Index

File No. 614-F/34.

1934.

Collection No.

Government of India
Foreign and Political Dept.
Frontier Branch.

~~Pros.~~ Serial Nos. 1-2.

Subject.

Memorial of Sardars Mohammad Sarwar khan, Noor Ahmad khan, Muhammad Umar khan and Abdul Rashid khan, Afghan refugees.

Previous References.	Later References.
S.F. March 1888 nos 124	F.no. 640-F/34.
F.A. Nov. 1916. No. 1. 275.	
F. No. 338-F/22. (Compt-Pt)	
F. No. 202-F/26.	
F. No. 619-F/31.	
F. No. 568-F/32.	

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S. 97.—(Unbleached).

DOFP—1355S&P—(M-1567)—5-9-32—5,50,000.

Section. 7. No. 614-F/34. File No.

Heading. Serial No.

NOTES.

7-P DEPT.
7. BRANCH.

Pros. 19 . Nos.

Subject.

Memorial of Sardars Mohammad Sarwar Khan, Noor Ahmad Khan, Muhammad Umar Khan and Abdul Rashid Khan, Afghan refugees.

Notes and Orders.

S. 1.

MFP—1260S&P—(M-1680)—31-1-34—5,00,000.

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D.No.3623-F. (1) (3)

Letter from the U.P. Govt No.527C, dated the 9th recd: 12th Jul 1934.

The Sirdars' ~~make the following~~ representation~~s~~ deals with the following matters:-

(1) future career of their children,
(2) present allowances for the~~ir~~ education of their children,
(3) future allowances for their wives after their death,
(4) their own allowances, and
(5) their debts.

2. As regards (1) above, it has been decided, on a representation from the U.P.Govt., that the orders contained in our memo No.F.568-F/32, dated the 18-3-33 do not apply to Afghan refugees who are under any restrictions of movements, whether under Reg. III of 1818 or under executive orders issued by the G.G. in Council, i.e. a portion will be continued to their dependent at their death in accordance with rule 6 of "Orders re: Afghan refugees".

As to (2), we have fixed a scale of educational allowance for the sons and grandsons of Afghan refugees and cannot alter it. For the education of females it has been decided that no provision should generally speaking be made for them. Cases specially represented would be dealt with on their merits. As regards ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ continuing educational allowance beyond the age of 18 years, attention is invited to Mr.Tennants note dated 31-10-32 in F.619-F/31. We have however already informed the U.P.Govt. that they are at liberty to represent specific cases in which they consider that the continuance of an educational allowance beyond the present age limit would be justified on the ground that it would result in the student securing employment. Each case would however be considered on its merits by the G. of I. who would require adequate proof of intellectual attainments and ability.

As to (3), the same remarks as at (1) above apply in this case.

In regard to (4) and (5) also, it may be mentioned that Sirdars Mohd. Sarwar Khan, Nur Ahmad Khan, Umar Khan and Abdul Rashid Khan are in receipt of allowances of Rs. 250/-, Rs. 250/-, Rs 250/- & Rs. 150/- (plus a temp. allow. Rs 200/- on account of illness) p.m. respectively. These allows. they have drawn for many years & there seems no justification for increasing them. ~~and there can be no question of increasing them.~~ We should refuse to help them in paying off their debts

as

S.No.(1) Para (4) of [illegible]

S.No.(21) in F.568-F/32. para (4) slip I

S.No.(2) in D.239-F/34 of papers at slip C

F.A.Nov. 1916 No.I slip Y

S.No.(9) in F.202-F/26. copy at slip F.

