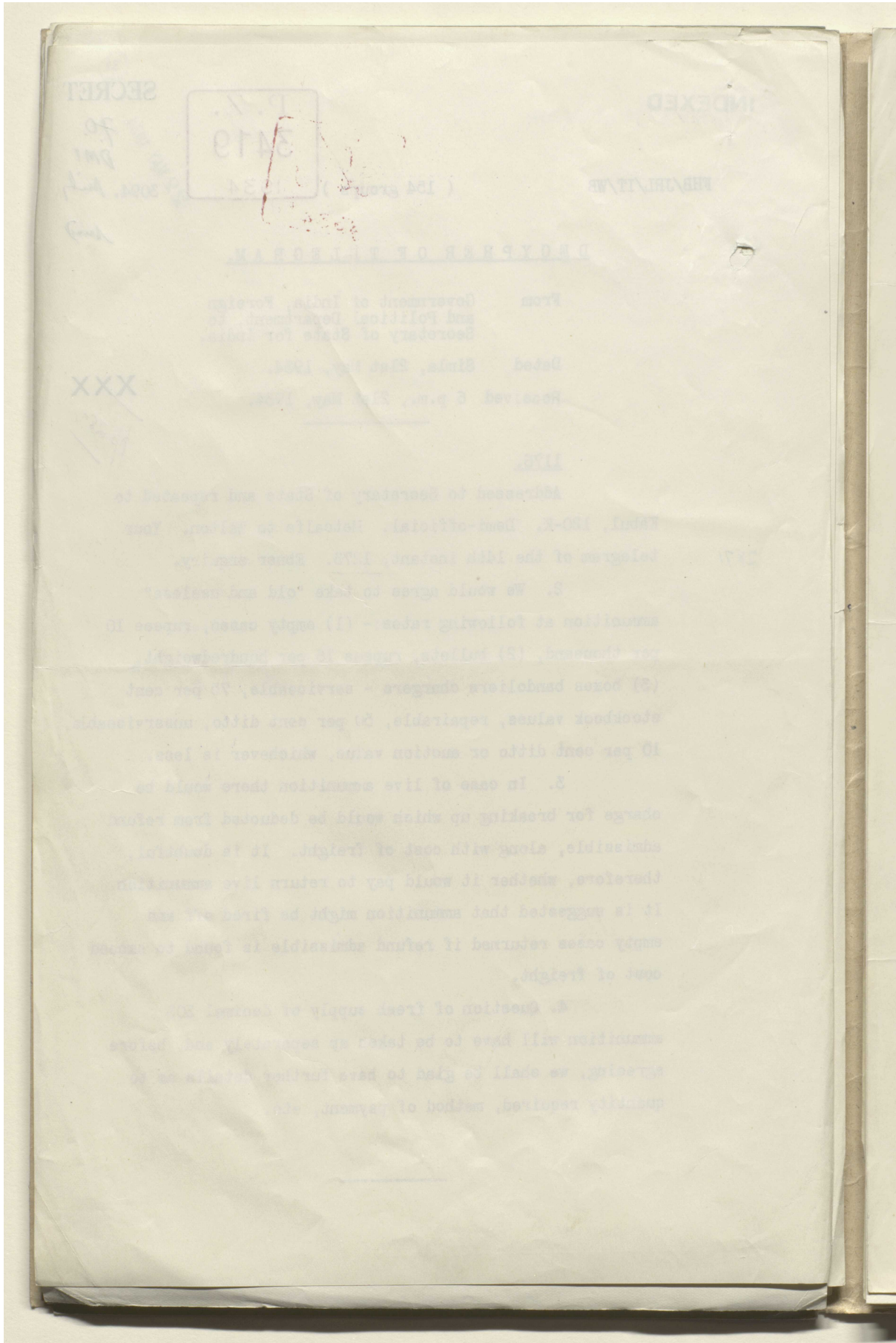
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [31v] (62/118)



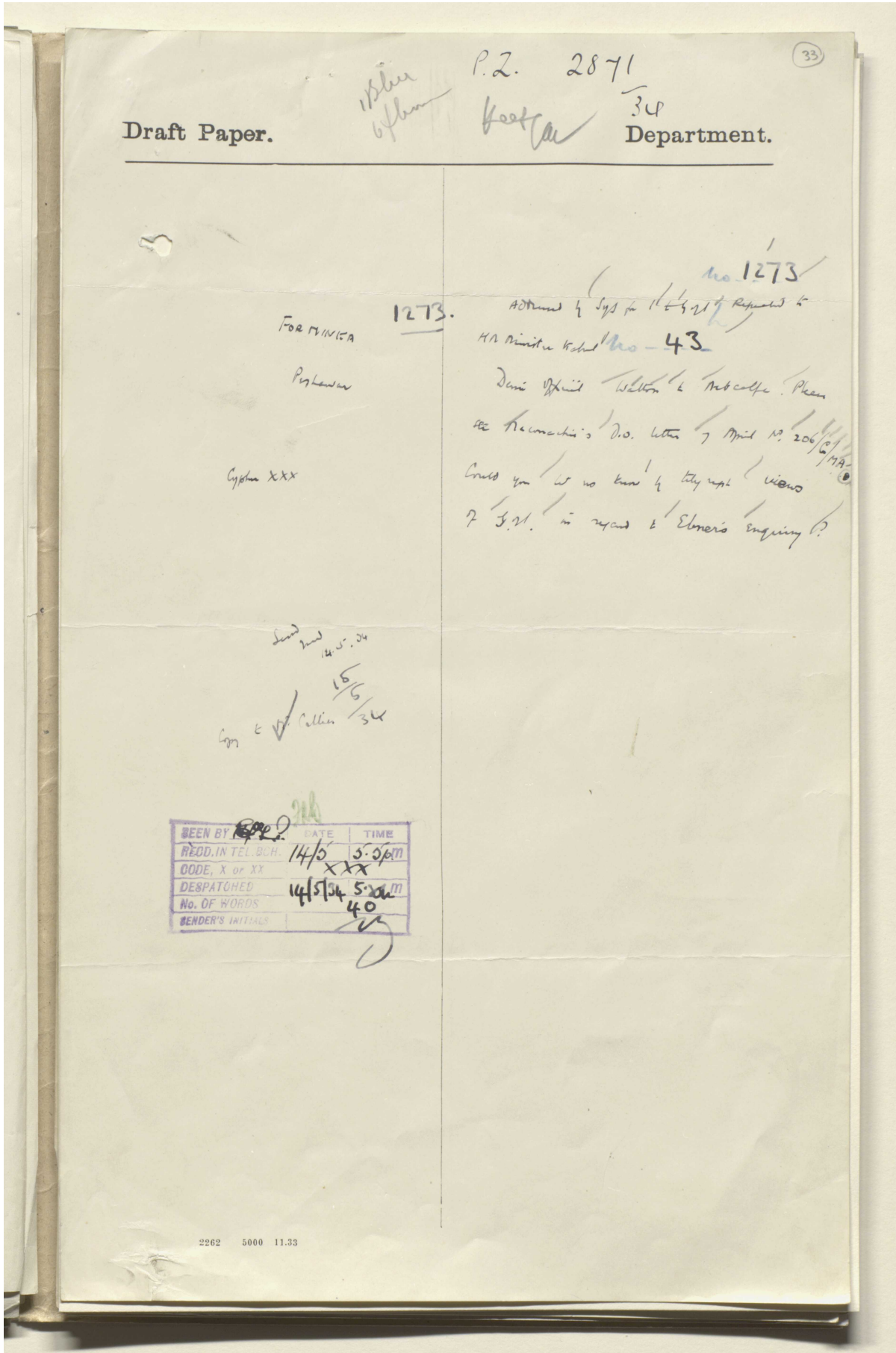
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [32r] (63/118)



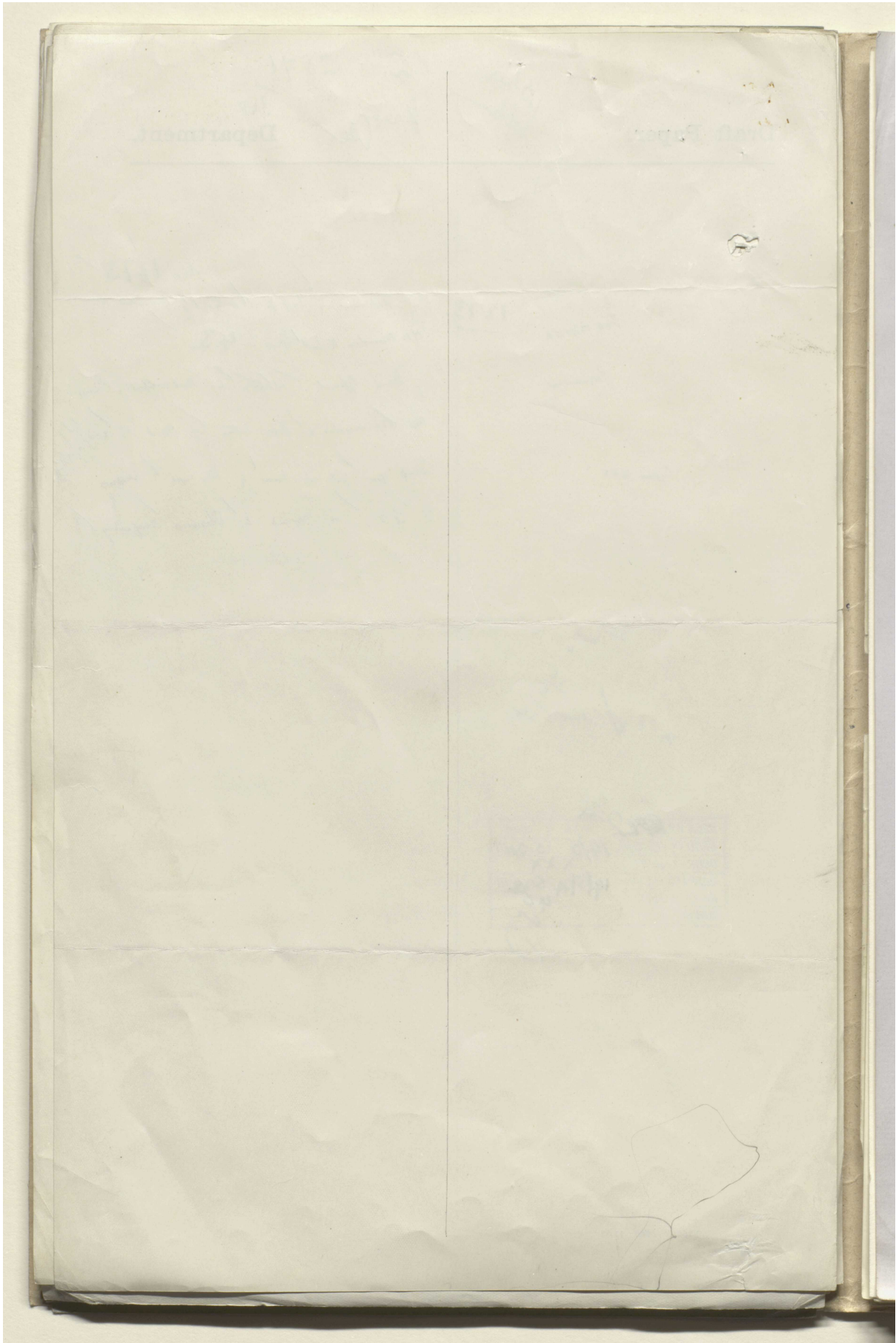
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [32v] (64/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [33r] (65/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [33v] (66/118)

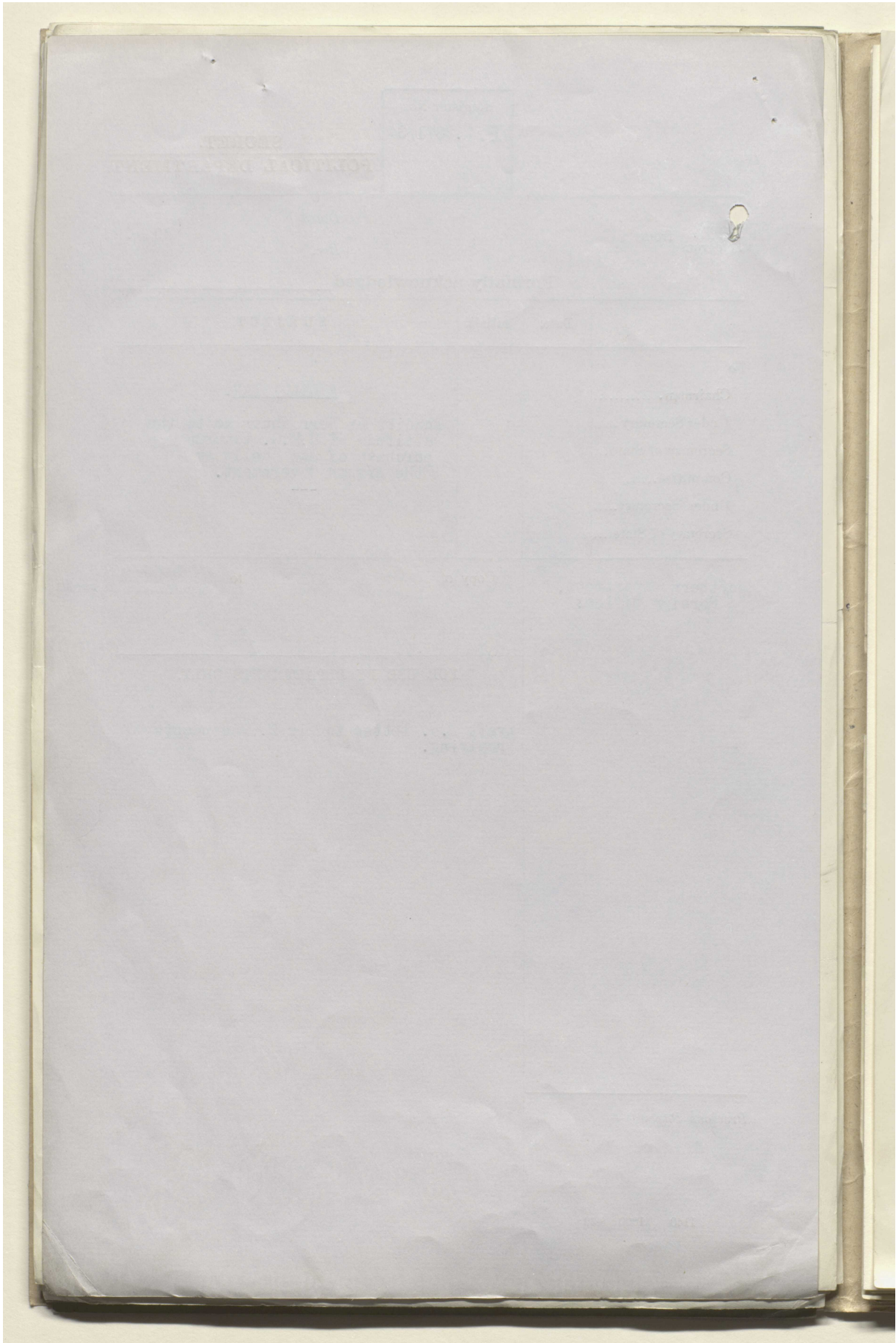


Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [34r] (67/118)

(34)

Register No. P. Z.2871/34	SECRET. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.		
Letter _____ from _____ Telegram _____	Dated _____ 19 ____ Rec. _____		
Formally acknowledged _____			
	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To Chairman..... Under Secretary..... Secretary of State... Committee..... Under Secretary..... Secretary of State...			<u>AFGHANISTAN.</u> Enquiry by Herr Ebner as to the attitude of H.M.G. towards purchase of Gas Shells by the Afghan Government. ---
Northern Department, Foreign Office.	Copy of <i>letter</i> <i>cons.</i> to <i>Mr. Mitchell</i> <i>Col. Ismay G.O.</i>		
FOR USE BY DEPARTMENTS ONLY.			
Draft d.o. letter to Sir R. Maconachie replying.			
Previous Papers :--			
1140 1000 8.32			

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [34v] (68/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [35r] (69/118)

P.Z. 2871/34.

35

Minute Paper.

Political

Department.

Please see Sir R. Maconachie's very secret d.o. letter of the 7th April, No. 206/G/MA, copy of which was sent direct to Mr. Collier. The question of the attitude of H.M.G. towards the supply of Gas appliances to Afghanistan cropped up before in connection with a request by the Afghan Legation for transit facilities for tear gas pistols (see ^{minute on} P.Z. 6549/32 - Foreign Office reference N.6978/82/97), and we then came to the conclusion that it was not open to us in ~~the~~ present circumstances to remonstrate with the Afghans about the weapons they might choose to use either in war or for quelling internal disturbances however much we might wish to discourage them from using poison gas, whether lethal or non-lethal.

General Muspratt then gave reasons for disliking the idea of allowing tear gas to enter Afghanistan, even as a sample, though he appreciated the difficulty of refusing facilities for its transit through India.

It seems best therefore in replying to Sir R. Maconachie to inform him that when the matter was considered here before the view taken was that ~~if our opinion should be asked we should say~~ that we disliked the use of gas and in fact had decided not to make use of it ourselves, but that we recognised that it was not open to us to use our ^{geographical} position to refuse transit facilities for such ^{material} ~~weapons~~ passing through India if the Afghan Government should wish to employ ^{it} them.

A draft letter to Sir R. Maconachie on these lines is accordingly proposed, though it may perhaps be desirable, before it issues, to ascertain the views of
the/

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [35v] (70/118)

the War Office more precisely.

Military Secretary.

For any observations.

W. D. Coleridge
1. V. 34

This is an important matter in which the Govt: of India (The Army Dept. in particular) is primarily concerned. In my opinion, then, we should, before replying to Sir R. Macdonald definitely, ask for an expression of opinion from India - In the meanwhile we might inform Sir R. Macdonald of the action taken, and ask the War Office for their views.

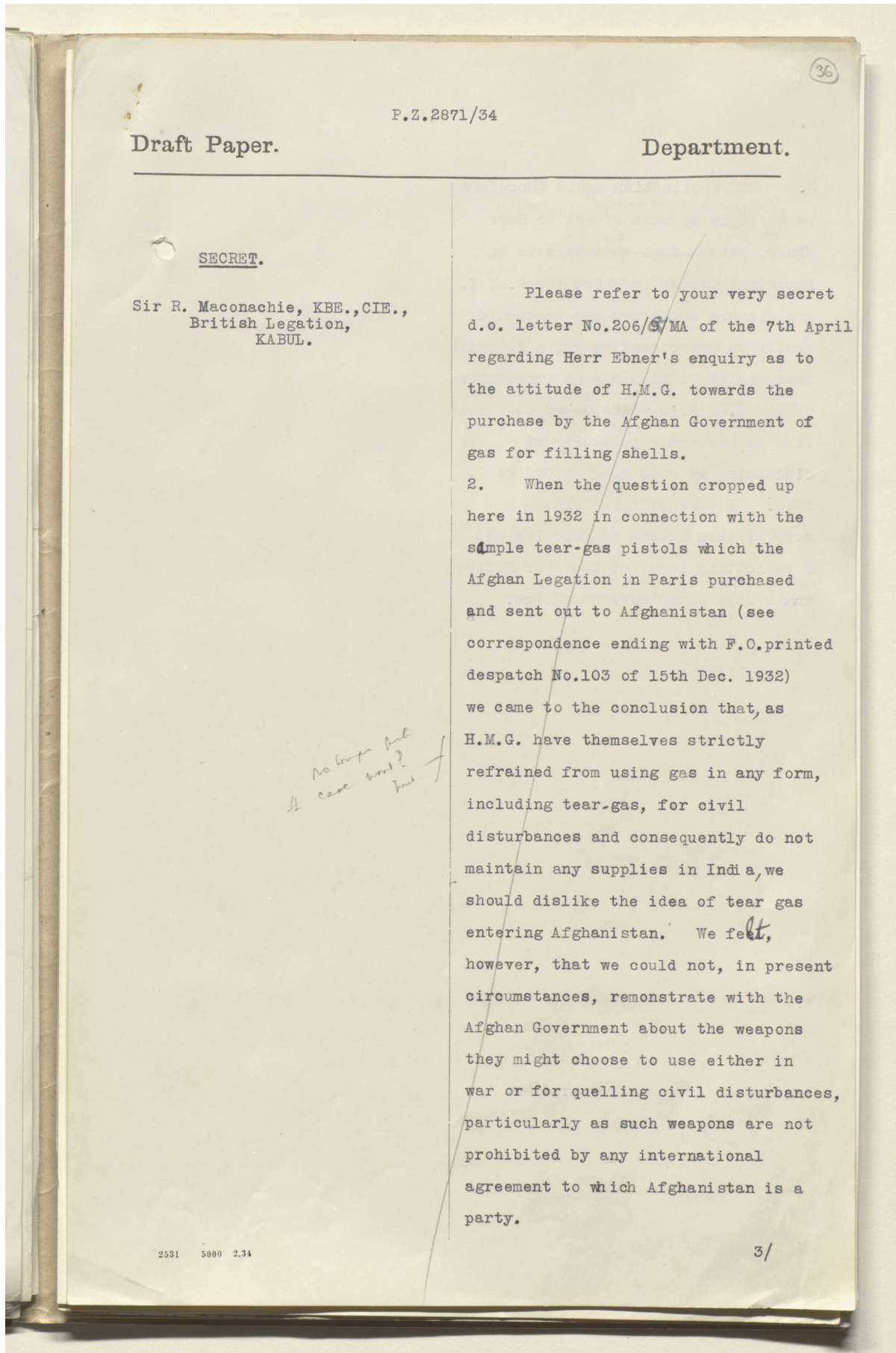
2914
1934

J. D. Coleridge, Lt. Gen.
2. 5. 1934.

In view of Genl. Coleridge's minute I have somewhat altered the draft d.o.
SPD

I think that since 1902 we have not altogether explained how the use of gas for police purposes, & that it was sanctioned for use in Palestine last year. In one instance (7 Belli) experimental use of it has, I think, been sanctioned. Shah Mahmud however, wants the most deadly gas available. Perhaps we had better elude it. R. D. Coleridge for H.M.G.'s views
1. V.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [36r] (71/118)



Draft Paper.

