AFGHANISTAN
CHRONOLOGY
1987

United States Information Agency
Following is a chronology of events during the year 1987 related to the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan.

-- JANUARY 1 --

The current spokesman of the Seven Party resistance alliance based in Peshawar, Pakistan, rejected the unilateral cease-fire offered by Najibullah terming it a "trap" and reiterating that the mujahidin would continue to fight until Najibullah is thrown out and an Islamic government is established in Afghanistan.

-- JANUARY 2 --

In a Worldnet interview via satellite with journalists in Kuwait, a State Department official said that the mujahidin would defeat the Soviets in the long run despite increased Soviet military and political pressure since 1983. Zalmay Khalilzad, a member of the Policy Planning Council, said the mujahidin would win because of their "perseverance and growth in strength."

-- JANUARY 3 --

The Kabul regime's Revolutionary Council meeting that followed the plenum announced that it would expand its national reconciliation program to include an open invitation to armed opposition leaders outside the country to participate in discussions with the government. The regime guaranteed opposition leaders safe conduct to the talks.

Ten Soviet-Afghan planes violated Pakistani airspace about two kilometers inside Pakistan and dropped 15 bombs on Arandu village in Chitral district killing three men, two women and injuring 14 others. They also damaged 30 houses and three government warehouses.

-- JANUARY 5 --

Secretary-General of the People's Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), Najibullah, welcomed Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin who arrived in Kabul on a working visit upon invitation from the Afghan government.

-- JANUARY 6 --

Afghanistan's Bakhtar News Agency reported that a 1,000-strong group of mujahidin led by Sayed Ahmad in Gozareh district of Herat (more)
province lay down their arms in answer to Najibullah's national reconciliation call.

-- JANUARY 7 --

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin left Kabul to return to the Soviet Union after two days of talks during which they supported Afghan leader Najibullah's national reconciliation call and the offer of a cease-fire effective from January 15.

-- JANUARY 8 --

Western diplomats reported that Pakistani border tribes were being enlisted for a campaign against mujahidin operating from their territories. Leftist Pakistani Pashtun politician Abdul Wali Khan reportedly agreed to undertake such a mission to the Pashtun border tribes while he was on a visit to Kabul last September.

The regime claimed that it had set up national reconciliation commissions in the provinces of Herat, Balkh, Paktia, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Jowzjan, Faryab, Nangarhar, Bamian and Samangan. There were inaugural sessions where, after recitation of verses from the Koran, regime officials, tribal representatives and ulema addressed the national reconciliation policy.

-- JANUARY 11 --

A group of 50 prominent Afghans who were not associated with the regime reportedly participated in the meeting of the Kabul National Reconciliation Commission. They presented their own terms for reconciliation which included withdrawal of all Soviet troops, release of all political prisoners and an end to the use of press-gangs and forced conscription into the military. Najibullah received their agenda of terms for review.

-- JANUARY 14 --

A State Department official termed the Afghan regime's unilateral cease-fire call "the worst kind of grandstanding" and "a propaganda gesture" that did not get to the issue which is the prompt withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Herbert Haggerty, a regional director in the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, was interviewed on USIA's Worldnet television by journalists in Caracas and Guatemala City.

-- JANUARY 15 --

The State Department's deputy spokesman Charles Redman said "the key obstacle to a settlement" in Afghanistan is the continuing...
presence of over 115,000 Soviet troops in that country. He responded to questions on the Kabul regime’s unilateral cease-fire offer effective January 15.

White House deputy press secretary Albert Brashear said the sole solution to the Afghanistan situation is complete withdrawal of Soviet troops and the exercise of self-determination by the Afghan people.

On the first day of the purported cease-fire, mujahidin ambushed a Soviet armored column in a narrow defile on the Salang Pass road north of Jabal-es-Seraj. The attack reportedly killed and wounded an unknown number of Soviet soldiers and destroyed several armored vehicles.

-- JANUARY 16 --

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said agreement on a short timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was the missing "essential ingredient" to an Afghan settlement, and if that happened the United States "ought to be ready to respond."

Western journalists -- who were invited to Kabul to witness the cease-fire and national reconciliation activities -- noted the sudden appearance of large numbers of Soviet armored vehicles in the streets prompting speculation that the Soviets may have been concerned about attacks by dissident factions in the regime. There was speculation that there was a coup attempt against Najibullah by supporters of ousted leader Babrak Karmal.

In their closely monitored tour of the capital, the Western journalists were repeatedly prevented from photographing Soviet armor and in one incident were fired upon by Soviet soldiers.

On their flying visit to Jalalabad, the journalists said they saw a large number of Soviet troops deployed to defend the Jalalabad airport.

-- JANUARY 17--

Mujahidin leaders of the seven party alliance held a huge public meeting in Peshawar to formally announce that they would continue the armed struggle against the Soviet-Afghan regime despite its call for national reconciliation and its unilateral offer of a cease-fire beginning January 15. Rejecting the offers as a "trick" and "another plot," they said "the proposal of a cease-fire with Russian forces could only be discussed when they vacated our country unconditionally."