S.No 21 para 2(b) in F.568-F/32 - slip I

rN p.16. (slip O)

cf. S.No.(30) para 3 in F.568-F/32 slip I

cf. U.P. reform at green slip

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as this would create an awkward precedent and ~~it would be~~ make difficult to refuse sanction in the case of the other Sirdars. It would also encourage the Sirdars to be extravagant We are not told who the creditors are, but presumably they are tradesm In this connection it may be pointed out that in connection wi the proposal to grant an advance equivalent to 2 months allowan to the late ex-Amir to pay off the debts contracted by his son Sir Basil Blackett, then Finance Member, noted "one has sympat with the ex-Amir x x x . One has little sympathy with the Sirdars and none with the tradesmen. In view of the dangerous nature of the precedent and the undesirability of risking the taxpayer's money for the doubtful benefit of the Sirdars and tradesmen concerned, I think the loan should be refused". A draft to the U.P. Govt is submitted for approval.

23.8.34.

23.8.34.

J.S.F.

The draft, I think, meets the case, but as in effect we are over-ruling the recommendation of a Local Govt. F. S. should see before issue

On Leave

For Secy

Issue & resubmit file & I will write d.o. to Mr. Clay explaining our difficulties. 24.8.34

H. M. Metcalfe

25.8.34.

(2) Issue.

F 27/8.

Resubmitted with reference to F. Secy's note above.

29.8.34.

On Leave.

30 8/34

J.S.F.

For Secy

Issue my d.o. letter herewith.

H. M. Metcalfe

31.8.34.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

D.O.No.3623-F/34

Simla, the 31st August 1934.

My dear Clay,

Would you kindly refer to correspondence ending with our official letter No.D.3623-F/34, dated the 29th August 1934, regarding the memorial of Sirdars Muhd. Sarwar Khan, Noor Ahmad Khan, Muhd. Umar Khan and Abdul Rashid Khan. I am afraid that you will find our reply disappointing with particular reference to the Sirdars' debts,(vide paragraph 4 of the letter quoted above) and I therefore write to explain why we have not been able to accept the Local Govt.'s recommendation in that regard. As you will no doubt realize, the Government of India find it extremely difficult to justify the use of money paid by the Indian Taxpayer for such purposes. The allowances given are admittedly small, but if the Sirdars, knowing the amount of their allowances, contract debts and those debts are eventually paid by Government, it would seem to be a direct incentive to the Sirdars to indulge in further extravagance. If, on the other hand, the Sirdars and others realize that they can hope for no further assistance from Government beyond their allowances, they will be unable to obtain credit and will be forced to accommodate their expenditure to their incomes. Should there be any particular case in which a Sirdar has been forced by circumstances beyond his control to incur unavoidable expenditure of a non-recurring nature outside his allowance and to borrow money for that purpose, it might be possible to secure some concession for him. But no indication is given either in the memorial or in your covering letter as to the purposes for which these

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these debts have been incurred, and it is therefore impossible for this Department to make any recommendation on their behalf. If the Local Government after further investigation are prepared to make any special recommendation in favour of a particular Sirdar in the light of the above remarks and the recommendation can be coupled with a guarantee that no further debts will be incurred, I will see whether anything can be done to help.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. H.A.F Metcalfe,

2.8.

J.M.Clay, Esqr., C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of the United Provinces.

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(1) D.No. 3623-F/34

All Communications to this Office should give the No., Date and Subject of any previous correspondence, and should note the department quoted.

No. 527c

FROM

J.M. Clay, Esqr., C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S.,

Chief Secretary to Government,
United Provinces,

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign and Political Department.

Dated Lucknow, July 9, 1934.

Subject:- Memorial of Sardars Mohammad Sarwar Khan, Noor Ahmad Khan, Muhammad Umar Khan and Abdul Rashid Khan.

SIR,

Political Department

I am directed to forward for the orders of the Government of India the enclosed memorial from the Afghan Sardars of Allahabad and to say that this Government desire to recommend the grant of the usual educational allowances to any children of school going age who are not yet in receipt of them, especially in the case of girls, where the Sardars can show that the girls are in receipt of regular education.

2. I am to add that there seems no hope whatever of the Sardars being able to pay off their debts unless they are given some substantial assistance in the form of a grant for this purpose.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J.M. Clay

Chief Secretary.

