

September 28, 1978

**Dispatch from the Head of the Communist Party of
Czechoslovakia (CPCz) Central Committee's
International Relations Department M. Stefanak to
the Czechoslovak Embassy in Kabul**

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Summary:

Report that Afghan politician Babrak Karmal was undergoing treatment for heart problems in Czechoslovakia.

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Comrade Kouba

Foreign Ministry-Kabul

Visit the Afghan representative and inform him that Babrak Karmal was accepted in Czechoslovakia as the ambassador of a friendly country. While in office, Karmal asked for permission to undergo treatment. This request was granted and treatment was administered. It became evident that Karmal suffers from heart problems, which require long-term treatment. After the Afghan government's decision to recall Karmal, he asked that his treatment be continued. In consideration of his poor health, we could not refuse Karmal's request. He stated later that he could not return to Afghanistan. He has not requested asylum. He is in Czechoslovakia for necessary treatment. We believe that a stay for treatment in a socialist country is more appropriate than in a Western or other country because his activities can be better controlled.

M. ŠTEFAŇAK