The leaders also announced that they had agreed "that a commission be set up to draft the laws and duties of an "interim government." The panel aimed to start work by February 1 and present proposals within one month to the alliance leadership. They said (more)
that general free and fair elections would be held and a parliament established under the supervision of the interim government. A constitution would be drafted to guarantee the implementation of Islam in all walks of life.

-- JANUARY 18 --

According to Western diplomats, some Afghans were reportedly being secretly trained at the regime's police academy as agents to infiltrate Pakistan-based mujahidin and refugee camps to promote the regime's national reconciliation plan.

Participants at the second National Fatherland (now called National Front) congress were said to have included representatives from the leftist Pakistani Awami National Party of Wali Khan, Rajiv Gandhi's Congress-I party of India and the communist Tudeh Party of Iran.

-- JANUARY 20 --

The Soviet Union's First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Kovalev held formal talks on Afghanistan with Pakistani leaders including Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, Foreign Minister Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar. He also called on President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq and delivered a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet deputy minister was on a four-day official visit.

The Kabul regime's Bakhtar News Agency reported that a 600-strong group which included 200 armed mujahidin welcomed the national reconciliation call in Jowzjan Province and agreed to cooperate with regime authorities there.

-- JANUARY 21 --

Michael Armacost, under secretary of state for political affairs, who arrived in Islamabad January 18, held talks with Pakistani leaders on the Afghanistan issue and U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relations. A spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Office said the visit reaffirmed continued U.S. support for Pakistan's efforts to achieve an early settlement of the Afghanistan issue based on accepted principles.

-- JANUARY 24 --

In an extraordinary session of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, a general amnesty was announced as part of the regime's national reconciliation program. The amnesty would be extended to Afghans involved in anti-regime activities prior to January 15 and would also cover certain categories of prisoners held by the regime.

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-- JANUARY 25 --

Western diplomats reported that the Kabul regime was fabricating accounts of returning mujahidin who had surrendered to government officials in response to its national reconciliation call. The diplomats said they heard several eyewitness accounts in which village militia were brought into Kabul to "surrender" on national television. Another account said that members of a group of "returnees" featured in regime media were in fact the same people who had surrendered several months earlier.

The Kabul regime claimed it had approached Pakistani and Iranian diplomats in Kabul for permission to arrange charter flights to their respective countries in order to bring back refugees wanting to return to Afghanistan. Pakistan’s position was that international agencies, such as UNHCR, would handle returning refugees if there were any.

-- JANUARY 26 --

According to the Bakhtar News Agency, the Kabul regime claimed another armed group of 186 mujahidin surrendered in Daulatabad, Faryab province, bringing the total to more than 4,000 armed mujahidin who the regime claimed had surrendered since its unilateral cease-fire call went into effect January 15.

-- JANUARY 27 --

Mujahidin in Parwan province reportedly captured a 14-member government delegation sent out on a reconciliation mission to the area. They said the delegation from the government’s National Reconciliation Committee was led by Deputy Communications Minister Khalilullah Kohistani who comes from the area. Reportedly a local mujahidin commander, Farid, captured them and sent back Kohistani to Kabul with the message that no arrangements could be made with the regime until the Soviets leave Afghanistan.

-- JANUARY 29 --

A high-ranking Afghan regime official of Kunduz province was assassinated by mujahidin. Abdul Ahad Arzbegi was a member of the executive board of the regime’s National Front Central Council, chairman of the National Front provincial Council of Kunduz province and chairman of the Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation of Kunduz province. He was shot dead while trying to negotiate national reconciliation terms with the mujahidin.

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-- JANUARY 30 --

Under Secretary General Diego Cordovez, the chief mediator in the U.N.-sponsored Afghan talks, announced that the next round of the proximity talks in Geneva was postponed for two weeks -- from February 11 to February 25 -- "in the interest of improving the chances of success."

-- FEBRUARY 1 --

A powerful car bomb exploded near a Ministry of State Security (KHAD) office and interrogation center in Kabul killing and injuring 28 persons. Also damaged were the Indian Embassy, a major Soviet military hospital and the residences of the Indonesian and U.S. charge d'affaires located about 30 meters away. Windows were reportedly shattered for a distance of 500 meters.

Thirteen persons died, presumably on the street, while 15 persons were injured at the Indian Embassy. While the Afghan leader Najibullah deplored the blast as the work of mujahidin who wanted to wreck the regime's close ties with India, Western diplomats did not rule out the possibility that increasing tensions within the regime may have been responsible for the blast.

Other sources claimed that the mujahidin planted the bomb near the Indian Embassy because they were not able to approach near enough to the Afghan secret police (KHAD) offices.