7/7

Scott. 29 036 Genl.—1933.

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(8)

To,

His Excellency the Viceroy & Governor General (in Council)
Simla.

(Through

The Deputy Commissioner of Naini Tal,
The Government of the United Provinces of Agra and-Oudh,
And The Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign and Political Department).

Dated, Bhowali the 28th May, 1934.

May it please your Excellency,

We the undersigned Afghan detenus, at present residing at Bhowali, beg to submit the following representations, through the Government of the United Provinces, under section 5 of the Bengal State Prisoners Regulation (Reg. III of 1818, under which Regulation we understand we are kept in detention).

2. As a copy of a D.O.No. 284/iv-267 of the 24th.-October 1933 from the Chief Secretary to the Commissioner Kumaun Division, informing that the Local Government has decided to send a representation to the Government of India relating to our allowances and indebtedness etc. was forwarded to us, we have been expecting to hear further from the Government on these subjects, but we have not heard. The proposed representation has probably not yet been made.

3. However, having regard to the aforesaid desire of the Local Government to make a representation to the Government of India, and also having regard to the right given to us by Section 5 of the aforesaid Regulation, (Reg. III of 1818) for submitting representations to the Government of India, and over and above, having regard to equity and justice of our case, we trust that this representation of ours, the importance of which will be obvious from

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its contents, will kindly be forwarded by the Local Government, with such favourable recommendation as it may think proper and just.

4. We are making this representation in connection with (1) the future career of our children, (2) the present allowances for their education, (3) future allowances for our wives after our death, (4) our own allowances and (5) our debts.

5. With regard to the question of our children's future we beg to submit that the terrible result of the " Warning " relating to it given to us (in memo: No.F568-F/32 of the 18th. March 1933 from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political-Department, to the Chief Secretary to the Government in the U.P.) if put into action, will probably be obvious to the Government if the following matters are taken into consideration.

X S.No(21) in F. 568-F/32 Sep I

(i). If the warning had been given to us before our marriage we would have considered it our duty to remain unmarried, so as not to have children, and if any of us whould have then married, he would have done so with full knowledge of such responsibility as marriage under the circumstance would entail. But such warning coming now, comes too late to us. It is now impossible for us to retrace our steps.

(ii). The Government at present has permitted grants of allowances to some of our male children (not all), for their education upto the age of 18 (any allowance after that being only a possibility). How under the circumstance can it be possible for them to have any education that will qualify them for Government service, which we are anxious that they should have, and how can they possibly maintain themselves.

S.No. 9 in F 202-F/26. copy at Sep F

(iii). By nature of things all children cannot be equally clever, and fit for higher education. In their

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case their parents leave provision for their maintenance. But, on account of the position in which they are placed, the means of the parents of ~~one~~ our children is insufficient even to make both ends meet, and so it is impossible for them to leave any thing for any of their children. And therefore such of our children as cannot have higher education and Government service can look to the Government of India alone for making suitable arrangement for their maintenance.

(iv). We are in a helpless position and the Government alone is morally and apparently legally, in the position of a guardian to our children, and should do the best for them, having regard to their position in life.

We therefore beg to submit that our greatest anxiety is about the future of our children, and earnestly hope that the Government will, without suspending the rule of continuing the pension of a deceased Afghan detenu to his descendants, decide now to give suitable posts (it does not matter where and in what department) to our male-children when they grow up, and to give special substantial maintenance allowances to such of them as may unfortunately prove not to be fit for such service. Will the Government allow the grandsons of one who was brought to India as a " noble and honoured guest " of the British Government, (according to the conditions offered on behalf of the British Government by Brigadier General C.S.Maclean on the 7th. November 1887 to Sardar Mohamad Ayub Khan Sahib, and accepted by him) to die of starvation.