P.Z.2871/34

Department.

SECRET.

Sir R. Maconachie, KBE., CIE.,
British Legation,
KABUL.

Please refer to your very secret d.o. letter No.206/S/MA of the 7th April regarding Herr Ebner's enquiry as to the attitude of H.M.G. towards the purchase by the Afghan Government of gas for filling shells.

2. When the question cropped up here in 1932 in connection with the sample tear-gas pistols which the Afghan Legation in Paris purchased and sent out to Afghanistan (see correspondence ending with F.O. printed despatch No.103 of 15th Dec. 1932) we came to the conclusion that, as H.M.G. have themselves strictly refrained from using gas in any form, including tear-gas, for civil disturbances and consequently do not maintain any supplies in India, we should dislike the idea of tear gas entering Afghanistan. We felt, however, that we could not, in present circumstances, remonstrate with the Afghan Government about the weapons they might choose to use either in war or for quelling civil disturbances, particularly as such weapons are not prohibited by any international agreement to which Afghanistan is a party.

2531 5000 2.34

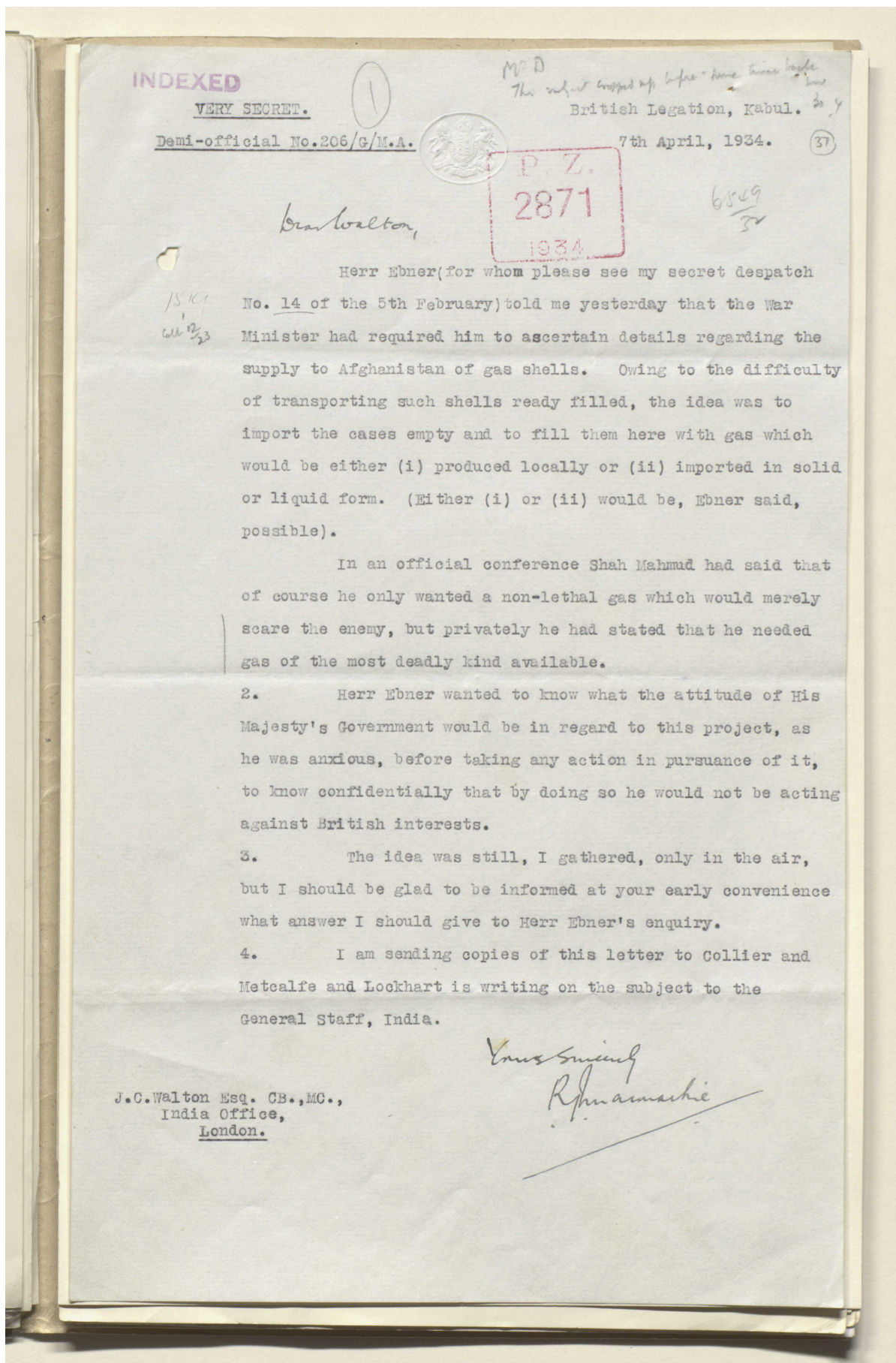
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Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [36v] (72/118)

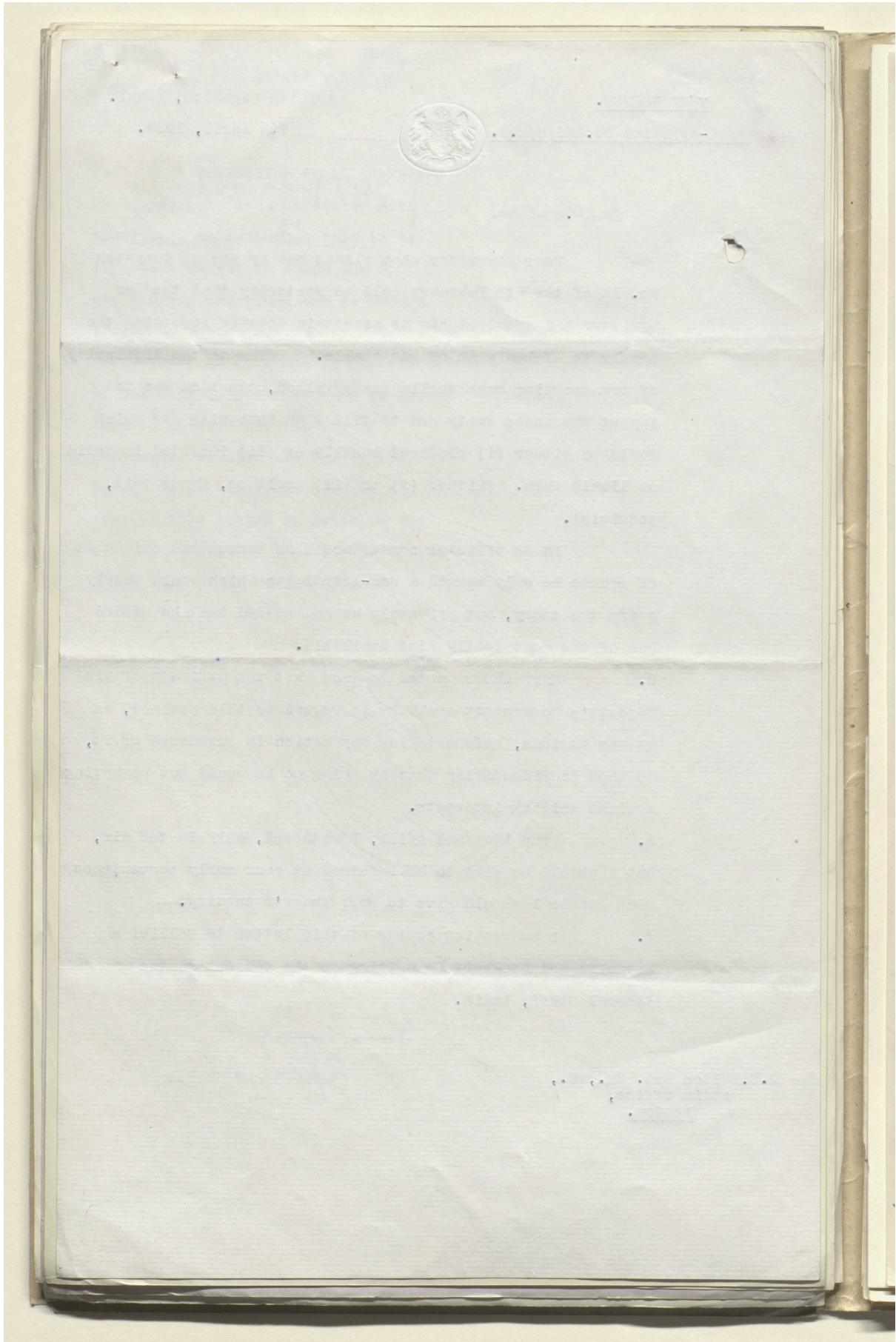
2.

3. Our inclination would therefore be to ^{Suggest that you should} reply to that effect to Herr Ebner, but ^{as} ~~we feel that~~ this is an important matter in which the G. of I. are closely concerned ~~and~~ we should prefer to defer sending you a definite reply until we have had an expression of the G. of I.'s views, ^{which} ~~and~~ we should like to have an opportunity of discussing ~~it~~ with the War Office here. I am therefore sending a copy of this letter to Metcalfe and I am letting Ismay of the War Office have a copy of the correspondence.

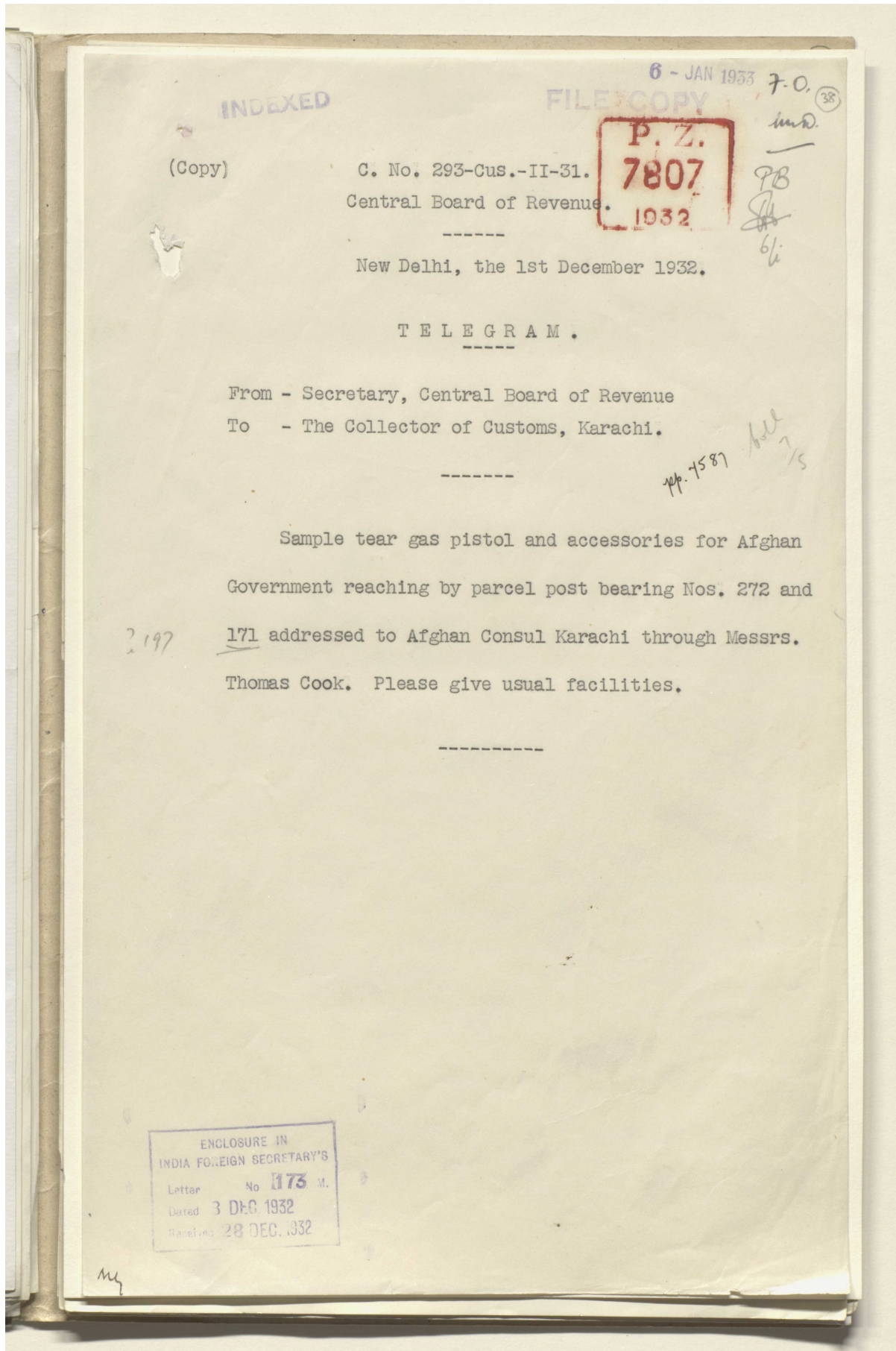
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [37r] (73/118)



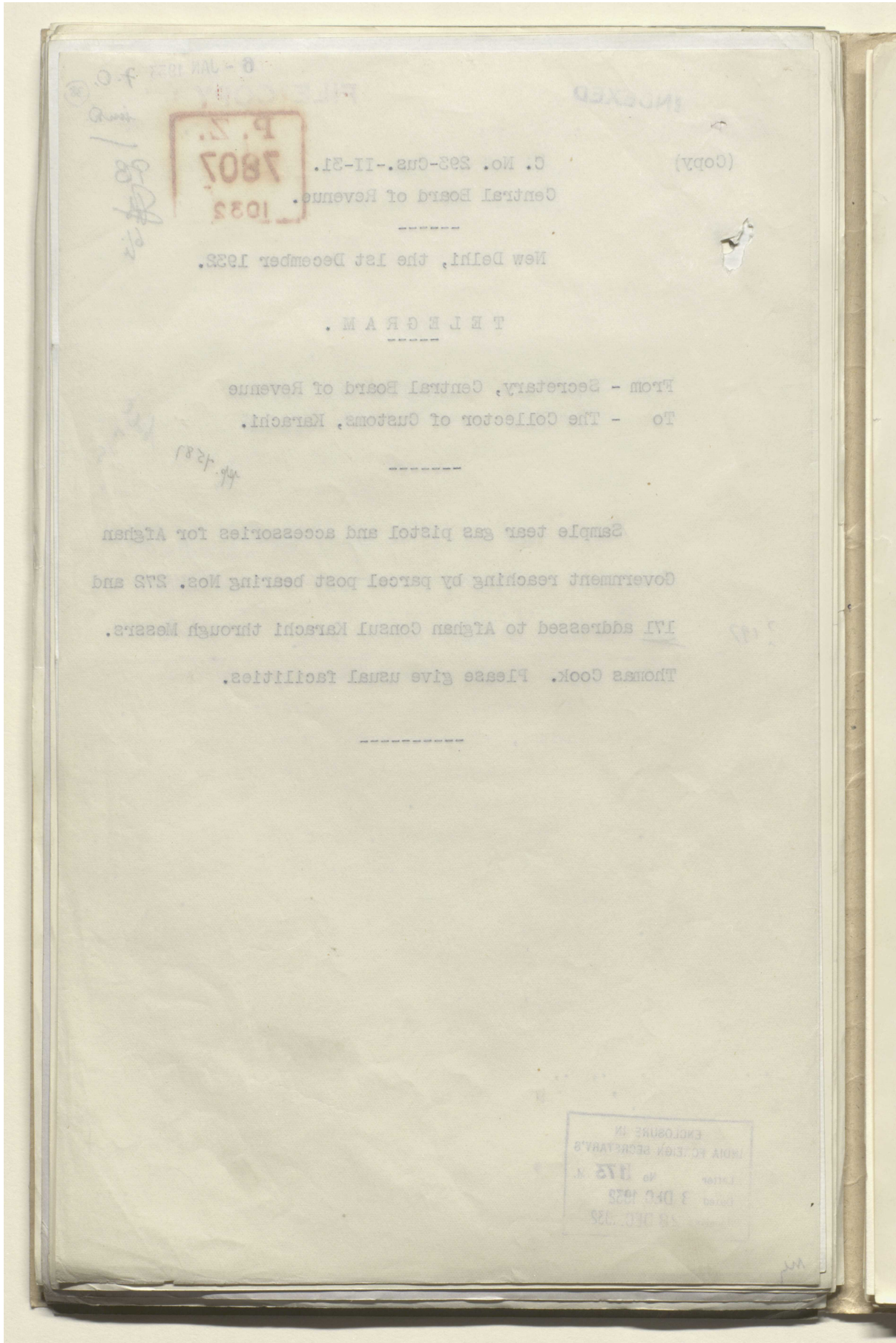
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [37v] (74/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [38r] (75/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [38v] (76/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [39r] (77/118)

39

Notes.

Register No.
P.Z.
 7587/32

Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated _____ 19__
Rec. _____

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	20. 12.	<i>[initials]</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Arms for Afghanistan</p> <p>Despatch of a sample tear gas pistol with accessories.</p>
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	28	<i>[initials]</i>	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of _____ to _____

[Signature] FOR INFORMATION.