Two bomb blasts cut off natural gas supplies to Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province bordering southeast Afghanistan. The blasts damaged a pipeline 22 kilometers from the city. In a third bomb blast, railway tracks were destroyed at Qila Abdullah, 80 kilometers from Quetta. Pakistani authorities blamed the blasts on pro-Kabul regime saboteurs.

-- FEBRUARY 2 --

Mujahidin said they killed 100 regime troops in fighting in Paktia province. Four tanks and several armored vehicles were damaged and a large quantity of military hardware was captured.

Mujahidin attacked Kandahar airport and reportedly destroyed four military helicopters.

-- FEBRUARY 3 --

The International Committee of the Red Cross was authorized to return to Afghanistan for the first time in more than four years after reaching an agreement with the the Afghan government at the end of January. The access was limited to visiting all prisoners beginning first with visits in February to the Pul-i-Charkhi prison

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in Kabul. Also, an agreement was signed with the Afghan Red Crescent to develop an orthopedic program for the war-disabled.

-- FEBRUARY 4 --

A massive car bomb exploded in Jalalabad. According to Western diplomats, an eyewitness account said the bomb was targeted against the radio and television center and destroyed as many as 50 nearby shops and a cinema, and blew out windows and doors in a wide area. About 35 people were killed and more than 200 wounded.

-- FEBRUARY 6 --

A bomb exploded in the Chehelsitoon area of Kabul killing three Afghans and destroying two military and one other vehicle. On February 2, a large bomb was found and defused in Shahr-e-Nau park, while on February 4 a smaller bomb was found and defused near the residence of a United Nations official in the Wazir Akbar Khan area. The random deployment of the bombs and their failure to target major Soviet or Afghan regime facilities led Western diplomats to the conclusion that the bombing wave was most probably the result of increasing factionalism within the regime and the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

Two bombs exploded in two hotels in Quetta injuring 28 persons. One person later died while 10 others were in critical condition.

-- FEBRUARY 8 --

A parcel bomb exploded in a busy bazar in Peshawar killing three persons, including a policeman, and injuring 26 others. After the explosion in the Ghantaghar Chowk (Clocktower Square) area in the old city, a fire broke out when a gas line burst.

-- FEBRUARY 9 --

Mujahidin shot down a military transport plane with a missile in the Khost area reportedly killing 30 Afghan soldiers. The regime gave heavy media coverage to the event claiming it was a non-military plane carrying civilians.

-- FEBRUARY 11 --

The Afghan regime military fired 150 artillery rounds in the Chaman sector of Pakistan's Baluchistan province killing three persons and injuring two others.

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-- FEBRUARY 14 --

Two Soviet-Afghan aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace and dropped six bombs on Drosh in Chitral district killing one Frontier Corps militiaman and injuring seven others, including two civilians.

A terrorist bomb went off in a passenger bus in Bannu in Pakistan's North West Frontier province killing one child and injuring six other persons.

-- FEBRUARY 17 --

A U.S. Defense Department official, Fred C. Ikle, in testimony before the congressional joint task force on Afghanistan, said the latest peace offensive by the Soviet Union was a "thinly disguised attempt at deception" because it did not face the issue of a prompt withdrawal from Afghanistan.

-- FEBRUARY 18 --

Michael Armacost, under secretary of state for political affairs, said on a USIA Worldnet interview with European journalists, that only a speedy withdrawal of Soviet troops and the formation of a government acceptable to Afghan refugees could bring peace to Afghanistan.

-- FEBRUARY 19 --

A terrorist bomb in a truck exploded outside a primary school near Peshawar, Pakistan killing 13 persons and wounding more than 50. The victims were mostly Pakistani children. Students from nearby high schools ransacked the office of an Afghan resistance party, the Jamiat-i-Islami, near whose office the truck had been placed. The students shouted anti-Afghan refugee slogans and set on fire 12 vehicles belonging to the party. They ransacked another Jamiat office before being pushed back by the besieged Afghan refugees who fired warning shots into the air. The timely arrival of Pakistani police prevented the situation from getting out of hand.

-- FEBRUARY 21 --

Shops were closed in Peshawar, Pakistan, as groups of students protesting the February 19 killing of school children in a terrorist bomb blast, took to the streets demanding the expulsion of Afghan refugees. The death toll from that blast rose to 14 while 70 others, mostly children, were still hospitalized. The condition of several children was serious.

Although the Pakistan government said compensation would be paid to the families of the victims, the mood in the city was angry and for the first time in eight years Pakistanis clashed with Afghan (more)
refugees. Two refugees were injured in an exchange of fire near the scene of the blast. The demonstrators demanded the return of the refugees and the resignation of the provincial government for its failure to provide security. All universities and their affiliated colleges in Peshawar were closed indefinitely as well as all educational institutions of the Peshawar district.