Pro No. 205 in S.F. March 1888 124 2/75 SW/E

6. With regard to the present allowances for the education of our children we beg to submit as follows:-

(i). The present allowance (Rs.25/- a month) granted to some (not all) of our male children is too meagre having regard to the present day cost of education (providing for their school fee, tuition, books etc.).

S.No(9) in F. 202-F/26. Copy of SW/F

(ii). Arrangement for the proper education of some of

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our children has not yet been done, for example, the two sons of Sardar Umar Khan and one son of Sardar - Noor Ahmed Khan are not getting any thing at present. Two of them are no doubt too young, but one of the sons of Sardar Umar Khan who is of school going age was offered the petty sum of Rs.4/2/- per month (Rs.50/- per annum) instead of Rs.25/- a month, which the other children are getting. It is obvious that it is not possible to give any education to a boy for Rs.4/2/- a month. This boy is more diligent and promising than the others, and as innocent as the rest.

(iii).We also beg to submit that it may be settled now that the Government will arrange for the higher education of the boys (except ~~xx~~ such as prove to be quite unfit for it), until they are fit to be taken in Government service, otherwise the little education that they will get till the age of 18 will obviously not enable them to earn any livelihood, and will, in this sense, be useless.

F. 619-F/31 Slg.

(iv).As to the female children we do not claim any allowance for giving them higher education as in case of male children, but our ladies have always received suitable education, and we do not expect that the British Government will consider it proper that our female children are to have no education at all. We therefore trust that the Government will grant such allowances for their ~~children~~ education as may be proper and suitable.

We therefore pray that the Government may grant the same allowance to all the boys, and may increase the present allowance of Rs.25/- a month to a higher figure, and may grant a suitable allowance for the education of our girls.

7. With regard to our wives apparantly the Government does not want to make any departure from the rule of granting allowances to the widows of Afghan detenus after

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their husbands' death as has been done in the past. But as the Government has raised doubts in our minds about certain matters which we thought were beyond doubt, it will remove a great anxiety from our minds if the Government assures us that if any of us die leaving his wife, she will be granted an allowance for her maintenance, as our mothers' have been granted after the death of our father.

8. With regard to our own (in case of Sardar Umar-Khan his ~~wife~~ wife's) allowances (Rs.150/- a month in case of one and Rs.250/- a month in case of the others), we beg to submit that they are too meagre, at any rate now, for the following reasons:-

(i). According to Section I paragraph 4 of Regulation III of 1818, our allowances should be comensurate to our rank in life and to our own wants and <u>those of our family</u>. It is obvious that our present allowances are not so.

(ii).Our present allowances were fixed when all of us were bachelors. The same allowances cannot possibly be adequate, either under the aforesaid provision of law or otherwise, when we have wives and children to support.

(iii).By birth, we are not fitted to bear the heat of the plains, and have never lived in the plains in the life time of our father. Therefore, for our health and comfort, (which have to be considered under section 3 of Regulation III of 1818) we have to go to the hills during the hot season. But the Government, while paying our house rent at Allahabad (which has been fixed as our place of residence) compels us to pay from our pocket the rent of the house we engage at a hill station. It is obvious that the rent for a season even for a small house, such as we do engage, takes away a substantial part of our present allowances.

We therefore pray that our allowances may be suitably increased.

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(13)

9. With regard to our debts we have to submit as follows :-

Having regard to our circumstances some of which are mentioned above, and some of which may be easily imagined, we have been compelled to borrow money.

Sardar Mohamad Sarwar Khan has a debt of Rs. ~~3385~~ 338/-/- to pay.
Sardar Noor Ahmed Khan has a debt of Rs. 1500/-/- to pay.
Sardar Mohamad Umar Khan has a debt of Rs. 5000/-/- to pay.
Sardar Abdul Rashid Khan has a debt of Rs. 1703/10/- to pay.