In view of the G.I.'s taken of 29th Nov, sent after consultation with H.M. Minister, it was decided to accord the facilities asked for -

(It was ascertained that the pistol & its "ammunition" & accessories came originally from Prague. Paris was only an intermediate "post-office" -

[Signature]
19. XII. 32

seen through *[Signature]*
20/12/32

M
 8062
 1932

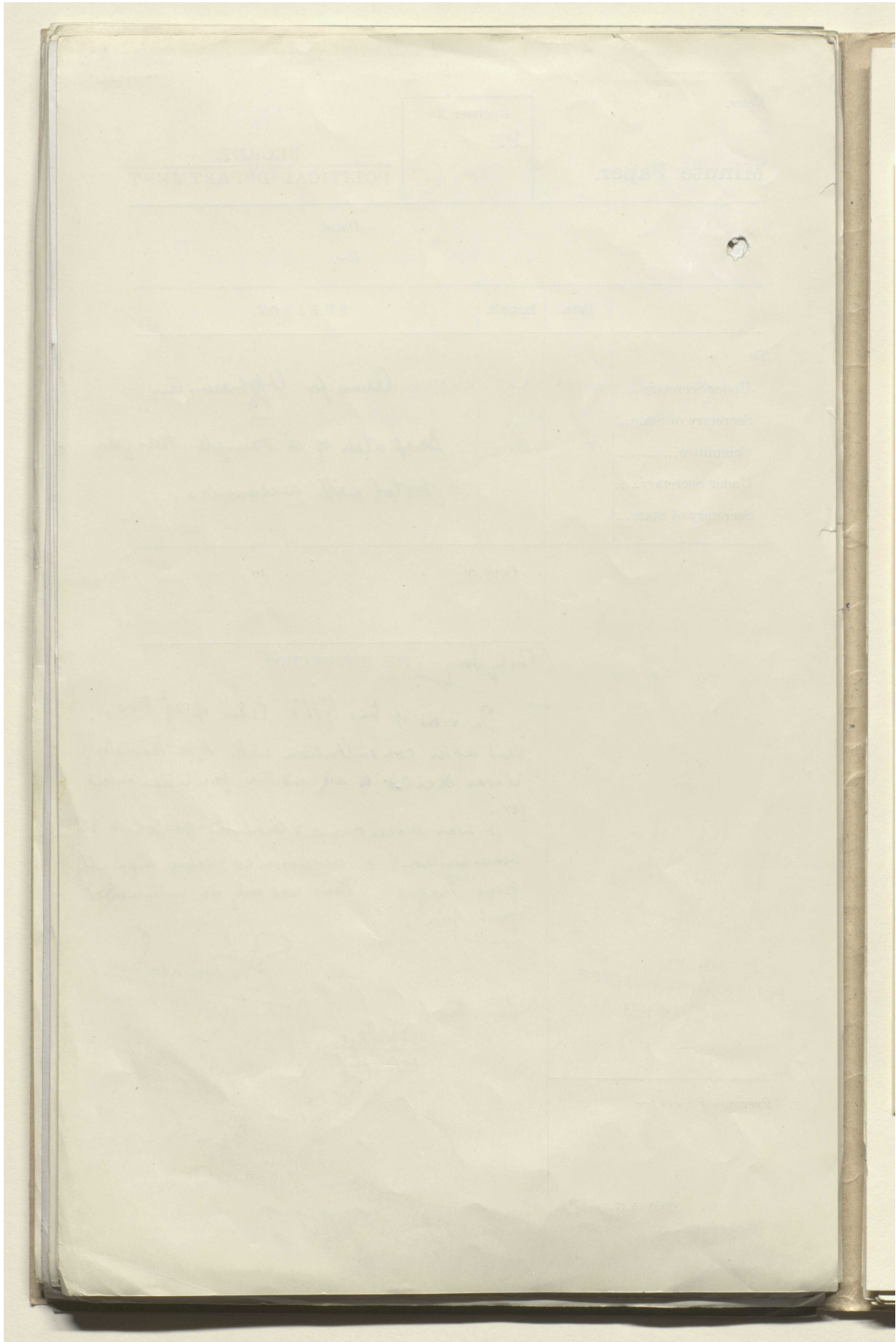
**SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
2 JAN 1933**

Previous Papers :—

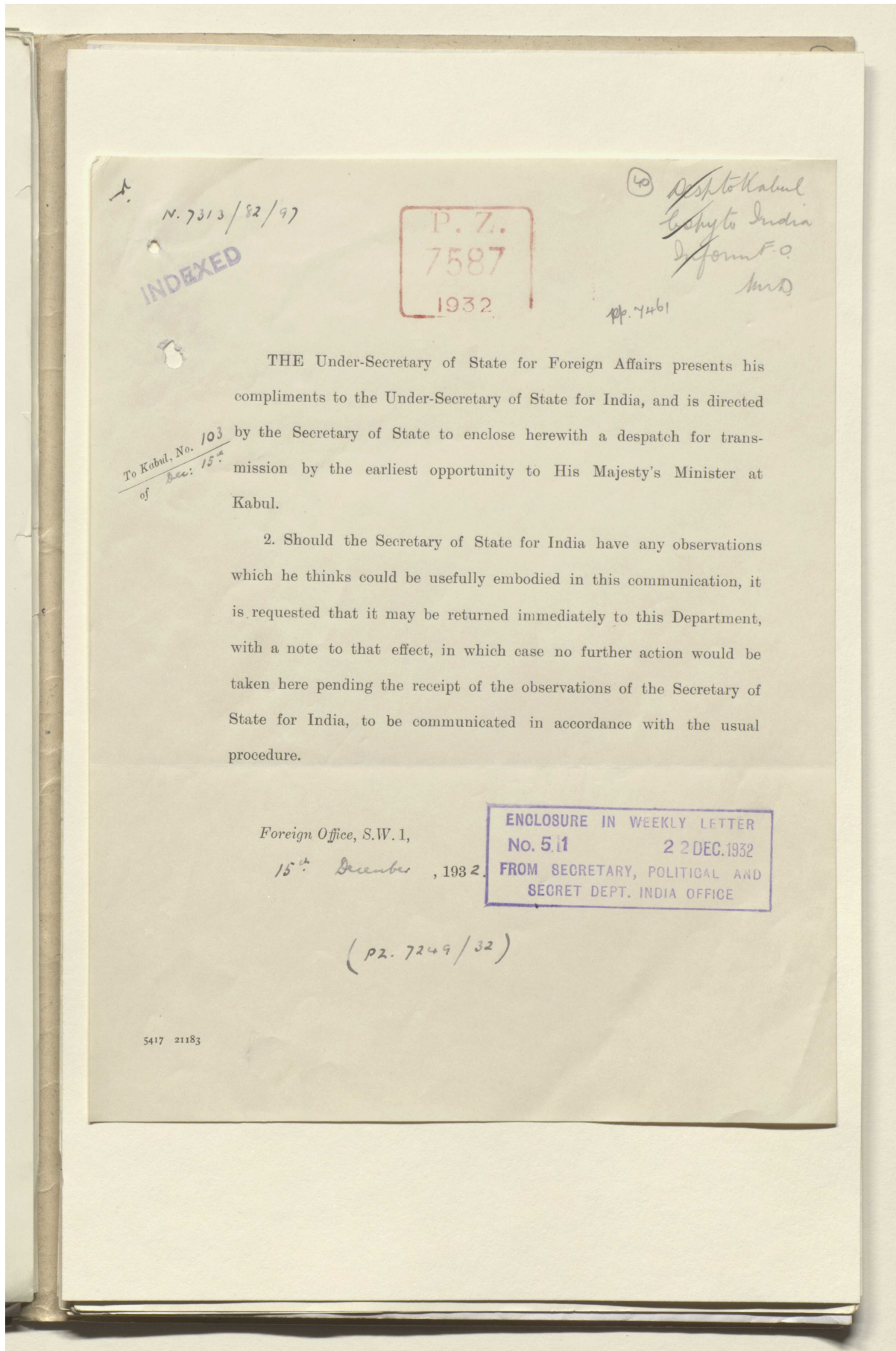
29A 2000 5.31

[Handwritten notes: K.M. 207, 30/12, 2/1, 9/1]

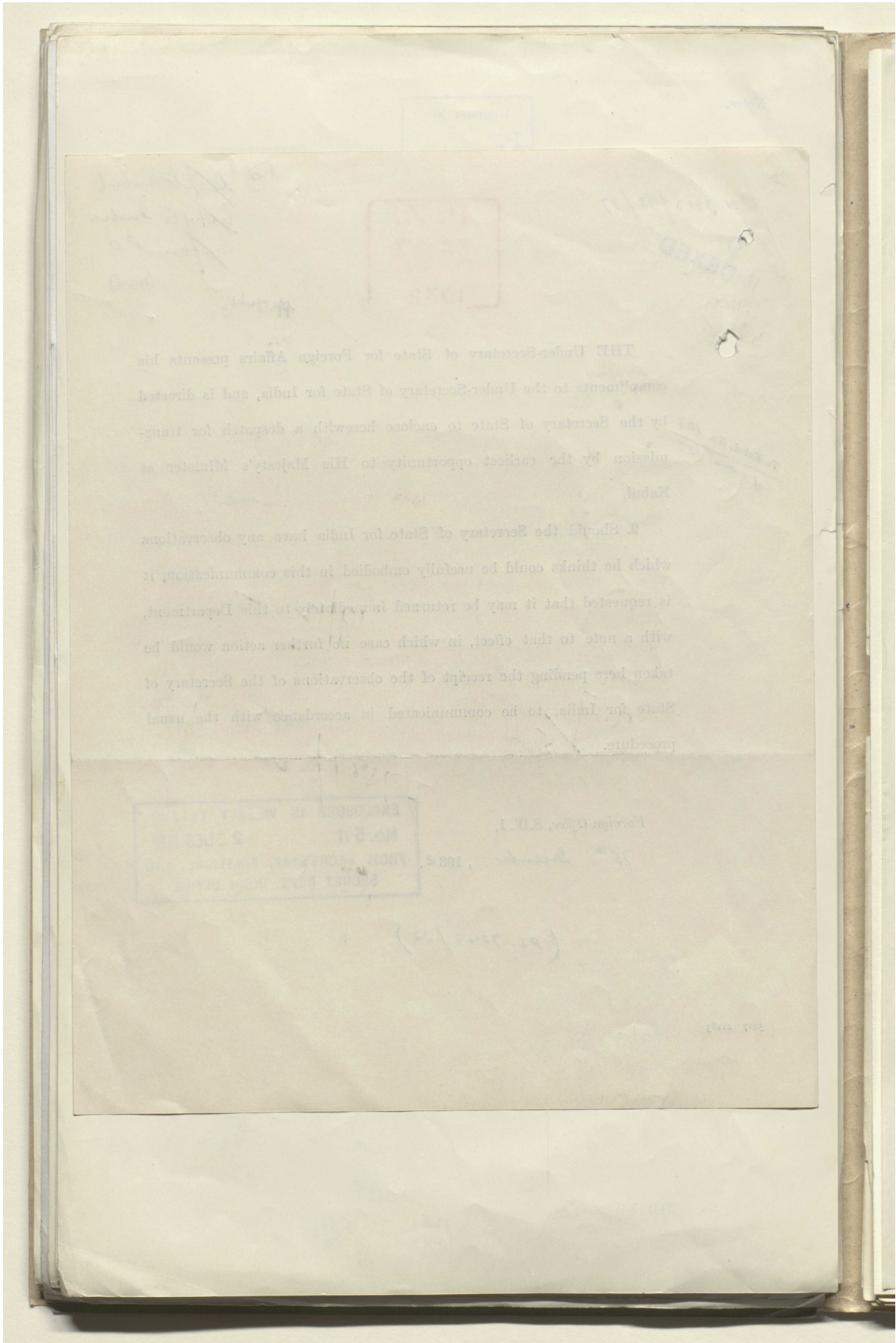
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [39v] (78/118)



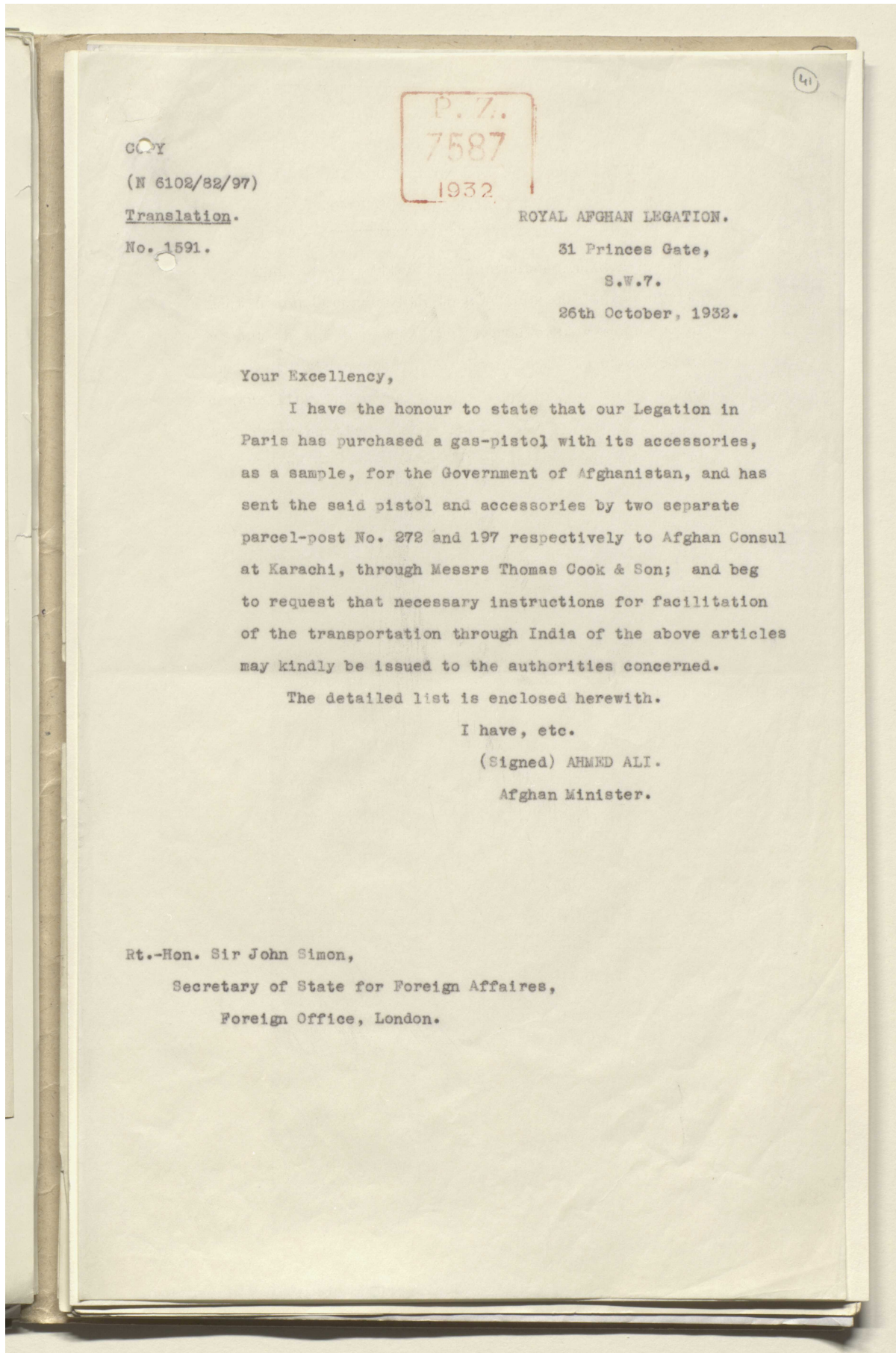
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [40r] (79/118)



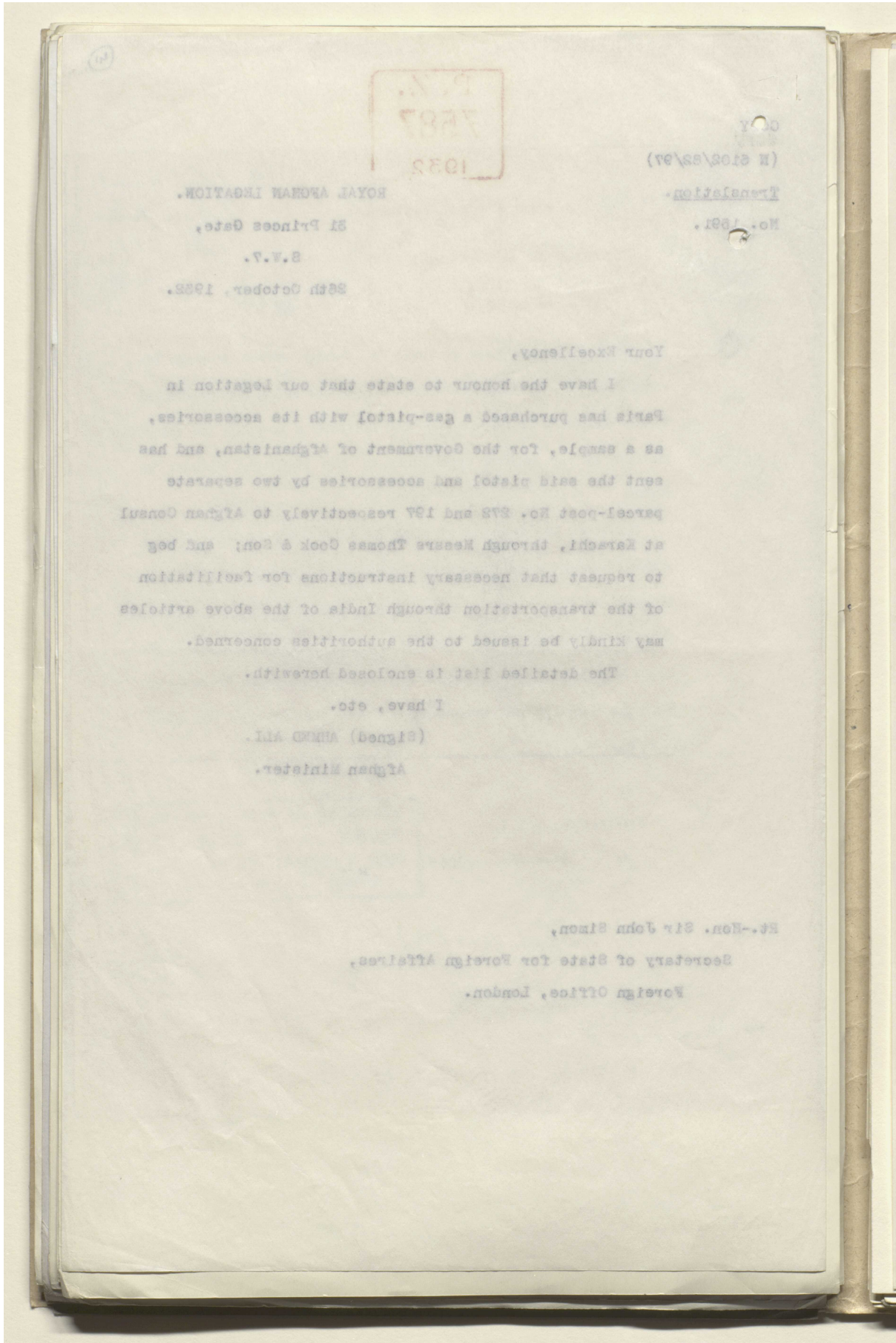
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [40v] (80/118)