-- FEBRUARY 22 --

The Afghan regime and the Soviet Union signed a cooperation agreement on irrigation for the 1986-1989 period in Kabul. The Soviet Union will assist in the construction of a dam on the Kokcha river, the building of a general canal, and the excavation of deep wells.

The Soviet Union will also assist in the revival of the irrigation system in the northern areas and the construction of pump-stations over the Kunduz river.

-- FEBRUARY 24 --

Mujahidin announced that they downed a total of 20 Soviet-supplied aircraft in the past three weeks as fighting escalated following the mujahidin's non-observance of the government's unilateral cease-fire supposedly effective from January 15. They also claimed to have killed or wounded 1,400 Soviet-Afghan soldiers during the same period.

-- FEBRUARY 25 --

At a press conference just before resumption of the proximity talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the U.N. secretary general's special representative to the negotiations, Diego Cordovez, said that the timetable for withdrawal of Soviet troops was the last remaining issue.

The United Nations released its third report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan concluding that there had been "no marked change" following the cease-fire and amnesty program announced in January by the Kabul regime.

The 12-page report was prepared for the U.N. Commission on Human Rights by the commission's special rapporteur, Felix Ernacora. According to the report, fighting was continuing in border areas and the number of refugees entering Pakistan was steadily increasing.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced that its representatives will begin visiting Afghan prisons from March 4.

-- FEBRUARY 26--

At least 58 people were killed and 190 injured when Soviet-Afghan warplanes bombed three Pakistani border villages near (more)
Miranshah in the North Waziristan tribal agency. For thirty minutes about 16 planes in two formations of eight bombed the village of Moza Qilli Ghulam Khan where mostly Afghan refugees were shopping in the crowded bazar.

**-- FEBRUARY 27 --**

At least 25 people were killed or wounded when Soviet-Afghan planes bombed villages in the Parachinar area of the Kurram tribal agency. The bombs fell on people who had just dispersed from Friday noon prayers and on a hospital for Afghan refugees.

**-- MARCH 3 --**

Two persons were killed and five were seriously injured when four Soviet-Afghan planes bombed a refugee camp near Chitral in northwest Pakistan.

**-- MARCH 4 --**

One person was killed and three others injured in a terrorist bomb blast in Quetta, in the Baluchistan province of Pakistan.

**-- MARCH 9--**

The usually reliable pro-resistance Afghan Islamic news agency reported that the mujahidin had downed a total of 103 Soviet-Afghan planes and helicopters during January and February. It said 77 were shot down in January and 26 in February throughout Afghanistan. Most of the claims were unverifiable.

The agency also reported that a four-engined military transport was shot down by a mujahidin missile March 4 near the Soviet-Afghan air base at Bagram, west of Kabul. The aircraft was carrying 15 Afghan and Soviet military personnel.

The influx of Afghan refugees to Pakistan continued at an average rate of about 8,000 a month, according to the commissioner for refugees in Pakistan's North West Frontier province. The commissioner was addressing a news conference.

Mujahidin staged a rocket attack into Soviet territory from around the border town of Bham Saheb in Kunduz province. The attack sparked a reprisal by Soviet troops who came directly from the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan.

**-- MARCH 10 --**

Diego Cordovez, the U.N. secretary general's special representative to the proximity talks, told reporters in Geneva that the latest round of talks lasting two weeks had resulted in a "very
significant narrowing down of the gap" between the proposals for a withdrawal time period submitted by Pakistan and Afghanistan -- the two participants in the talks. He elaborated that the gap was now "less than a year."

More than 100 Soviet-Afghan troops were reportedly killed and various military vehicles destroyed when the mujahidin repulsed a Soviet-Afghan offensive in Kandahar province.

In another operation in Herat province, the mujahidin reportedly killed 54 Soviet-Afghan troops and destroyed three tanks.

A number of rockets damaged three houses in the Hayatabad township outside Peshawar on the Khyber road. At least five rockets, apparently launched from the tribal mountains around the Khyber Pass, hit the township. The township had been subjected to rocketing twice before but this was the first time the rockets caused property damage.

-- MARCH 12 --

Pakistan's interior minister told the national assembly (parliament) that special squads with wireless sets and sophisticated arms had been established to apprehend agents of the Afghan Secret police (KHAD) who have been planting terrorist bombs in Pakistan. He said there were more than 150 bomb blasts during 1986, mostly in the northern areas of Pakistan, especially Peshawar.

Mujahidin made a massive rocket assault on Kandahar airport firing over 100 rockets at virtually point-blank range and inflicting heavy casualties on Soviet troops who had recently moved from their bases in Herat and Shindand to the airport. These Soviet soldiers had been involved in operations in the southern part of the province on the Pakistan border.

-- MARCH 13 --

Western diplomats confirmed that the Kabul regime ministers of agriculture and public health were replaced following a pattern of ministerial dismissals that began last November.