These debts and interest on them, which are accumulating, are burdens too heavy for us to bear, the weight of which, and the anxiety to remove which, are eating into our vitals. Will not ~~Kkkkxxxk~~ the Government extend a helping hand to relieve us of these burdens in such manner as may be proper.

10. We beg to submit that unless our aforesaid prayers are granted we will be placed in an impossible position, and beg that the Local Government may kindly recommend our aforesaid prayers, and the Government of India may kindly grant them, in a manner that will not only be in accordance with the law under which we are detained, but will also be equitable and just to us.

We have the honour
to be
Your Excellency's most humble & obedient servants.

1. Sardar Mohd Sarwar
2. " Noor Ahmad
3. " M. Umar
4. " Abdul Rashid

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F & P DEPARTMENT.

Frontier BRANCH.

File No.

Serial No.

Draft ~~XXXX~~ Letter / Memorandum / ~~Telegram~~

Class for telegrams	Ordinary / Express / Urgent* / Priority / Clear Line†	*Only for Foreign Telegrams. †Not for Foreign Telegrams.

No. D.3823-F/34 Dated 29th Augt. Simla; 1934.

To be issued on

Issued on 6/29/8.

1st Reminder

2nd Reminder

3rd Reminder

Heading:

Case or Diary No.

If post copy of telegram required

Date of despatch of above

List of enclosures

(Code word for telegrams.)

To

The Chief Secy. to the Govt. of the United Provinces.

Subject:- Memorial of Sirdars Muhd.Sarwar Khan, Noor Ahmad Khan, Muhd.Umar Khan and Abdul Rashid Khan.

Ref.your letter No.527-C, dated the 9th July 1934 forwarding a representation dated the 28th May 1934 from the above-mentioned Sirdars on the following matters:-

(i) the future career of their children

(ii) the present allowances for the education of their children;

(iii) future allowances for their wives;

(iv) their own allowances; and

(v) their debts.

2. As regards (i) and (iii), attention is invited to the memo. from the Govt. of India, For. & Pol.Dept., No.D.239-F/34, dated the 13th June 1934, which explains that the orders contained in their memo. No.F.568-F/32, dated the 18th March 1933, do not apply to Afghan refugees who are under any restrictions of movement, whether under Reg.III of 1818 or under executive orders issued by the G.G. in Council. The question of the continuance

of

S. 5.
MGIPC—S1—158(Genl)MFP—(M-1933)—3-5-34—50,000 Pads.

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(15)

of a portion of any of ~~the~~ a Sirdar's allowances to his descendents a will accordingly be duly considered by the Govt. of India in the light of the exceptional circumstances existing at the time of the demise of the Sirdar.

3. As regards (ii), the scale of educational allowances admissible to the sons and grandsons of Afghan refugees is laid down in the memo. from the Govt. of India, For. & Pol. Dept., No. 202-F, dated the 17th March 1927, and the Govt. of India would be prepared to consider specific recommendations from the U.P.Govt. for the grant of educational allowances in accordance with that scale to those children of the Sirdars who are not already in receipt of such allowances. Generally speaking no provision is made for female education, but cases specially represented will be dealt with on their merits. With regard to the question of raising the age limit of 18 years up to which educational allowances are ordinarily admissible, the Govt. of India have nothing to add to para. 3 of their memo. No.F.568-F/33, dated the 11th Octr. 1933.

Copy of Slip F
F No. 202-F/26.

para 2(b) of S.No.(21) in F. 568-F/32. Slip I.

S. No. (30) - ibid -

4. As regards (iv) and (v), the Govt. of India regret that they ~~see no justification~~ are unable either ~~for~~ to increas~~ing~~e the Sirdar's allowances or ~~for assisting~~ to make a grant to them ~~in the matter of~~ to assist clear~~ing~~ their debts.

5. It is requested that, with the permission of the Governor in Council,

the Sirdars

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(16)

the Sirdars may be informed in the above sense.

Sd- O.K. Caroe,
Deputy Secy. (F).

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