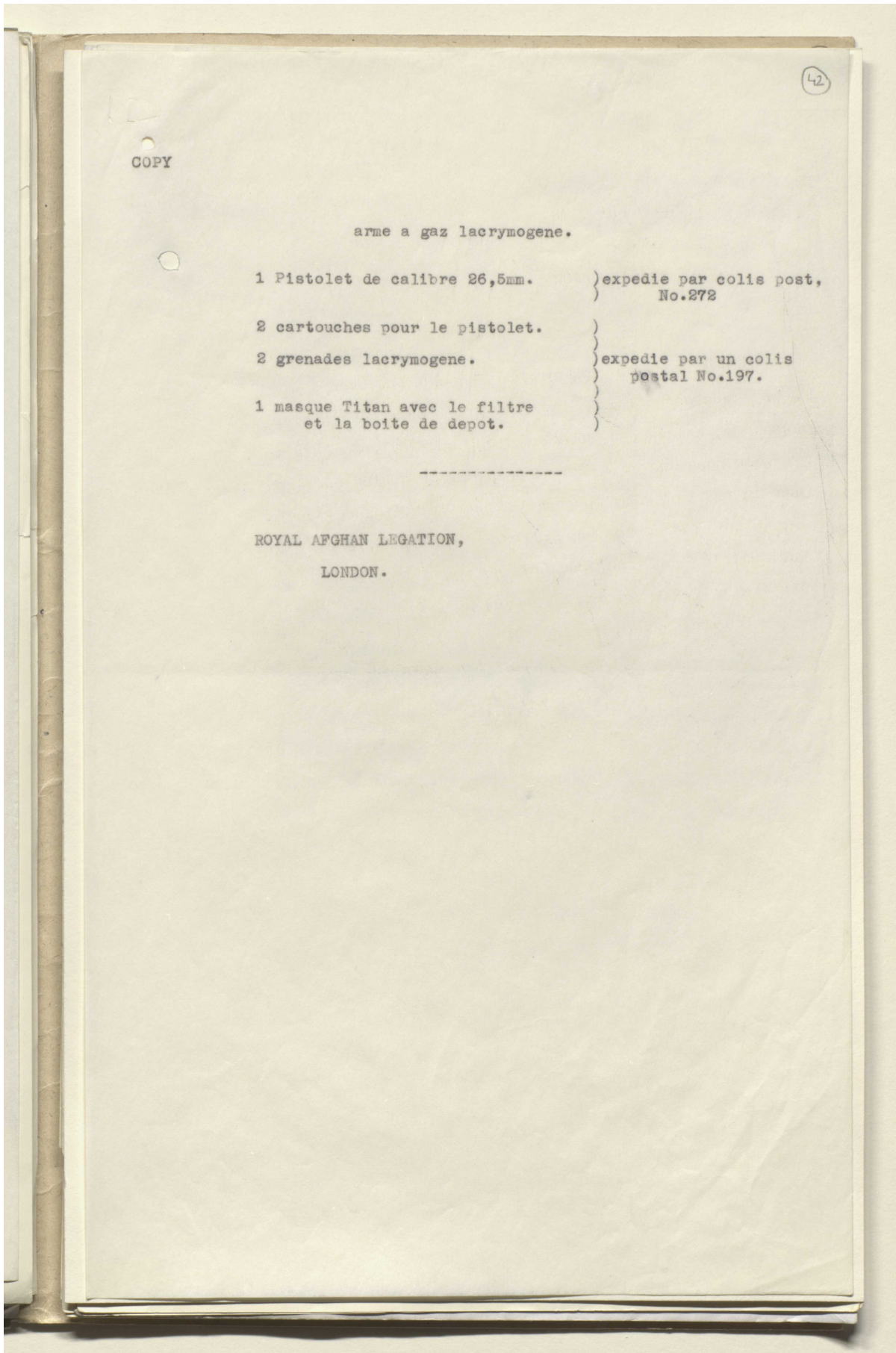
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [41r] (81/118)



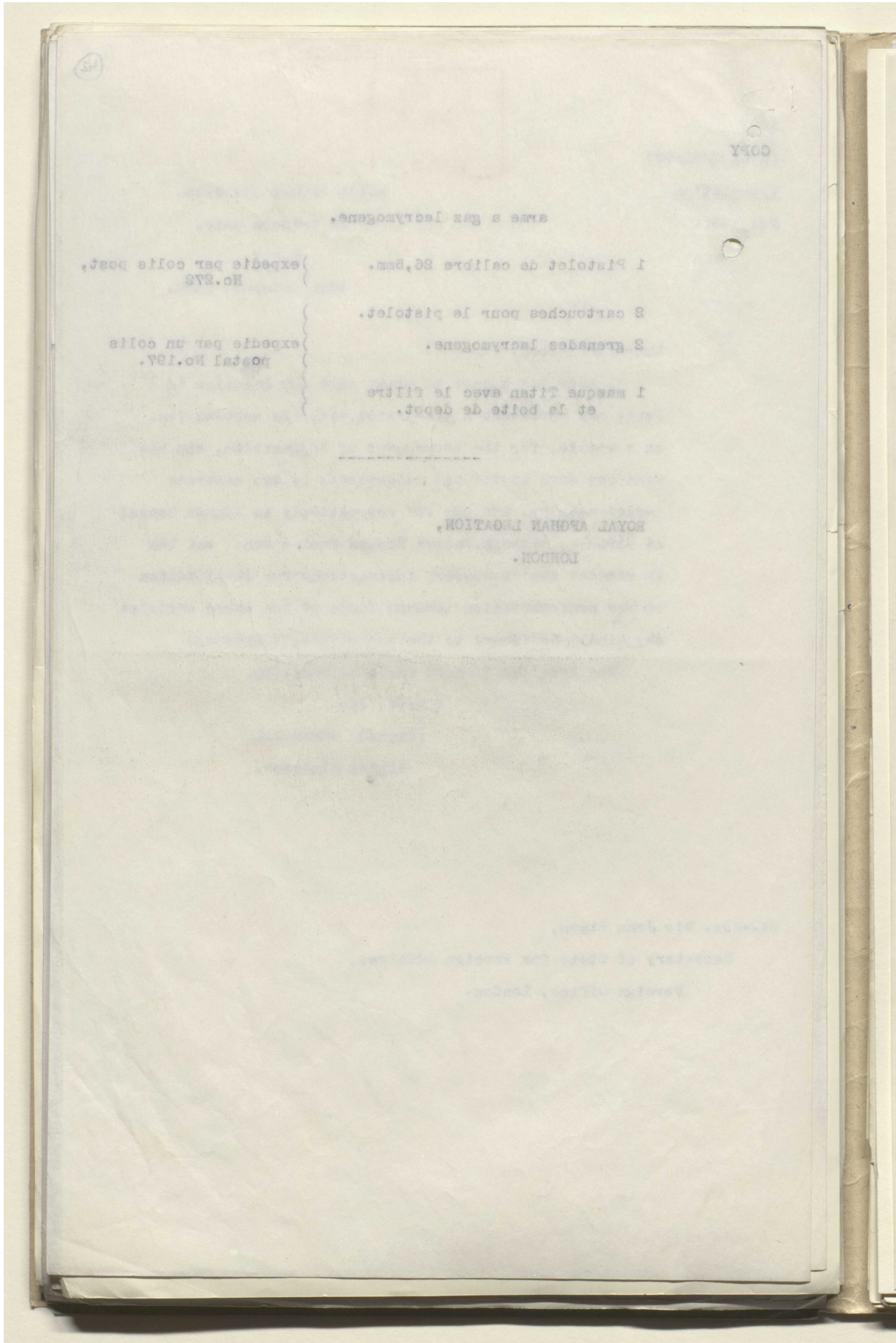
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [41v] (82/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [42r] (83/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [42v] (84/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [43r] (85/118)

43

Copy
(N 6978/82/97)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
9th December, 1932.

Your Highness,

I have the honour to refer to your note No. 1591 of 26th October last requesting the issue of instructions to facilitate the passage through India via Karachi of two packages containing a sample tear gas pistol and accessories despatched to the Afghan Consul at Karachi through Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son, Paris.

2. I have the honour to inform Your Highness that on this occasion His Majesty's Government have decided to accord the necessary facilities without insisting upon the receipt by His Majesty's Representative at Kabul of a previous intimation from the Afghan Government in accordance with the terms of Letter II attached to the Anglo-Afghan Treaty of November 22nd 1921.

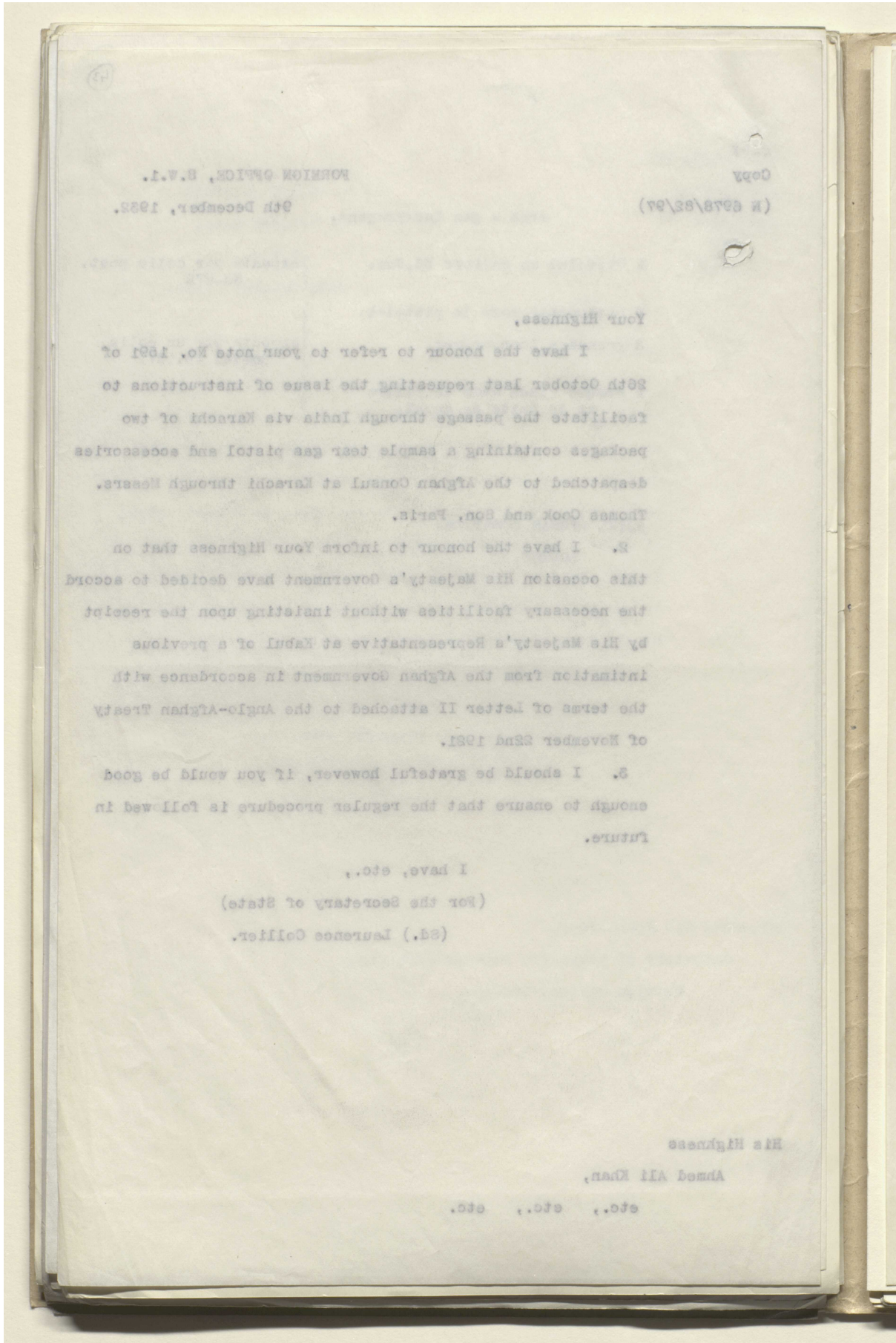
3. I should be grateful however, if you would be good enough to ensure that the regular procedure is followed in future.

I have, etc.,
(For the Secretary of State)
(Sd.) Laurence Collier.

His Highness

Ahmed Ali Khan,
etc., etc., etc.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [43v] (86/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [44r] (87/118)

Copy
(N 7313/82/97)
No. 1849

Royal Afghan Legation,
31, Princes Gate,
S.W.7.
9th December, 1932.

Sir,

In further reference to my letter No. 1591 dated the 26th October 1932; I have the honour to inform you that the Gas Pistol and its ammunition was sent by S.S. Angkor on the 7th October last.

Assuring you of my highest considerations,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) Ahmed Ali.

The Right Hon.

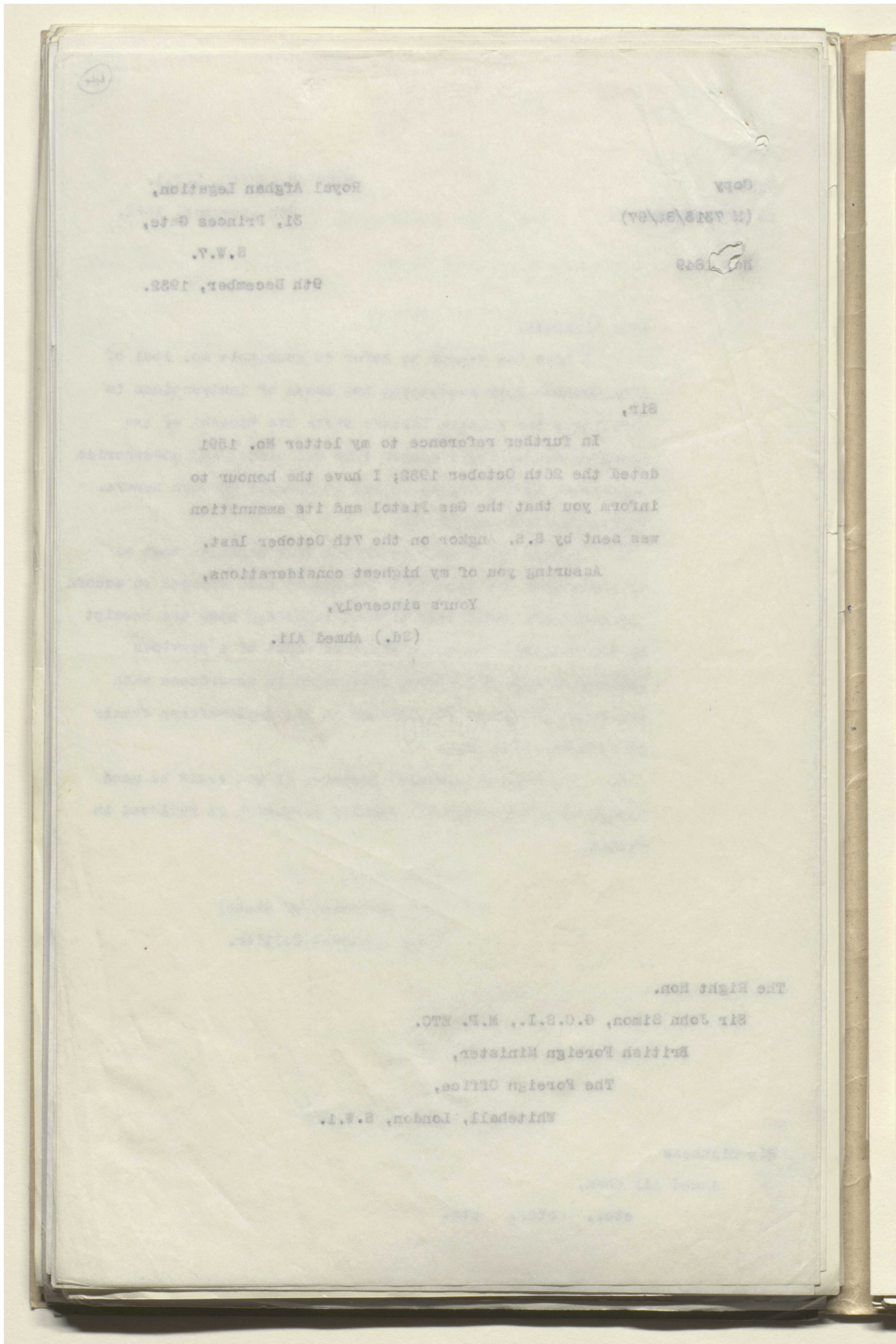
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., M.P. ETC.

British Foreign Minister,

The Foreign Office,

Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [44v] (88/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [45r] (89/118)

* INDEXED

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. N.6948/82/94.
and address—not to any person by name, but to—
“The Under-Secretary of State,” Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

(45) India
Mud
P.B.
12/12
(70. K. Kahl)
K. Kahl
6529 + 7461

P. Z.
7461
1932

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to *the Under-Secretary of State for India* and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
December 10th, 1932.

Reference to previous correspondence:
India Office letter of 30th November, 1932.
Description of Enclosure. (*P.L. 7249/32*)

Name and Date.	Subject.
<i>to, Afghan Legation of 9th December, 1932.</i>	<i>Export of a gas pistol to Afghanistan</i>

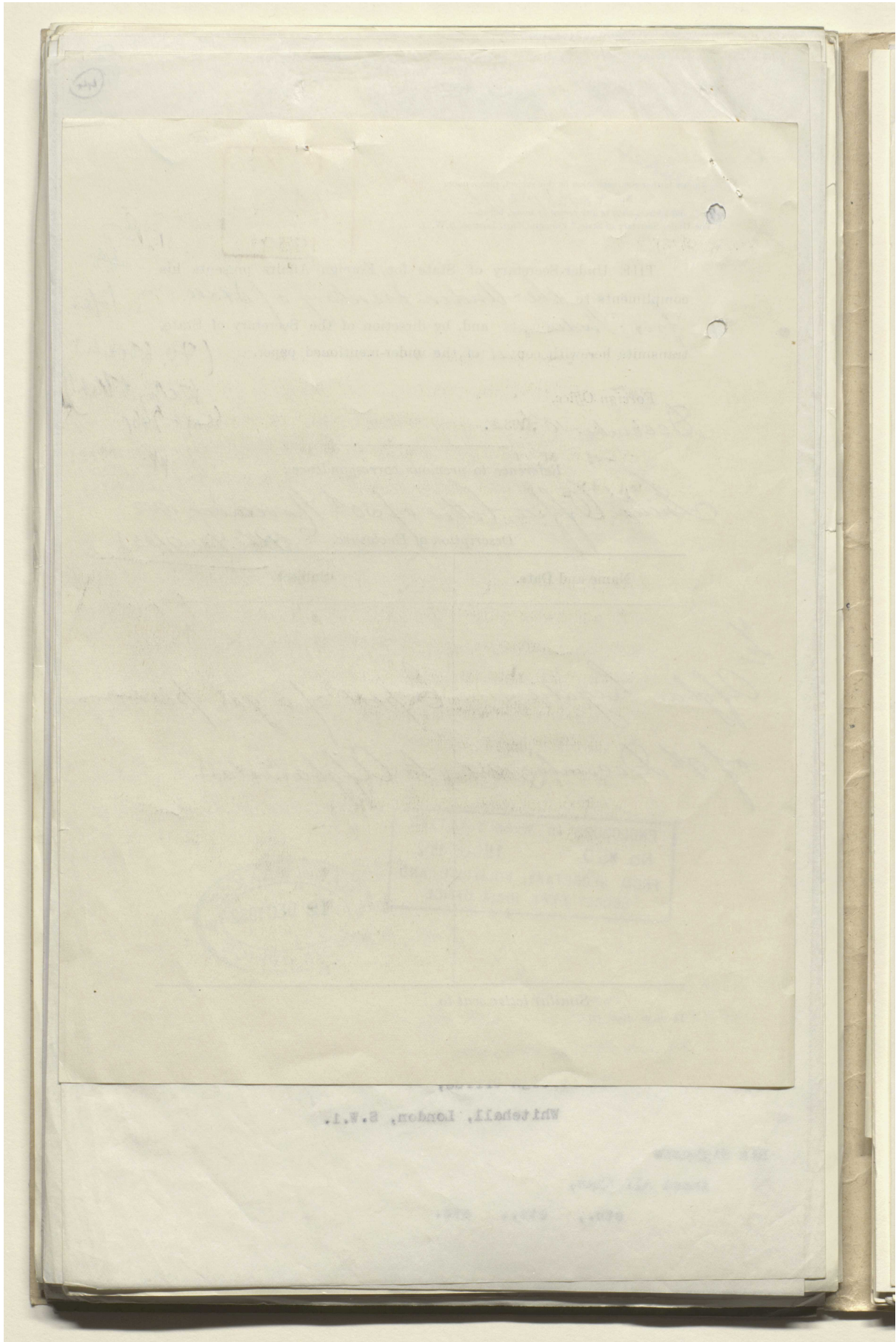
ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
NO. 50 15 DEC. 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