-- MARCH 15 --

Western diplomats said mujahidin shot down three helicopters in Nangarhar province while an unconfirmed report said they also attacked Jalalabad airport.

-- MARCH 18 --

Kabul regime media reported that the Soviet Union and the regime signed a 21-million-ruble contract for the construction of the

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Yateem-Tao natural gas field. Construction at the field would begin in June and be completed in 14 months. The Soviets contributed 15 million rubles with the rest coming from the regime budget.

-- MARCH 20 --

In a special ceremony convened at the White House to mark Afghanistan Day, President Reagan said: "A cease-fire without reference to the withdrawal of Soviet troops is meaningless." He also said it is essential that the international community continue its support for the Afghan resistance because its success had already driven the Soviets to apparent interest in a political solution.

Charles Dunbar, the State Department's special assistant for Afghanistan, at a briefing at the Foreign Press Center in Washington, D. C. said that the war in Afghanistan had developed into a national movement led by a new generation of sophisticated and politically aware leaders.

-- MARCH 23 --

About 10 to 12 Soviet-Afghan warplanes violated Pakistani airspace over the Kurram tribal agency and bombed Teri Mangal, killing at least 51 people and injuring more than 100. About 60 shops, some houses and a school were damaged.

Six Soviet-Afghan warplanes violated Pakistani air space over the South Waziristan tribal agency and bombed Angur killing 22 people and wounding 26. Eleven Pakistanis were among the dead.

The following day, March 24, State Department spokesman Charles Redman condemned the attacks terming them "brutal attempts to force a change in Pakistan's Afghanistan policy."

-- MARCH 25 --

Eighty people, mostly Afghan mujahidin, were killed and more than 60 wounded when Soviet-Afghan warplanes bombed villages in the Rabat region on the joint borders of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The pro-resistance Afghan Islamic Press said 12 jets dropped bombs which fell into the territory of all three countries. Iranian troops fired at the planes but failed to hit any of them. Rabat, inhabited mainly by mujahidin and refugees, is considered a major corridor from Afghanistan to Iran and Pakistan.

-- MARCH 26 --

Under Secretary General Diego Cordovez, the United Nations official conducting the Afghanistan proximity talks, stressed during a press briefing in New York that the talks being held in Geneva could only set up certain conditions conducive to a reconciliation (more)
and that all Afghans must begin to devise a "Pax Afghana" for an internal solution.

Soviet-Afghan warplanes bombed Kotri near Teri Mangal in the Kurram tribal agency of Pakistan killing five and injuring eight Afghan refugees.

-- MARCH 27 --

Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, said in a Worldnet interview with European journalists that there was a danger that the war in Afghanistan could expand and become a direct threat to Pakistan.

-- MARCH 30 --

Two Pakistan Air Force F-16 planes shot down an Afghan reconnaissance plane that was one of several which violated Pakistani airspace up to a depth of 10 miles. The Soviet-Afghan plane was seen crashing into a mountain to the north of Parachinar, the headquarters of the Kurram tribal agency.

Later, the Kabul regime claimed that it was an AN-26 civilian plane carrying 40 passengers from Kabul to Khost but Pakistan maintained that the plane bore military markings.

-- MARCH 31 --

Western diplomats reported that in the preceding ten-day period, mujahidin shot down 14 Soviet-Afghan warplanes including three helicopters on March 23 near Khost in Paktia province and four helicopters near Kandahar.

-- APRIL 2 --

One Soviet-Afghan helicopter was shot down and 14 Afghan regime soldiers and an officer were killed in Kandahar. Western diplomats said the fighting erupted when local citizens rejected food and other aid goods provided by the Soviets.

-- APRIL 7 --

A massive avalanche destroyed a 70-man Soviet post near Khenjan on the highway north of the Salang tunnel. Western diplomats said that all the Soviets manning the base were killed and that Soviet forces had to use artillery to blast away snow blocking the road.

-- APRIL 8 --

Mujahidin attacked the town of Pyandzh (Panj) in Soviet Tajikistan setting off fires and killing and wounding many Soviet
citizens, according to the Soviet media. KGB border guards were said to have repulsed the attack.

In Logar, a mujahidin ambush party came under attack by Soviet-Afghan troops. In the intense fighting that followed, 50 to 60 Soviet-Afghan troops were reportedly killed and four armored vehicles destroyed. The mujahidin lost 17 men.

-- APRIL 9 --

A terrorist bomb blast in the Kashmiri bazaar area of Rawalpindi, Pakistan killed eight persons and injured nearly 40, six of them seriously. The bomb was said to have been planted by agents of the Kabul regime.

-- APRIL 12 --

Four Soviet-Afghan jets violated Pakistan's airspace and bombed the western part of the Bajaur tribal agency. They fled when two Pakistani F-16s appeared on the scene. Afghan artillery also shelled a village in the agency killing one person and injuring another.

