

will come to be realised, not only through their terror of Russian penetration, but through a growing conviction that Great Britain alone among the nations is both able and willing to assist towards the free development of Afghanistan.

Such a policy admittedly offers no certainty of quick returns and little scope for diplomatic *tours de force*, but by no other, as I am led to believe, can British ascendancy, in the changed conditions of the present time, be re-established in Afghanistan, resting, not as in the past on the exclusion of other competitors, but on the enlightened judgment of a people free to choose.

A copy of this despatch is being sent to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India and to the Government of India.

I have, &c.

F. H. HUMPHRYS.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Announcement published in the "Afghan" on Saturday, July 29, 1922.

AFGHANISTAN AND RUSSIA.

(Translation.)

HAVING in view the reforms which were needed in our military forces in the provinces and the improvements and reorganisation which the Ministry for War had previously planned, our Government, acting on the advice of its counsellors, was obliged to send some of the Ministers to Mazar-i-Sherif, Qataghan, Badakhshan, Herat, Jalalabad and Kandahar to organise the civil administration, reform the military forces and discharge old and unfit soldiers. But the steps for the improvement of our forces in the north have appeared to the people as an indication of some secret or open difference between the Russian and Afghan Governments, and they are spreading and publishing rumours so that I have been obliged to make known the policy of my Government in order to remove existing doubts. Afghanistan in no circumstances wishes to create trouble for her friendly neighbours Russia and Bokhara. Since the Afghan Government regards Bokhara as an Islamic State, and her people as their brothers, how can they possibly be desirous of creating trouble and difficulties for them? In fact Afghanistan is a supporter of the independence and complete freedom of Bokhara, and any infringement of the rights of Bokhara is a source of grief to her.

The Russian Republic, in accordance with the treaty between the two States accepted the independence of Bokhara with all the conditions of self-government.

Accordingly the present disturbances in Bokhara are regarded by Afghan statesmen as a kind of internal disorder, in which the Russian and Afghan Governments have no right to interfere. Afghanistan, disapproving particularly of this kind of internal strife, remains neutral.

The Government of His Majesty our King is making the utmost efforts to improve our internal administration and to strengthen the friendly relations which exist with neighbouring States.

The idea of world conquest, or of trampling on the rights of others, does not enter into our policy, but rather we look on such actions as evidences of moral turpitude.

I have full confidence that relations between Russia and Afghanistan will day by day be more surely directed towards, and will strengthen, the welfare and freedom of Bokhara and Khiva.

MOHD WALL.