MAILS BRANCH
12 DEC 1932
INDIA OFFICE

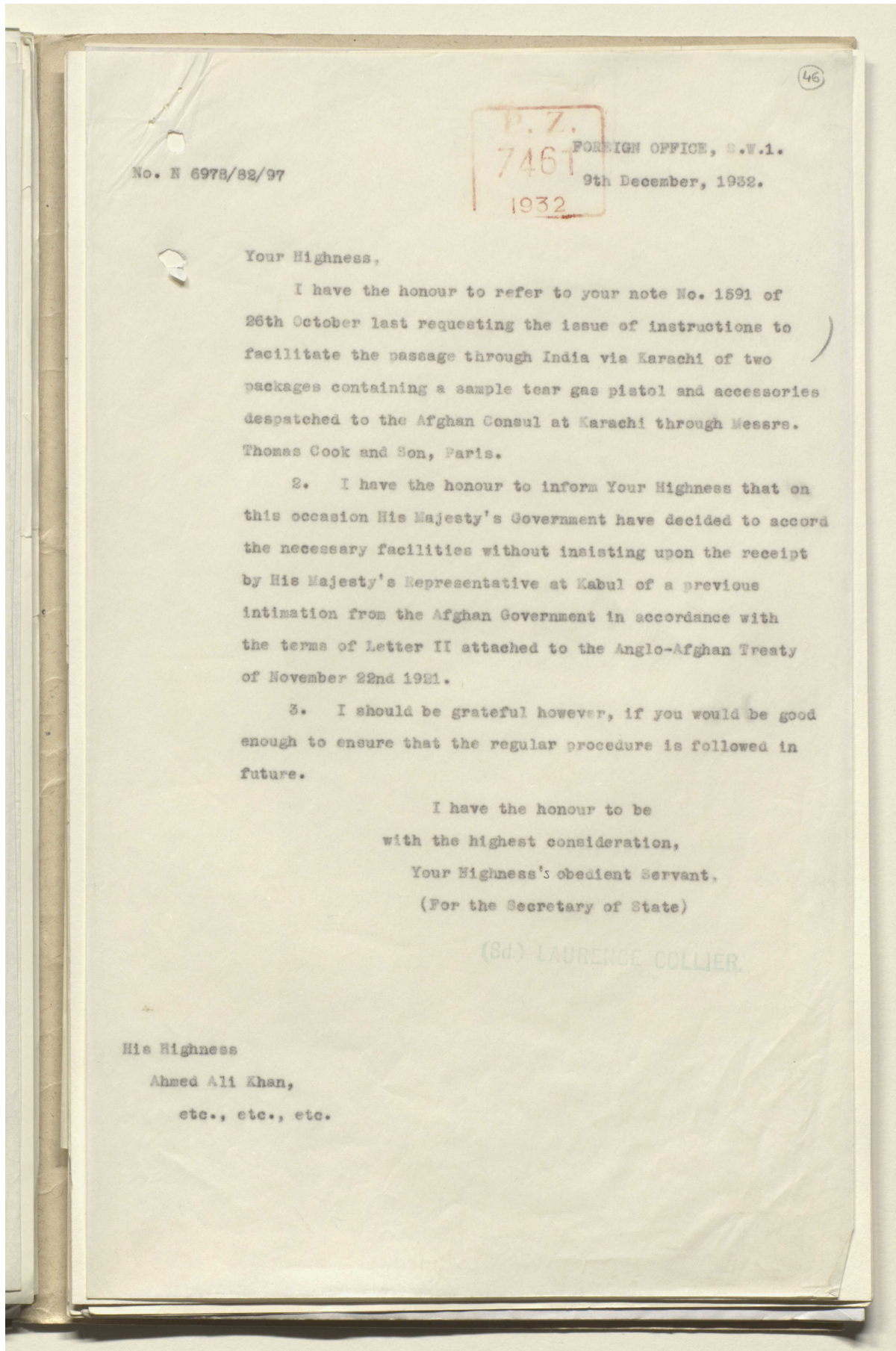
Similar letter sent to

14-6130 7690 (2)

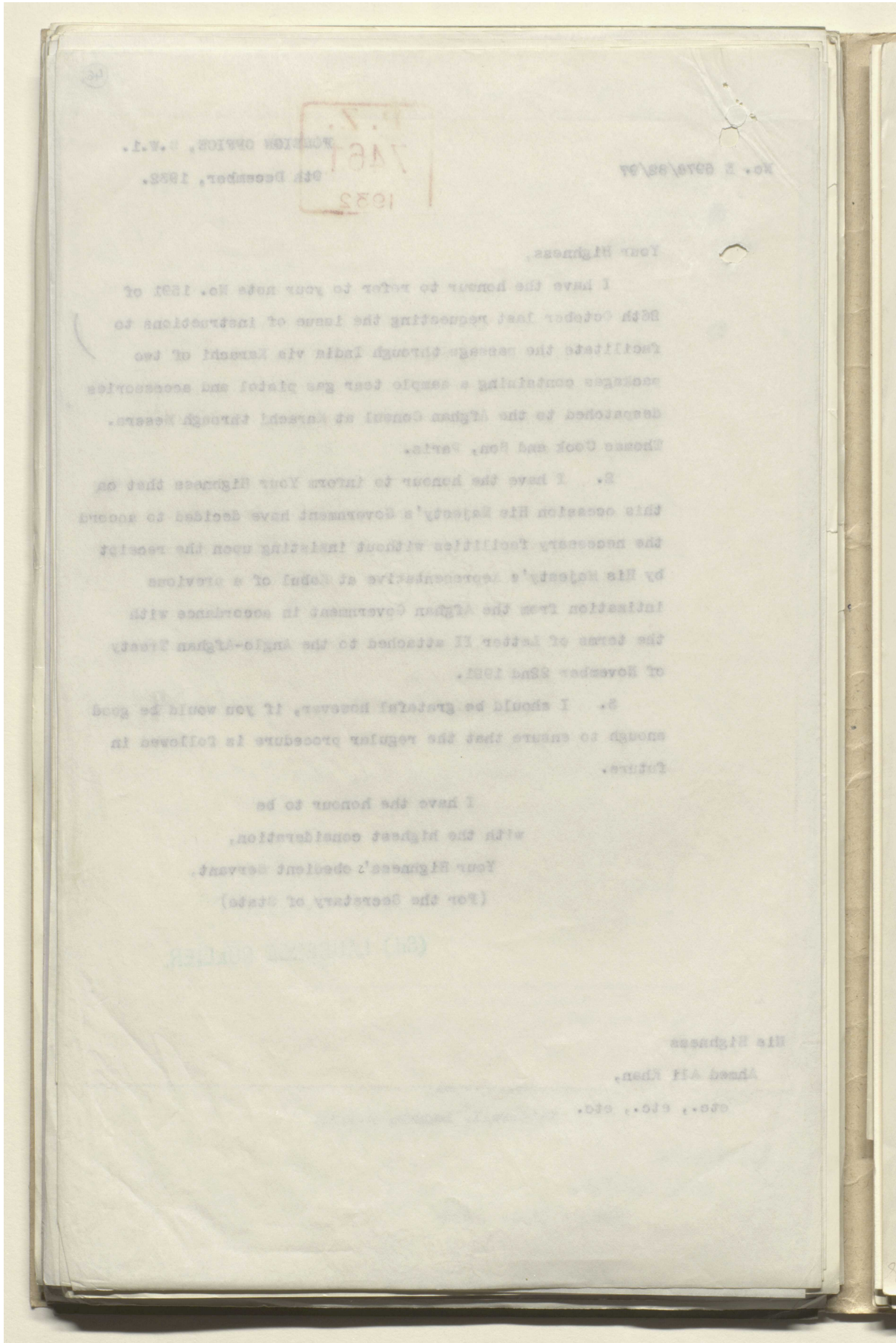
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [45v] (90/118)



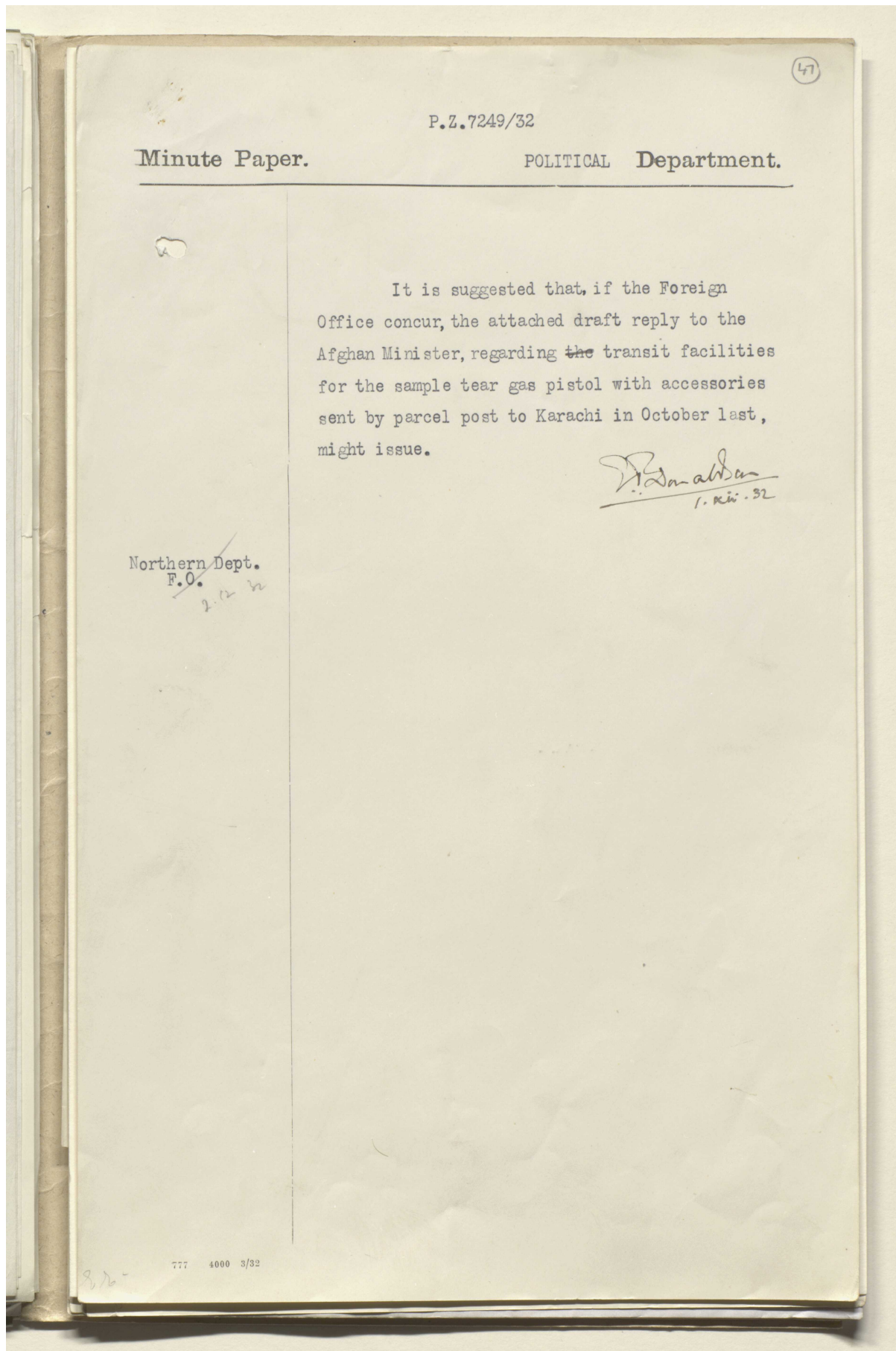
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [46r] (91/118)



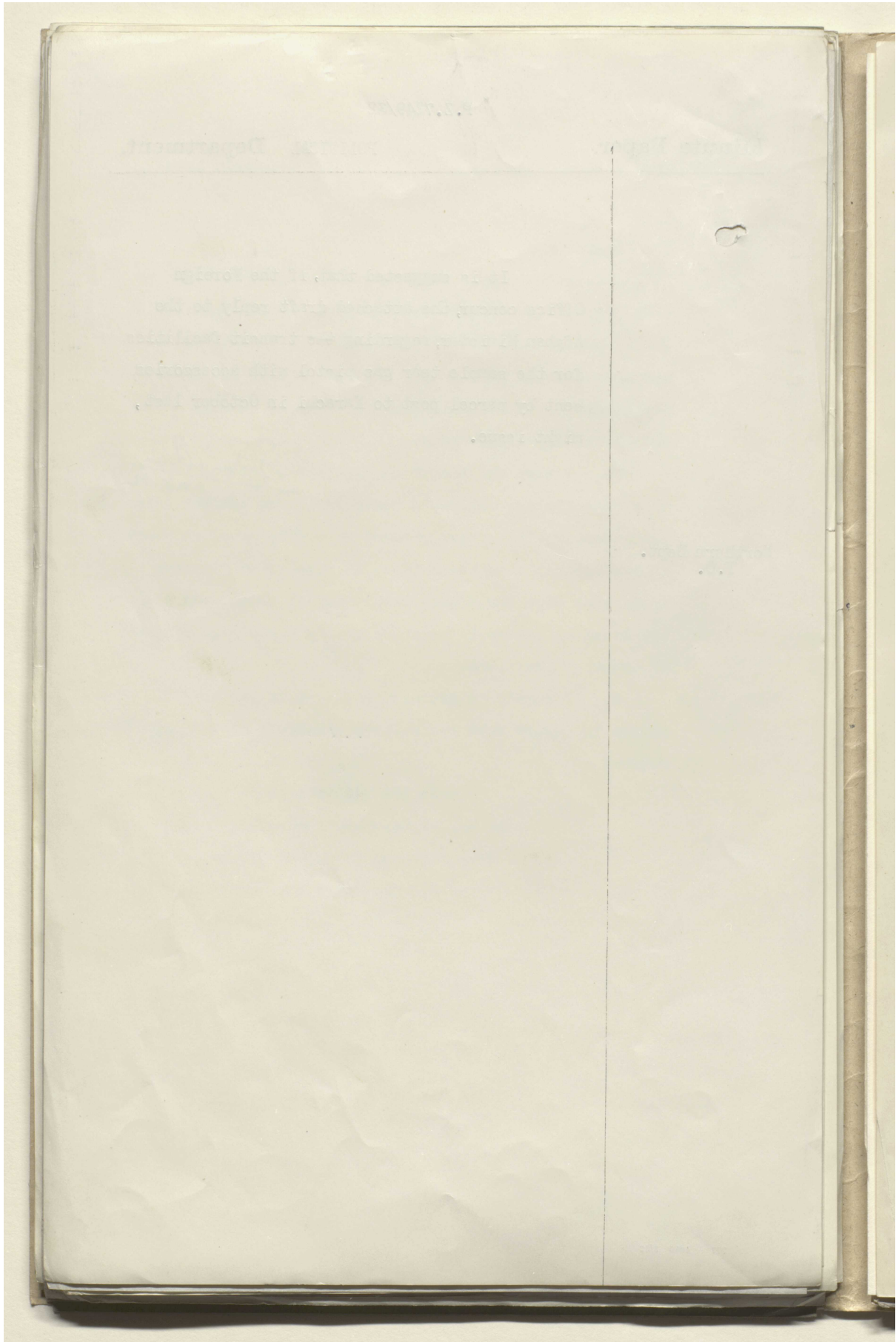
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [46v] (92/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [47r] (93/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [47v] (94/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [48r] (95/118)

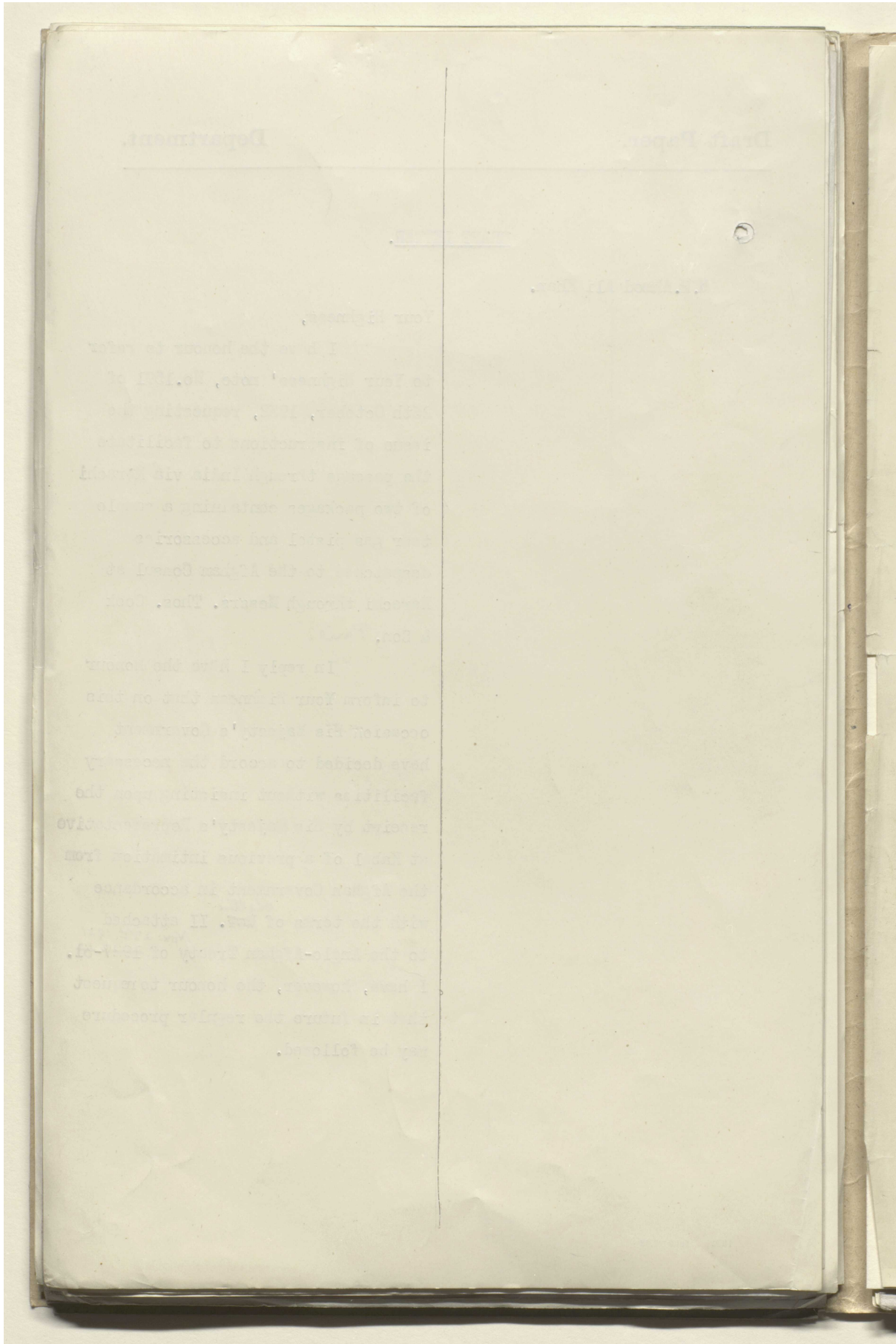
(48)