-- APRIL 15 --

Kabul media charged that the mujahidin fired 13 rockets into Gardez, the capital of Paktia province. Mujahidin claimed to have killed over 50 Afghan regime soldiers in the surrounding area.

-- APRIL 19 --

Afghan leader Najibullah addressed private sector investors in Kabul saying he did not want the Afghan economy to be separated from international commercial and capital markets. He said he wanted all the benefits of the "international distribution of labor" and hoped to attract foreign investment. He stressed that the extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee laid particular emphasis on the political importance of the economic aspects of the national reconciliation.

-- APRIL 21 --

The Kabul regime's Bakhtar News Agency reported that an assassination plot against Najibullah had been discovered involving the intelligence service of Pakistan and "enemies of the process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan." Western diplomats speculated that the alleged plot could have involved elements in the PDPA or the regime who oppose Najibullah and his national reconciliation program. Since the discovery of the plot, Najibullah appeared twice in public ringed by eight Soviet bodyguards.

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-- APRIL 22 --

Kabul media reported that the chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Relations, K. F. Katushev, concluded an official visit to Afghanistan. During his stay he signed a protocol on Afghan-Soviet cooperation on various projects. Technical and economic feasibility studies will be carried out on 171 projects proposed by Afghanistan, including 38 projects in the private and mixed sector and 12 joint Afghan-Soviet projects in the private sector.

Pakistani police said they arrested three Afghan secret police (KHAD) agents on the spot and took five other suspects into custody in a village near Peshawar. The police seized a toy-shaped cluster bomb that the agents confessed had been brought from Afghanistan to be placed in a crowded place. The arrested persons said they were promised substantial rewards depending on the number of people killed.

-- APRIL 24 --

Mujahidin said they shot down 14 Soviet-Afghan military aircraft during the April 14-24 period.

Western diplomats noted that continuing Soviet reprisal raids in northern Kunduz province -- particularly in the area of Imam Sahib where Soviet artillery was deliberately destroying villages -- suggested that they wanted to depopulate the area bordering the Soviet Republic of Tajikistan where the mujahidin had recently carried out successful raids.

-- APRIL 27 --

The Kabul regime celebrated the ninth anniversary of the communist takeover of Afghanistan with the usual military parade and tight security. The theme of this year's celebration of the Saur Revolution was Najibullah's national reconciliation program.

There was confusion about the number of refugees who heeded the regime's national reconciliation call and returned to Afghanistan. Regime Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil stated during the anniversary celebration that "nearly 35,000" had returned. However, the Kabul New Times of April 26 in their special Saur Revolution supplement said "44,000 refugees" had returned while the same paper on April 16 had said that "over 52,000" had returned.

In a speech, Najibullah announced that national reconciliation commissions had been established in 1,681 villages. The official regime statistical annual listed a total of 31,413 villages in

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Afghanistan, indicating that only six percent of the villages had such commissions so far.

At the invitation of the regime, 25 Moscow-based and three New Delhi-based Western journalists visited the border town of Khost where heavy fighting had taken place. Regime officials showed them the wreckage of a transport plane which they said was carrying civilians when it was shot down by a mujahidin stinger missile. The journalists clearly saw military markings on the plane.

-- APRIL 28 --

Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Jamiat-e-Islami resistance group, in an address to a congregation in a mosque in Peshawar, said that the Soviet Union had purposely brought up the issue of ex-King Zahir Shah’s return to power in order to sow the seeds of disunity in the ranks of the Afghan mujahidin.

-- APRIL 29 --

Pakistan said one of its aircraft patrolling the border was shot down by intruding Soviet-Afghan jets but its pilot ejected safely near Miranshah in North Waziristan tribal agency.

-- MAY 4 --

India’s minister of external affairs, Narain Dutt Tiwari, on an official visit to Kabul, said his country had called for a negotiated political settlement of the Afghan problem to establish durable peace in Asia. He said there could be no military solution to the problem and expressed the hope that the United Nations initiative would make further progress in the coming months.

Unconfirmed diplomatic reports indicated that regime foreign minister Abdul Wakil admitted to his Indian counterpart that mujahidin activity had increased since the regime’s declaration of a unilateral cease-fire effective for six months beginning January 15. The minister acknowledged that the mujahidin controlled a large part of the country but threatened that if this was still the case by July 15, when the the so-called cease-fire expires, Afghan regime forces would retaliate "massively."

Also, Wakil reportedly failed to get Tiwari to agree to act as go-between for the regime in contacts with ex-king Zahir Shah who is in exile in Rome.

Ousted Afghan leader, Babrak Karmal, left for Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet government and on the advice of doctors to undergo medical treatment and rest.

A powerful bomb exploded in a mosque during early morning prayers killing seven and injuring 11 others in the town of Miranshah.
in Pakistan's North Waziristan agency. Another bomb exploded in the office of the administrator for Afghan refugees but no one was injured. A third bomb went off in a nearby park injuring two people.