2

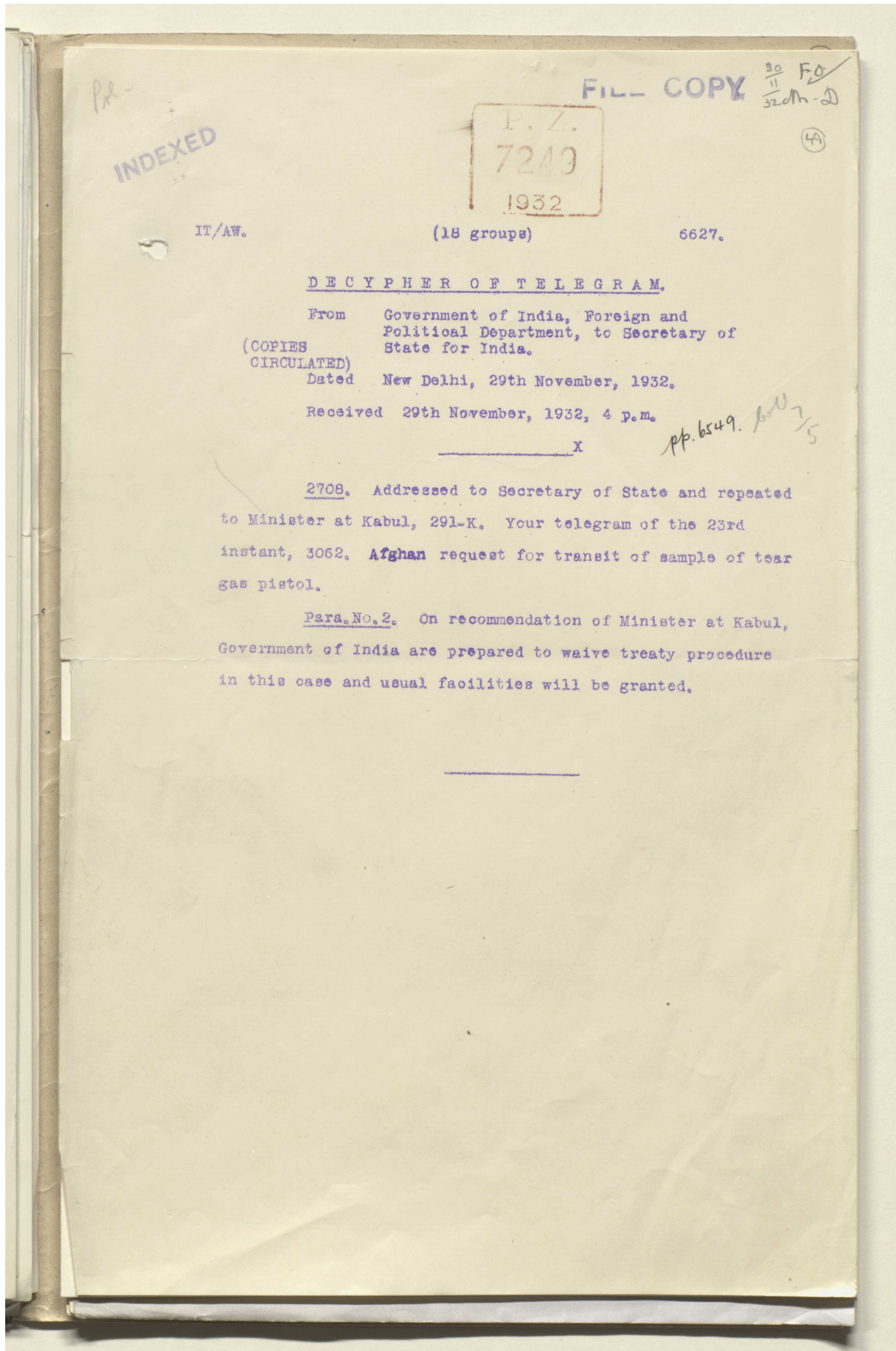
Draft Paper.	Department.
<u>DRAFT LETTER.</u>	
H.H.Ahmed Ali Khan.	<p>Your Highness,</p> <p>I have the honour to refer to Your Highness' note, No.1591 of 26th October, 1932, requesting the issue of instructions to facilitate the passage through India via Karachi of two packages containing a sample tear gas pistol and accessories despatched to the Afghan Consul at Karachi through Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son, Paris.</p> <p>In reply I have the honour to inform Your Highness that on this occasion His Majesty's Government have decided to accord the necessary facilities without insisting upon the receipt by His Majesty's Representative at Kabul of a previous intimation from the Afghan Government in accordance with the terms of the ^{Letter} II attached to the Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1921 ^{Nov: 22nd 1921} 51. I have, however, the honour to request that in future the regular procedure may be followed.</p>

1063 4000 7.32

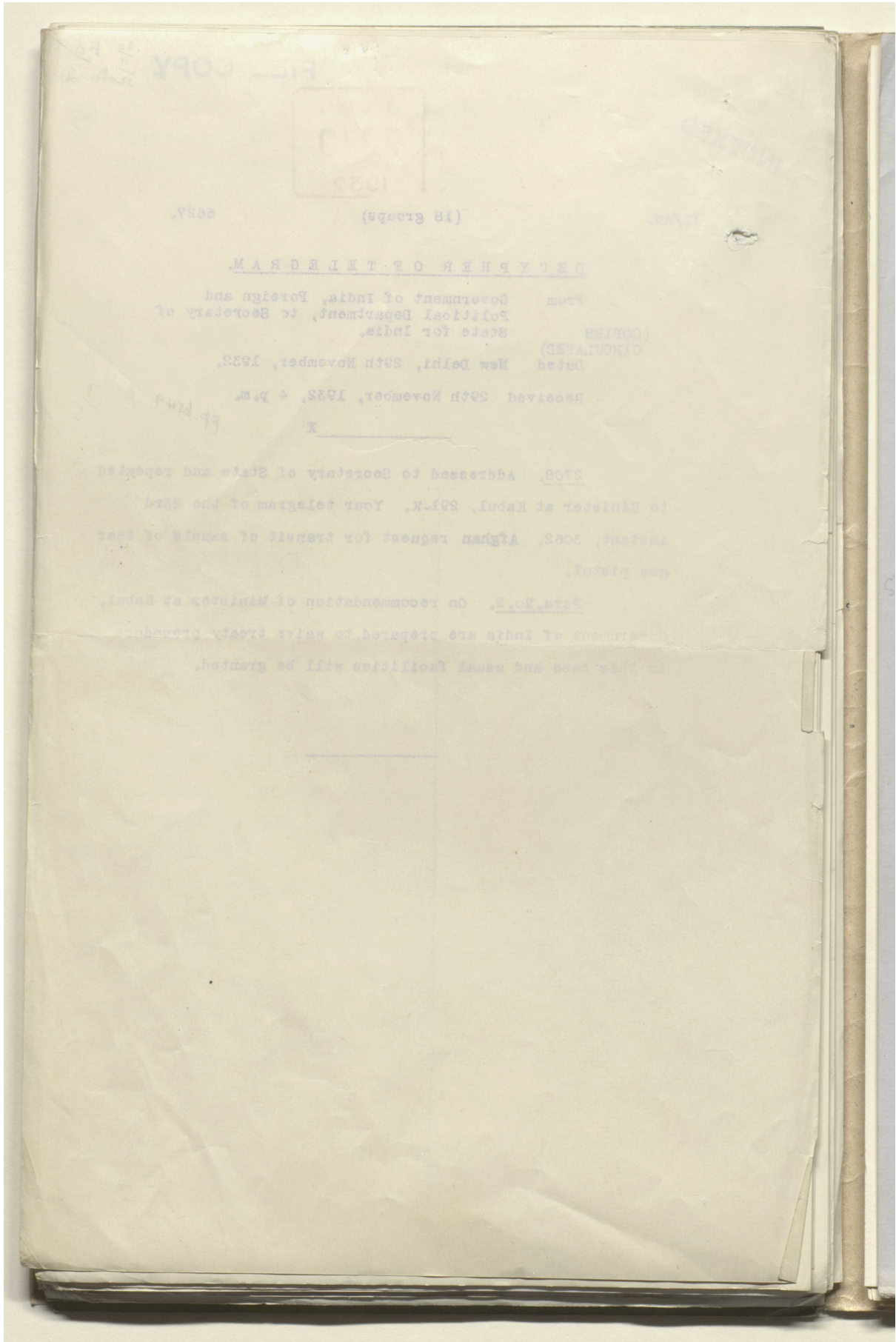
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [48v] (96/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [49r] (97/118)



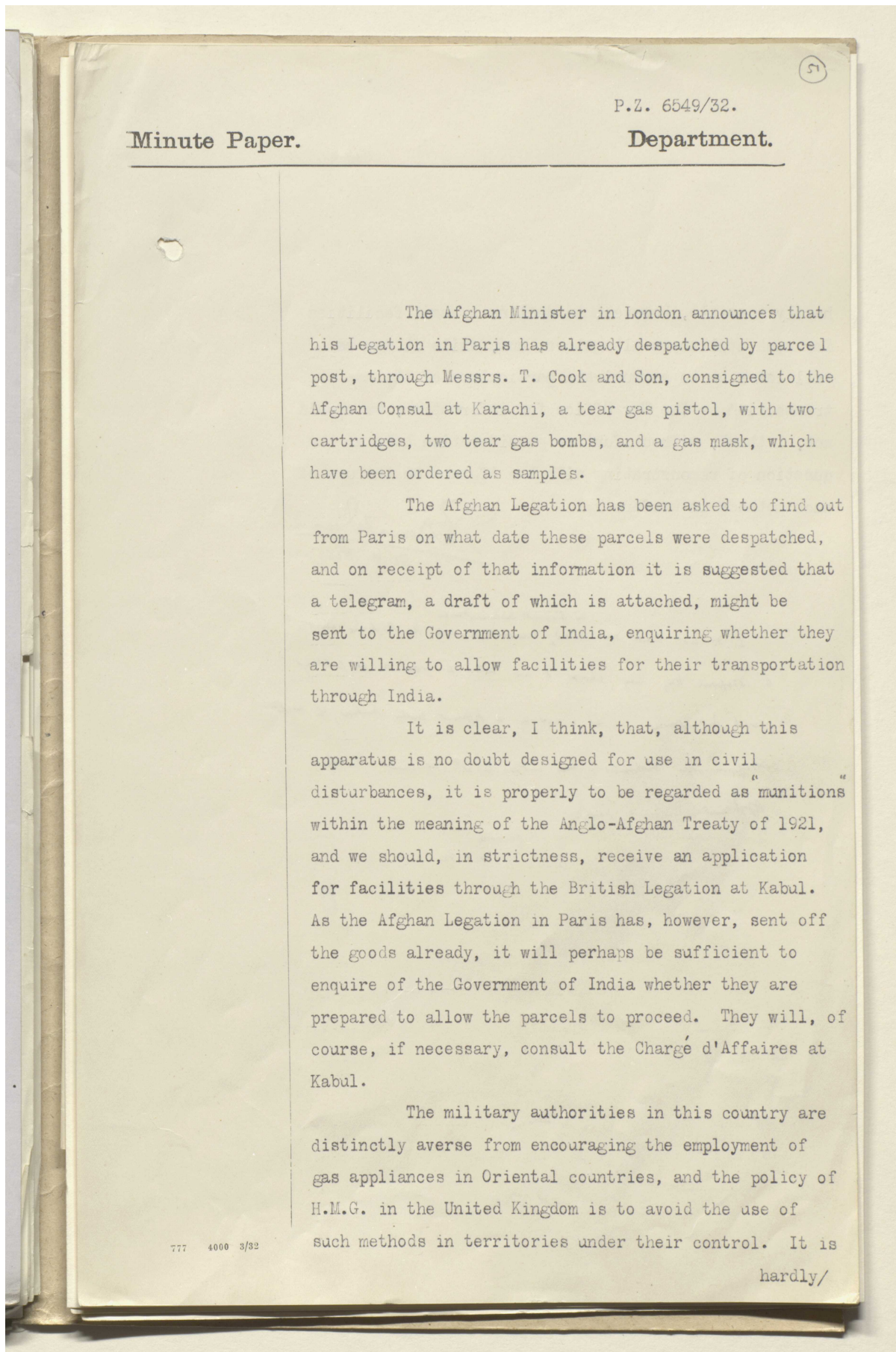
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [49v] (98/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [50v] (100/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [51r] (101/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [51v] (102/118)

hardly possible, however, to decline transit facilities for such appliances altogether, and, while it may be well later on to communicate particulars of the transaction to the War Office for information, we should not, I think, without further consideration take up the question of remonstrating with the Afghans on the use of such methods in warfare.

J. D. M. D. M. D. M.
31.12.32

*in present circumstances
I do not think we could remonstrate with the Afghans about
the weapons they may choose to use either in war or for causing
civil disturbance. It would be a different matter, perhaps, if such
weapons were prohibited by any international agreement to which
Afghanistan was a party.*

*London
4.11.32*

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [52r] (103/118)

52

MINUTE.

M

19 .

I do not like the idea of tear gas entering Afghanistan, even though only as a sample, because

(i) H.M.G. have strictly refrained from using gas in any form, including tear gas for civil disturbances. Consequently we have none in India. Although admittedly tear gas has no lethal effect, we should feel more comfortable if there was none in the possession of our neighbours.

(ii) If the experiment with tear gas appeals to the Afghans, as new devices frequently do, there is always the possibility of their wanting to try their hand with some other and less ^{innoxious} ~~noxious~~ chemicals.

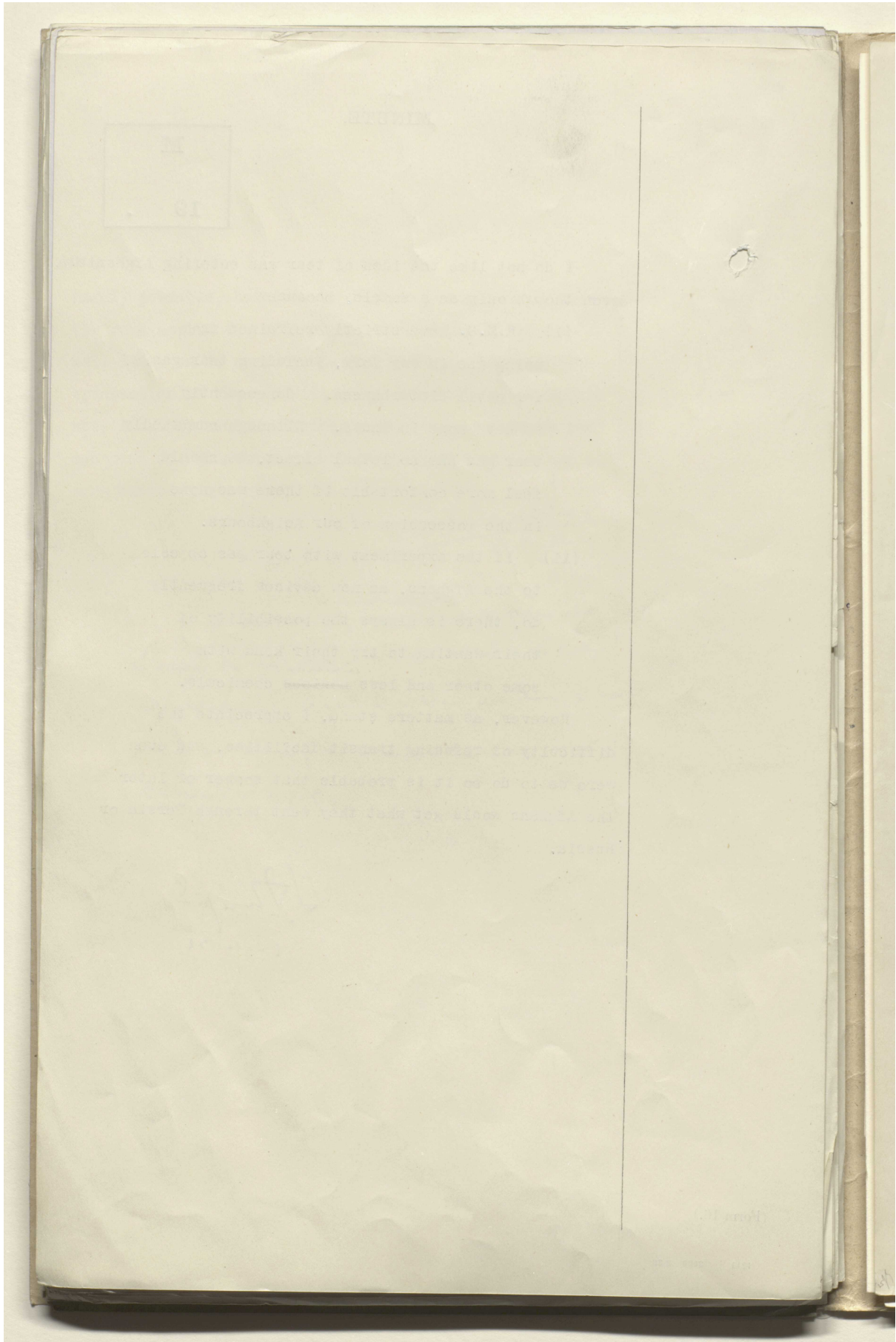
However, as matters stand, I appreciate the difficulty of refusing transit facilities, and even were we to do so it is probable that sooner or later the Afghans would get what they want through Persia or Russia.

J. H. ...
10.11.26

(Form 16.)

1211 2000 9.32

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [52v] (104/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [53r] (105/118)

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P.Z. 6549/32.

POLITICAL Department.

Draft Paper.

DRAFT TELEGRAM.

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

CYPHER X

3062

Afghan Legation in Paris requests facilities for transit through India of sample tear gas pistol and accessories despatched by parcel post to Afghan Consul at Karachi by mail of ^{Please see papers} details by air mail of 28th October, P.Z. 6549/32).

2. Please telegraph whether you are prepared to waive compliance with treaty procedure in this case. Otherwise Maconachie might be asked to enquire whether Afghan Government expect these appliances.

Copy to: F.O. 25
D.M.I. 30
A.M. 30

F.O. Concur.

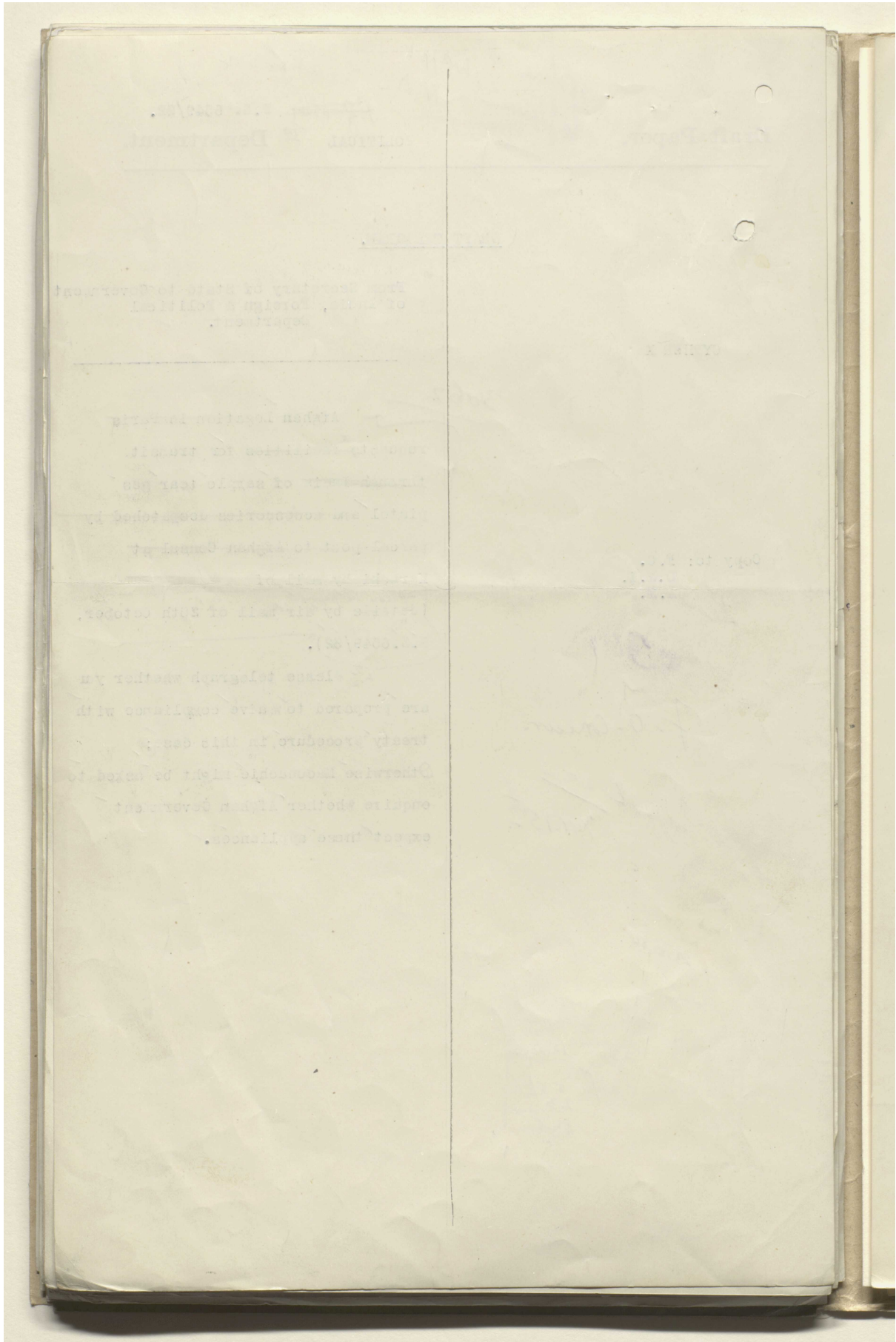
L.C.
Nov. 15th

Lead
Nov 23. 11. 02

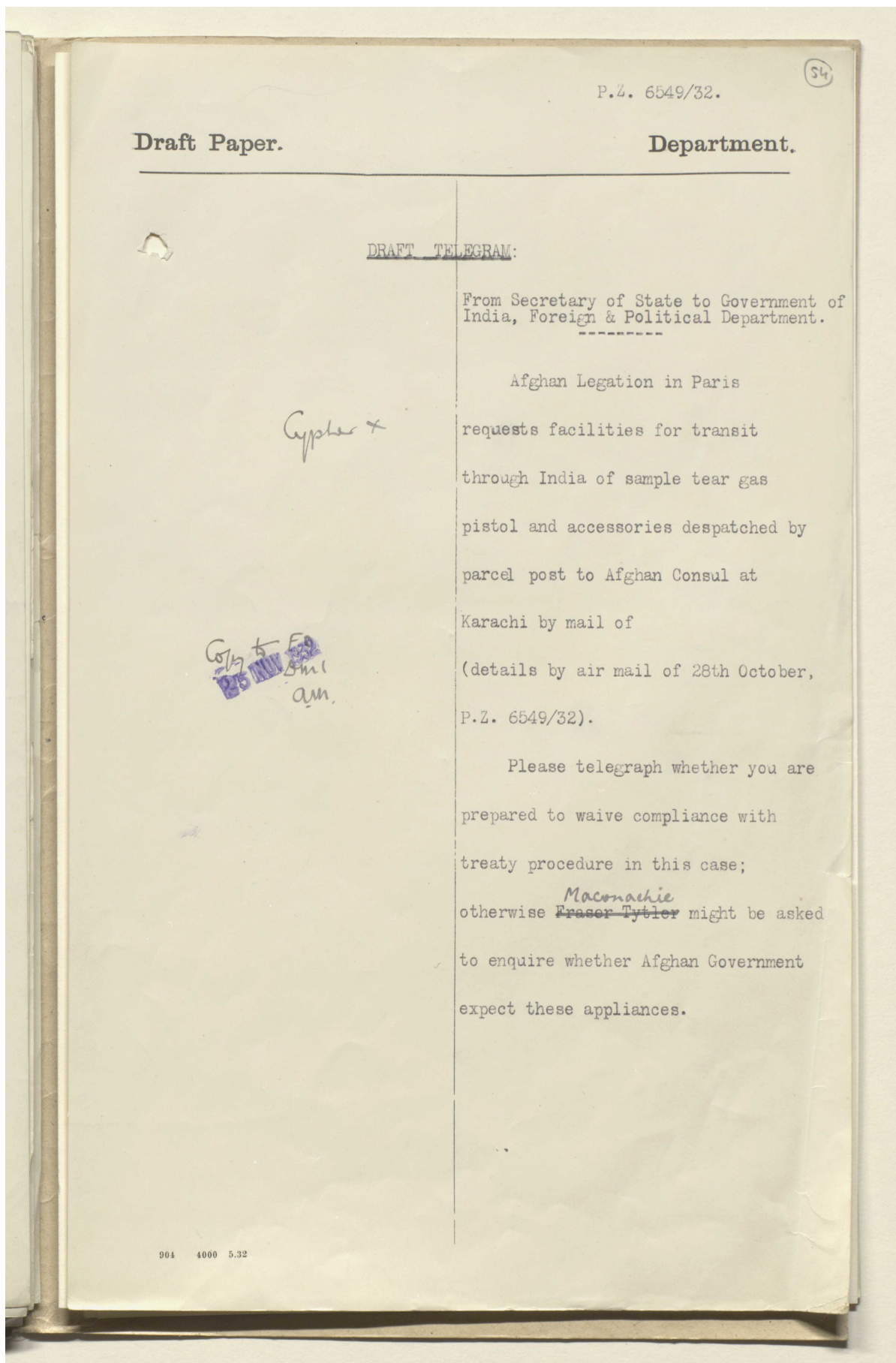
SEEN BY	DATE	TIME
RECD IN TEL. R.	23/11	12.50 PM
CODE, X	23/11	5.5 PM
DES. AT P. R.	23	
No. OF		
SENDER		526

1063 4000 7.32

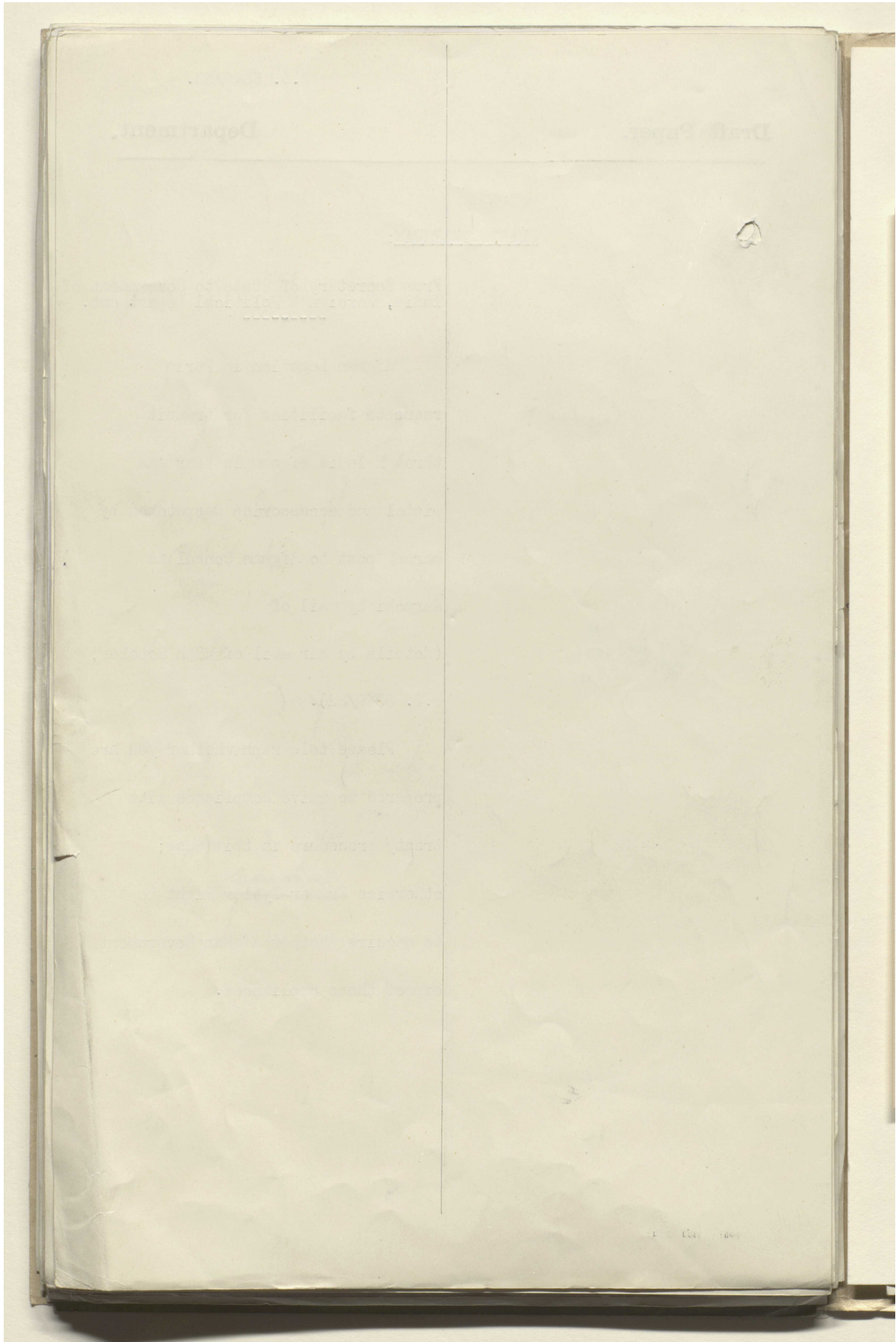
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [53v] (106/118)



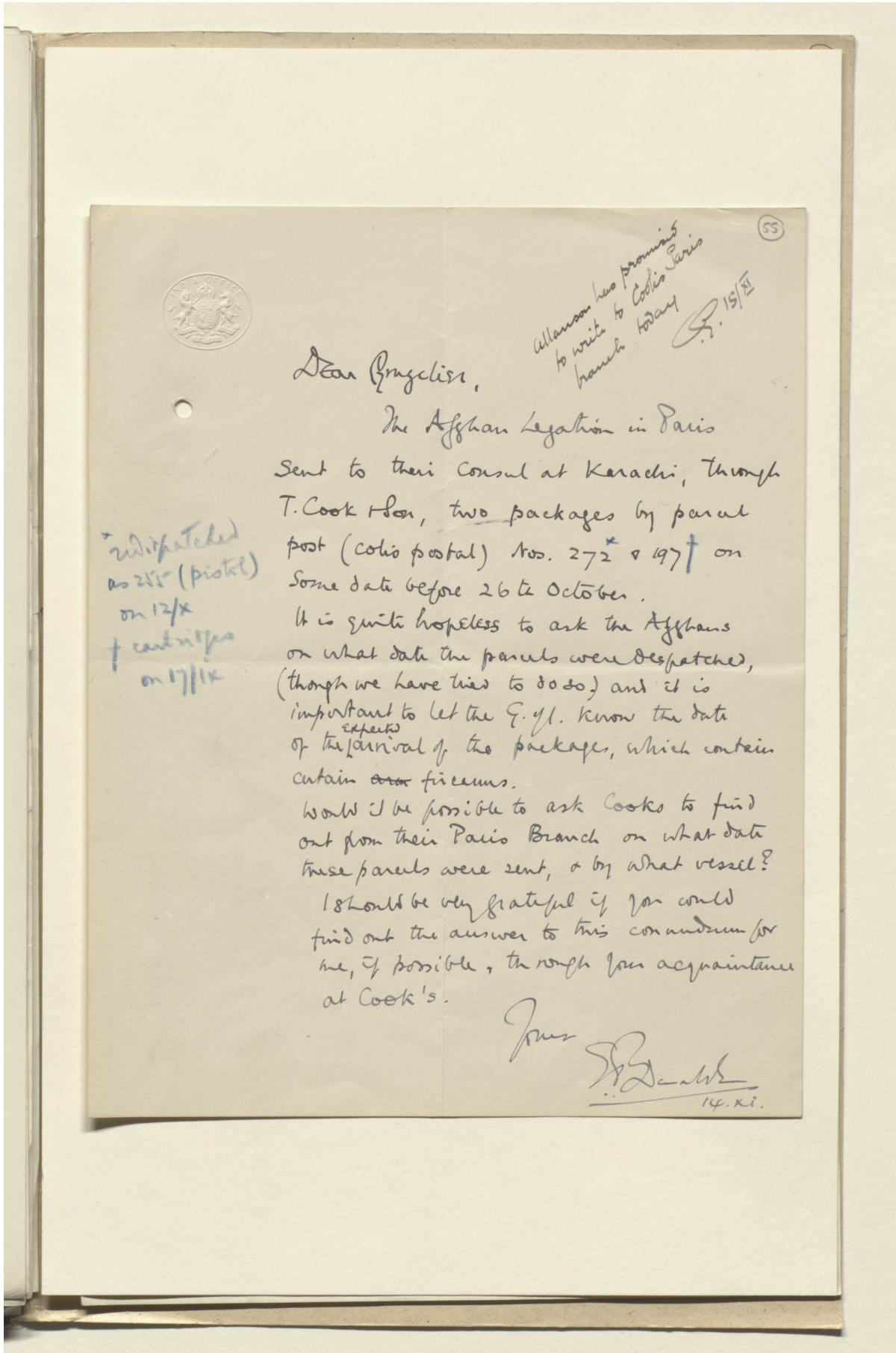
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [54r] (107/118)



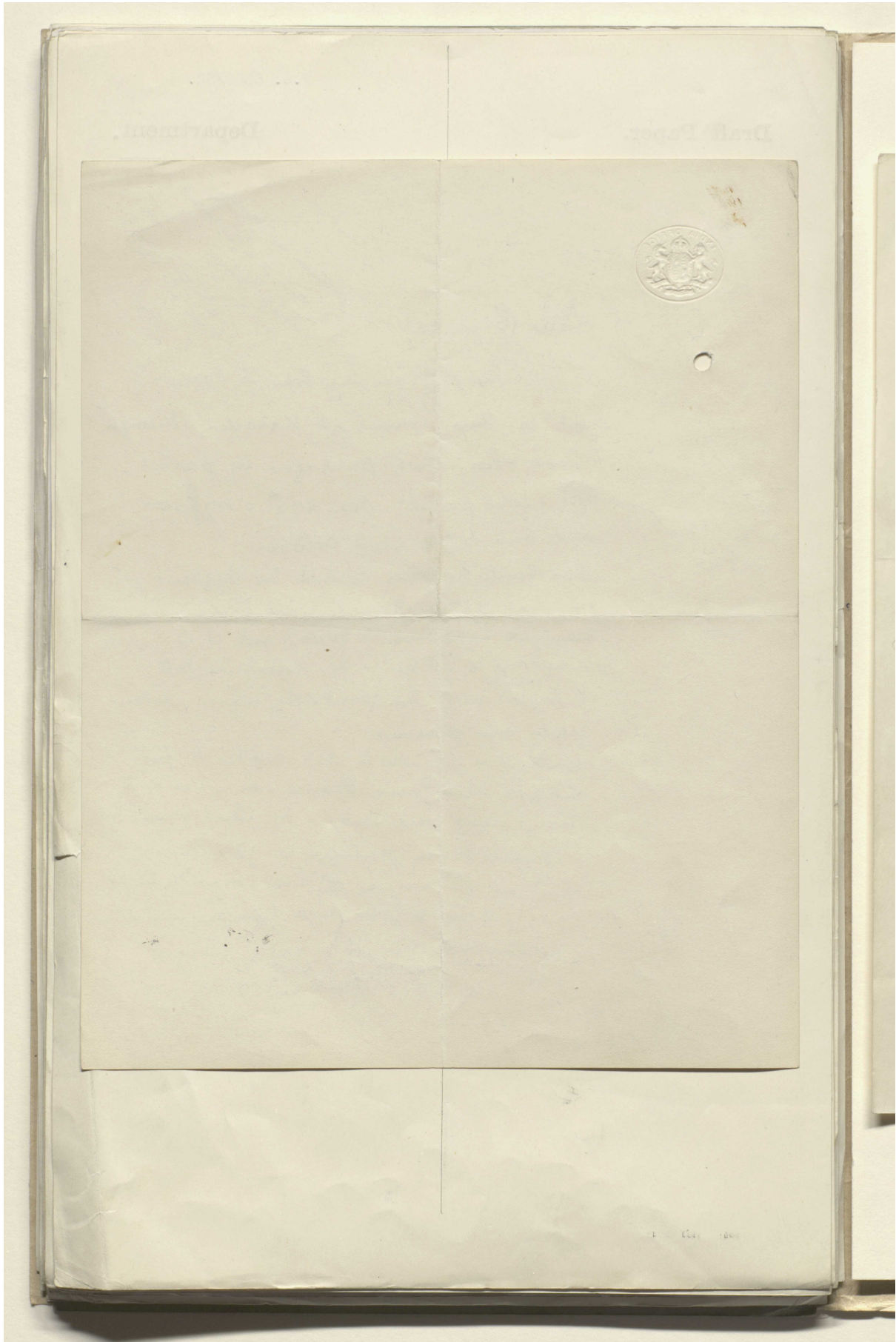
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [54v] (108/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [55r] (109/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [55v] (110/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [56r] (111/118)

INDEXED
In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. N. 6102/82/194
and address—not to any person by name, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

P. Z.
6549
1932

India-AM
✓
m

56

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to *the Under-Secretary of State for India* and, in transmitting herewith, by direction of the Secretary of State, copy of the under-mentioned paper, would be glad to be advised what answer should be returned, to

Afghan Minister.

Foreign Office,
October 28th, 1932.

Reference to previous correspondence: *5416*

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<i>From Afghan Minister 1591 of 26th October, 1932.</i>	<i>Transit through India of a gas pistol and accessories.</i>

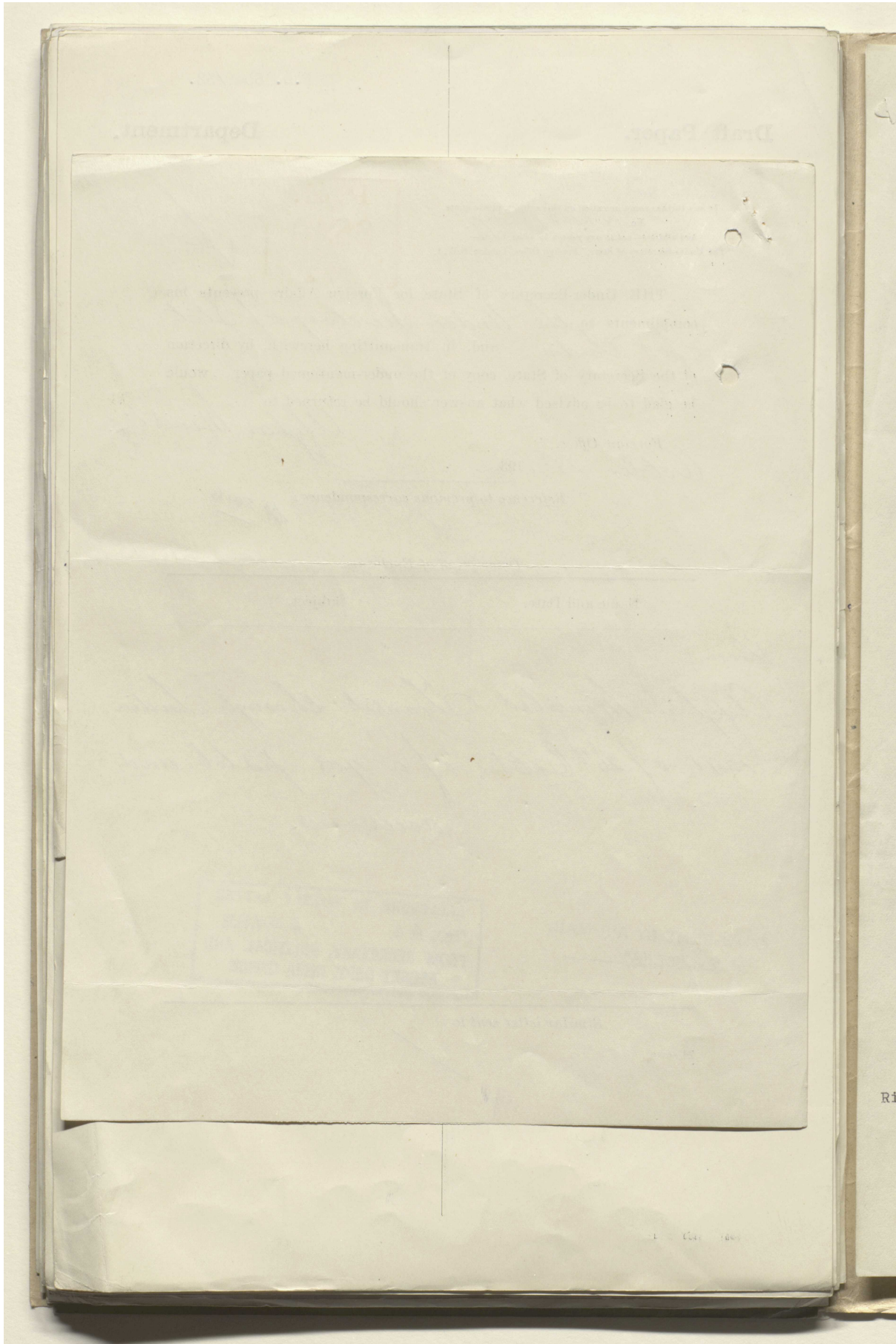
COPY SENT BY AIR MAIL
of 28 OCT 1932

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER
NO. 44. 3 NOV. 1932
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