Over a dozen Soviet-Afghan warplanes dropped bombs on three Pakistani villages in the North Waziristan agency where there are a number of Afghan refugee camps. The bombs destroyed eight houses including that of a local refugee leader. Two Pakistani children died and seven were critically injured.

-- MAY 8 --

Zalmay Khalilzad, a member of the secretary of state's policy planning council for the area, said the United States will not sacrifice Afghanistan in pursuing other East-West issues with the Soviet Union. He said the Afghanistan problem was the most important of the regional issues between the United States and the Soviet Union and that a resolution of it would significantly improve relations between the two superpowers. He was addressing a one-day seminar on Afghanistan in Washington, D. C. sponsored by the Voice of America and the University of Pennsylvania.

Western diplomats reported that student supporters of ousted Afghan leader, Babrak Karmal -- who was presumably "exiled" to Moscow May 4 -- demonstrated in front of the Interior Ministry before authorities forcibly dispersed them. Also, three bombs that exploded in the Microrayon section of Kabul were presumed to be the work of other Karmal supporters. Other reports indicated that some of the Karmal supporters may have been imprisoned.

-- MAY 9 --

The Kabul New Times reported that party and state delegations from Balkh, Jauzjan and Samangan provinces left for talks with the local authorities of Surkhandariskaya Oblast, Samarkand, Tashkent and Fergana in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan as part of growing direct economic ties between the northern Afghan provinces and the adjoining Soviet Central Asian republics. Similar delegations had come from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan on April 26.

-- MAY 11 --

Sixty-three Afghan regime soldiers who reportedly mutinied and killed their officers in their barracks near Kabul crossed over to Miranshah in the North Waziristan tribal agency.

-- MAY 14 --

Four persons were killed and 32 others injured when a parcel bomb exploded in a bus at a central terminal in Peshawar. The bus (more)
caught fire and was completely gutted and several nearby buses were damaged. Kabul regime saboteurs were believed to have planted the bomb.

-- MAY 15 --

In the previous 10-day period, mujahidin claimed to have shot down three helicopters in the Kabul area forcing Soviet-Afghan military aircraft to increase the frequency of their night flights.

-- MAY 16 --

In fighting over the past three-day period in the Charikar area of Parwan province, the strategic Salang tunnel on the main highway linking Kabul with the Soviet Union was closed for two days.

-- MAY 21 --

A State Department official said the Soviet Union, in its attempts to establish a client regime in Kabul, is the cause of human rights violations in Afghanistan. James Montgomery, deputy assistant secretary for human rights and humanitarian affairs, was a witness at a congressional hearing on the abuse of human rights in Afghanistan.

He said there were increasing reprisals against civilians including "tactical and strategic depopulation of areas" such as in northern Kunduz and Takhar provinces and "security retaliations" such as those on villages north of Kabul and elsewhere.

Montgomery cited the use of "indiscriminate force" along roadways destroying not only dwellings, but even orchards and vineyards. He said there was an unverified report on the use of chemical weapons in the Herat area.

The official concluded that the only solution to the human rights problem was for the Soviets to leave Afghanistan.

-- JUNE 1 --

Mujahidin sources told Agence France Presse (AFP) they had stopped an intense six-day ground and air offensive by Soviet-Afghan forces on their bases in eastern Paktia province. A three-pronged attack took place in the Jaji area and in one encounter when Soviet airborne troops attempted to encircle mujahidin besieging Jaji cantonment 15 Soviets were killed. The mujahidin said they lost 25 men including a commander, Abdul Wahab, while 80 were wounded. Two jets and a helicopter gunship were brought down and 150 Afghan regime troops captured.

-- JUNE 2 --

A bomb blast injured 27 persons, seven seriously, in a bazaar in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. The bomb was believed to have been planted by Afghan regime saboteurs.

(more)
-- JUNE 3 --

A powerful bomb believed to have been planted by Afghan regime saboteurs exploded in a cinema in Peshawar, Pakistan killing two persons, injuring 24, five of them critically.

- A top mujahidin commander in Kandahar, Mohammad Ishaq alias Lala Malang, of the Hisb-e-Islami party of Maulvi Yunus Khalis, was killed when a shell hit his command post.

-- JUNE 9 --

Western diplomats said that during the month of May at least 29 Soviet-Afghan military aircraft were shot down including the May 29 downing of a military transport plane said to be carrying 12 Afghan pilots from Kabul to Bagram air base.

-- JUNE 10 --

Mujahidin captured a key mountainous region in northern Herat overlooking the vital Towraghondi-Herat road considered to be one of the most important supply routes for Soviet forces operating in western Afghanistan. Mujahidin sources told Iran’s IRNA that after 10 days of heavy fighting 15 villages in the region were liberated.