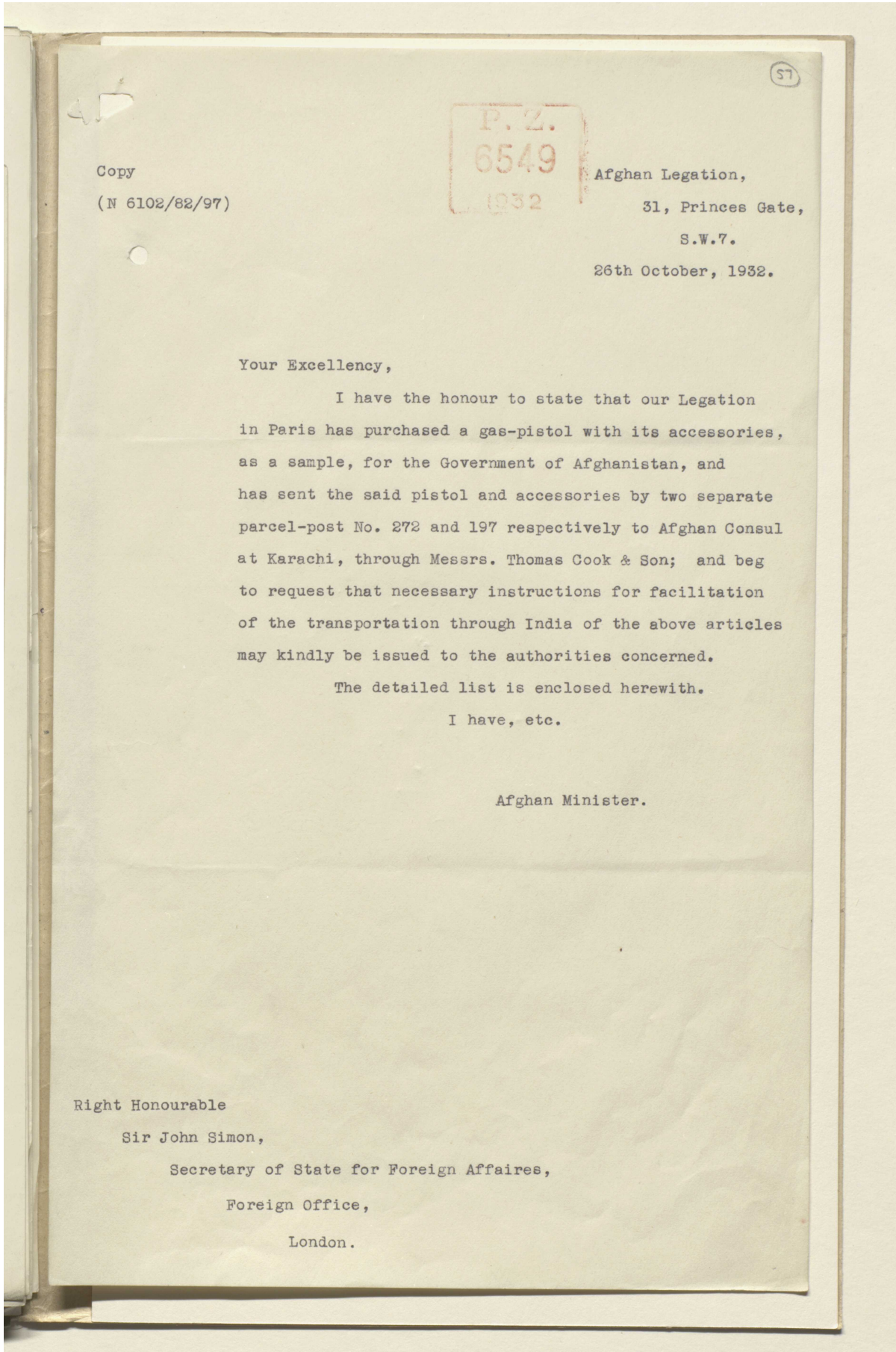
Similar letter sent to

24-6119

Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [56v] (112/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [57r] (113/118)



Copy
(N 6102/82/97)

P. 2.
6549
1932

Afghan Legation,
31, Princes Gate,
S.W.7.

26th October, 1932.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to state that our Legation in Paris has purchased a gas-pistol with its accessories, as a sample, for the Government of Afghanistan, and has sent the said pistol and accessories by two separate parcel-post No. 272 and 197 respectively to Afghan Consul at Karachi, through Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son; and beg to request that necessary instructions for facilitation of the transportation through India of the above articles may kindly be issued to the authorities concerned.

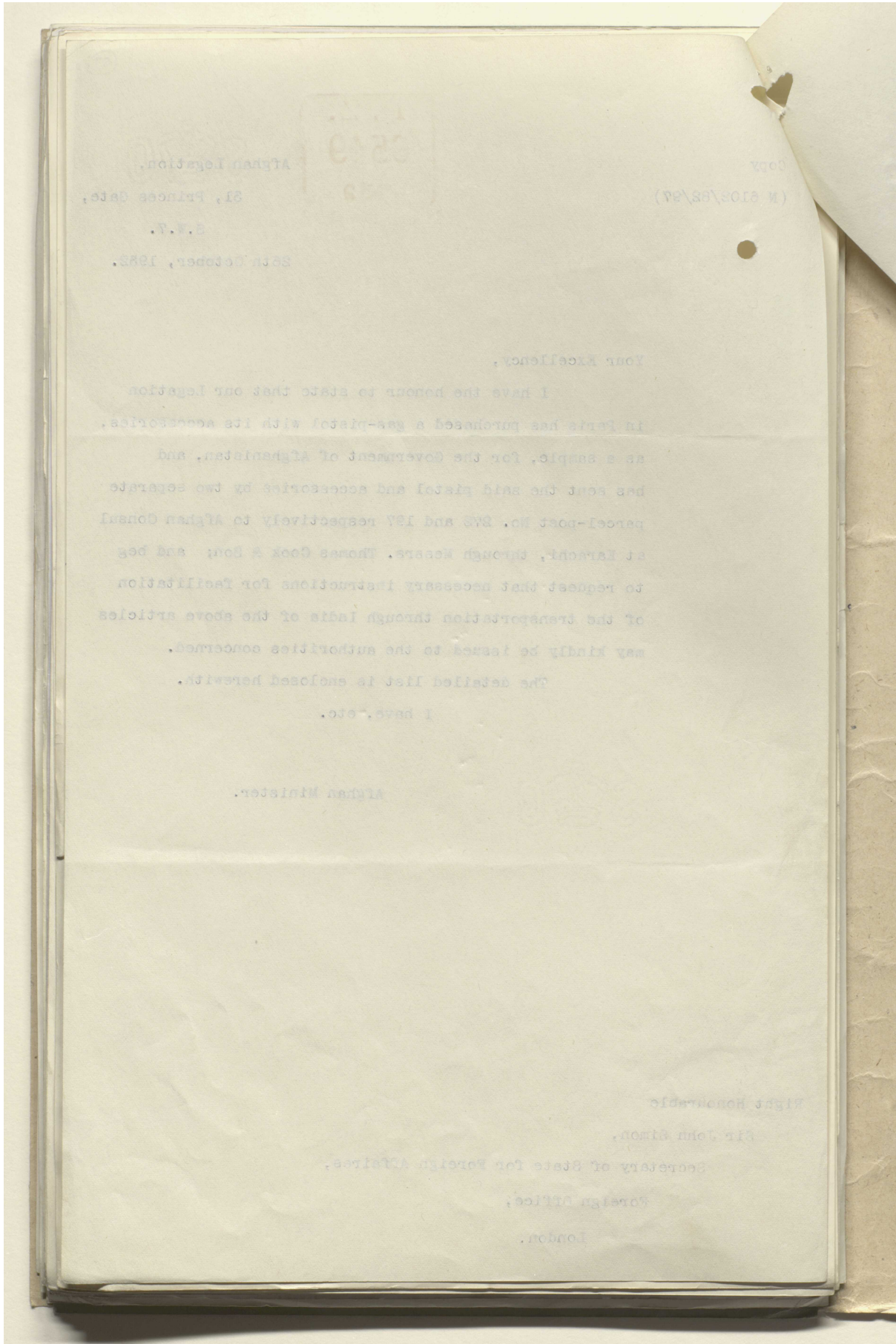
The detailed list is enclosed herewith.

I have, etc.

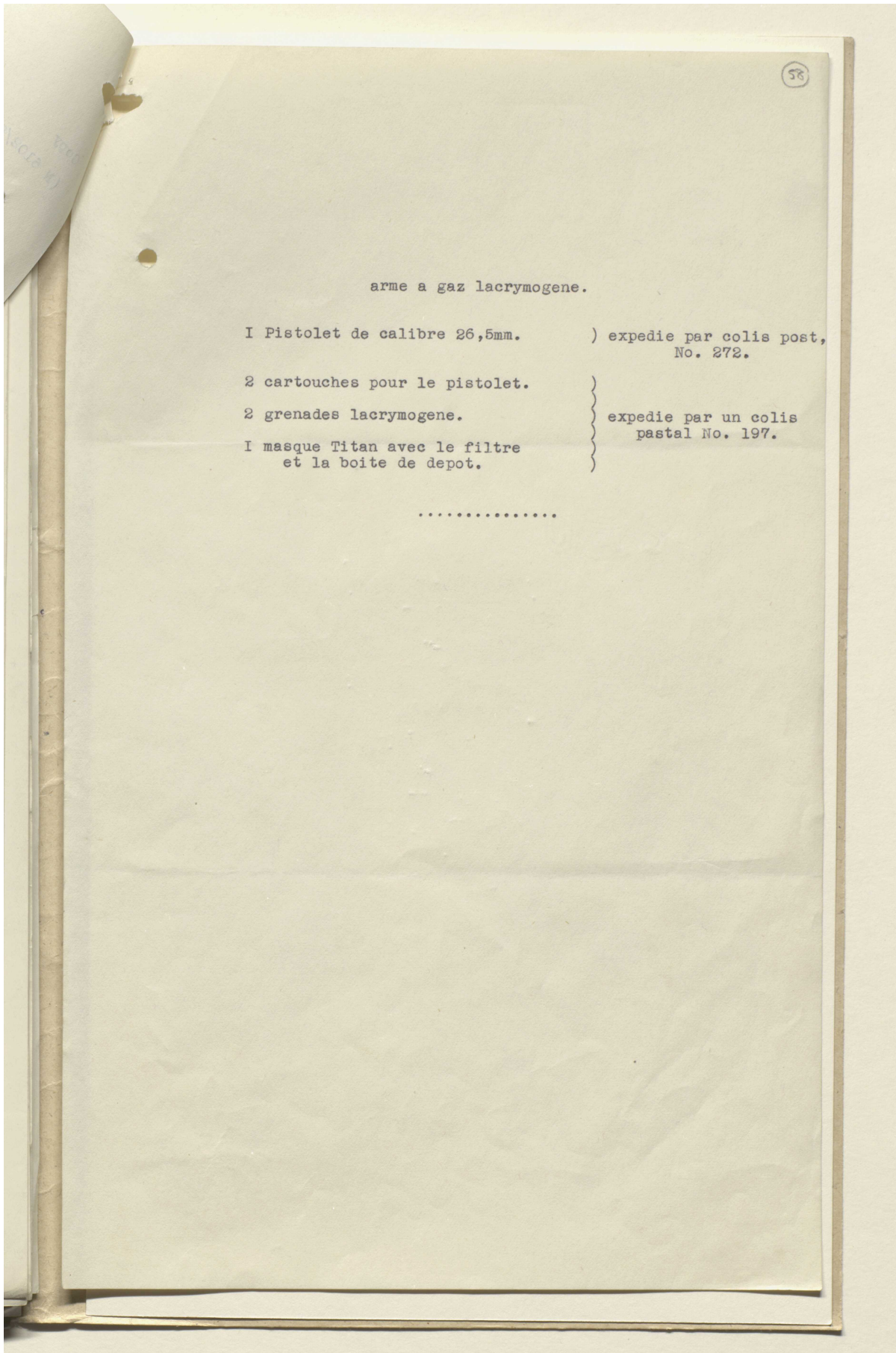
Afghan Minister.

Right Honourable
Sir John Simon,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affaires,
Foreign Office,
London.

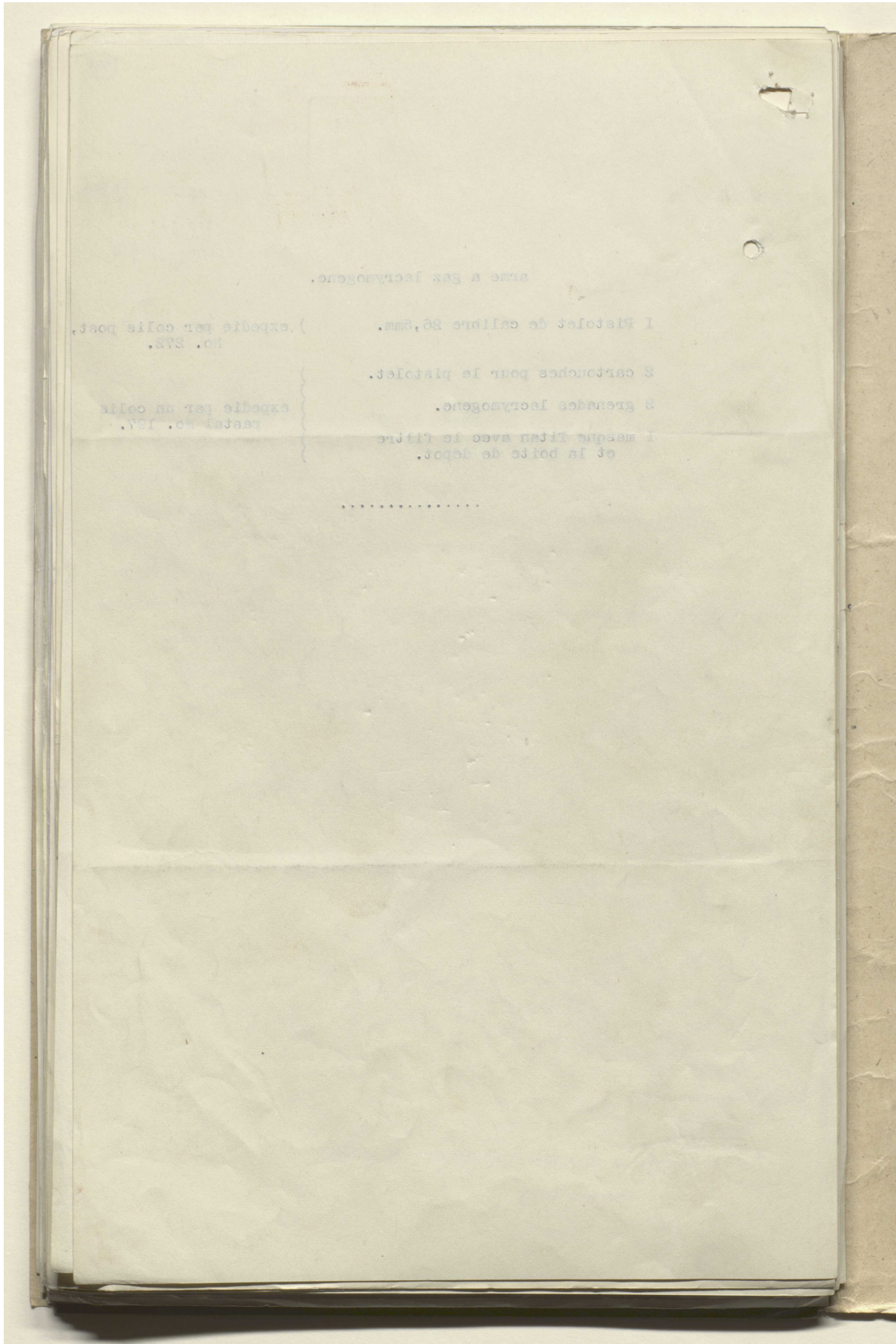
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [57v] (114/118)



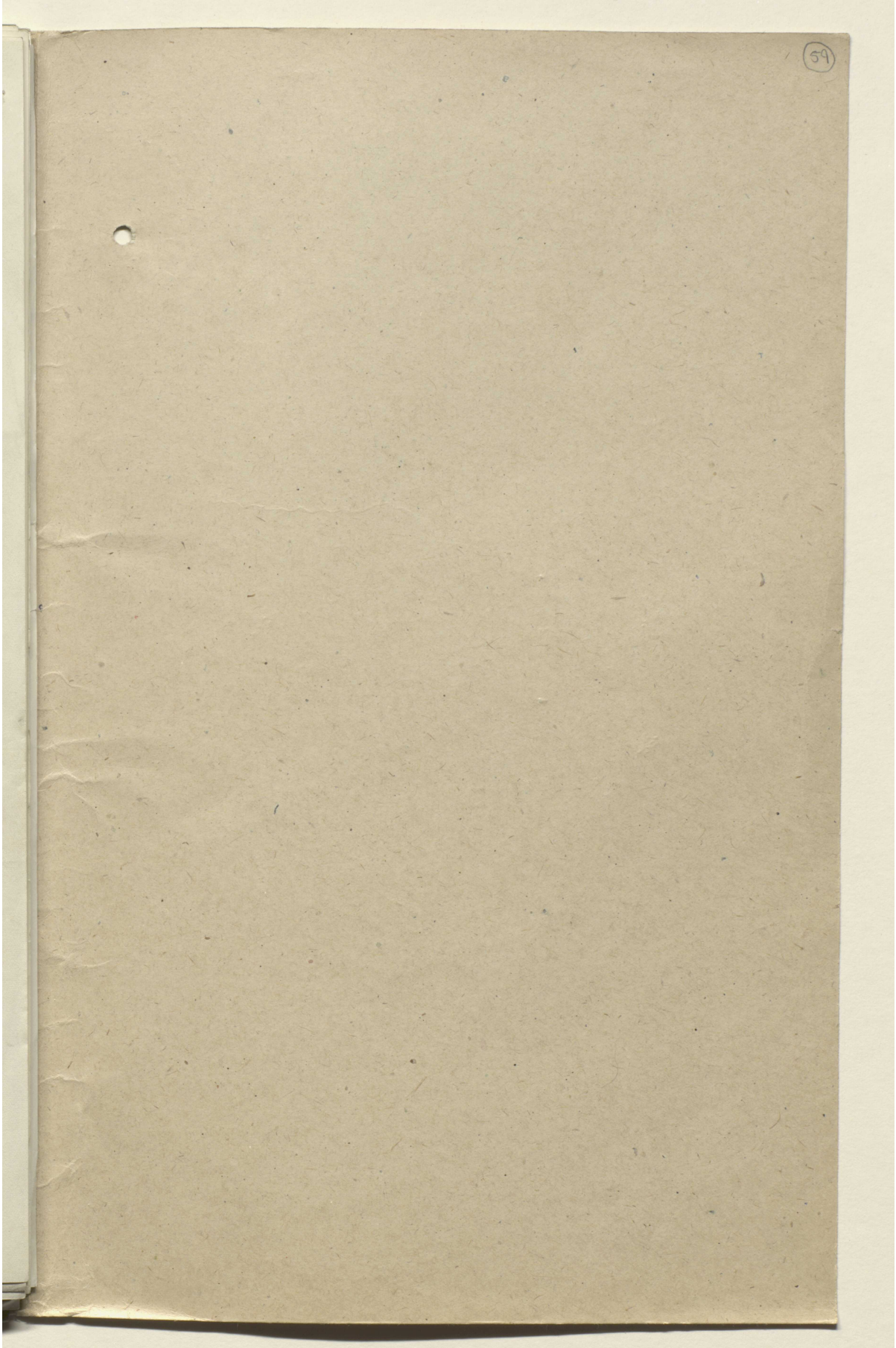
Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [58r] (115/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [58v] (116/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [back-i] (117/118)



Coll 7/26 'Afghanistan: proposed purchase of gas shells, etc., by Afghan Government; question of attitude of HMG' [back] (118/118)