-- JUNE 11 --

Kabul Radio reported the military funeral of Brigadier General Abdul Qayyum Siddiq, head of the Armed Forces political affairs in Kandahar province. He was shot while explaining the policy of national reconciliation in Arghandab district of Kandahar province. Top officials attended his funeral including the defense and interior affairs ministers.

- Western diplomats said a mujahidin missile may have crippled an Antonov-26 military transport plane before it tried to make an emergency landing. The plane crashed in the Shahjui district of Zabul province killing all aboard before it could return to Kandahar airport. The AN-26 normally carries 40 passengers.

-- JUNE 14 --

Western diplomats said they received reports that the mujahidin may have shot down another AN-26 military transport with 43 passengers near Mazar-i-Sharif.

-- JUNE 15 --

Western diplomats said regime defense minister, Major General Mohammad Rafi, reportedly toured Kandahar where the month-long Soviet-Afghan campaign to clear the area of mujahidin appeared to have made little progress after nearly collapsing early in June when large numbers of regime troops defected. Diplomats said since the campaign began three weeks ago the Afghan regime army may have suffered 1,000 casualties, many of them teenage students forcibly conscripted from Kabul schools and colleges.

(more)
- Deposed Afghan king, Zahir Shah, in an interview published in Paris said he was ready to act for the "restoration of the independence" and "freedoms" of the Afghan people without personal claim. He told the French newsletter, "Defense Active," that "a political settlement acceptable to the Afghan people" was possible with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

-- JUNE 22 --

Western diplomats said students reported to be supporters of rival Parcham and Khalq factions shot it out in Kabul University and four students were reported killed, including a brother-in-law of Interior Minister Syed Mohammad Gulabzai.

-- JUNE 26 --

Western diplomats said Soviet forces joined the fighting after Afghan regime troops failed to dislodge mujahidin from their strongholds in the Paghman mountains just 15 kilometers west of Kabul.

-- JUNE 30 --

Western diplomats said Soviet forces bulldozed areas inhabited by mujahidin sympathizers in Kandahar. They said houses and vegetation along the 26-kilometer road to the airport were leveled to provide a clear field of fire. The city's population which stood at nearly 200,000 in prewar times had now dwindled to less than 40,000.

-- JULY 1 --

Kabul Radio reported that a bomb set by mujahidin exploded in a bus used to transport government workers. One person was killed and nine injured, including two seriously.

-- JULY 4 --

Two powerful car bombs believed to have been planted by Kabul regime saboteurs went off in a busy shopping area in Karachi, Pakistan, killing at least 72 people and injuring more than 250, including women and children. Pakistani officials described the bombing as the bloodiest terrorist act in Pakistan's history. Crowds of young Pakistanis came out into the streets chanting slogans against the three million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

-- JULY 7 --

A U.S. State Department official said that Afghan mujahidin in recent weeks had demonstrated the ability to engage in hand-to-hand combat with elite Soviet Spetsnaz units, particularly in Paktia and Kandahar provinces where some of the highest casualties have been inflicted on Soviet troops. He also said that because of improved air defenses acquired by the mujahidin the Soviets now flew their planes too high for effective bombing. Also, when helicopters flew very low to evade missiles they became vulnerable to the 12.7 mm.

(more)
heavy machinegun fire of the mujahidin. He said that MI-24-25 helicopter gunships clearly had a reduced combat role now.

- Soviet-Afghan aircraft bombed Gadai village in Bajaur Agency, Pakistan killing five people, including a woman and three children, and injuring two.

-- JULY 11 --
Afghan resistance leader Maulvi Mohammad Yunus Khalis of Hisb-e-Islami narrowly escaped a terrorist bomb attack believed to have been planned by the Kabul regime's secret police, the KHAD. Two of his party workers were injured by glass splinters and several parked cars were damaged when the bomb planted near a pillar supporting the main office went off apparently without the structure caving in as intended.

-- JULY 14 --
Western diplomats reported that after several weeks of heavy fighting, Soviet forces withdrew from the Paghman-Maidan Shahr area west of Kabul, where they were trying to root out mujahidin forces. One of the reasons for the retreat was that mujahidin air defenses limited deployment of Soviet air power.

-- JULY 15 --
At a press conference in Washington, a mujahidin leader challenged the Soviet Union to demonstrate its commitment to peace by unconditionally withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan. Dr. Najibullah Laftaie, head of the political committee of Jamiat-e-Islami, said the Soviets were using Afghanistan to test new weapons and as a training ground for their troops. He said the Soviet Union was hoping to use Afghanistan as a spring-board for further expansionist policies.

According to Laftaie, more than 70 percent of Afghanistan was in ruins and five million refugees -- the largest refugee population in the world -- had fled to Pakistan and Iran.

-- JULY 16 --
Afghan leader, Najibullah, received the secretary of the Indian Communist Party's National Council. The Indian communist leader was leading a delegation on a friendly visit to Kabul.

-- JULY 17 --
Radio Kabul claimed that mujahidin rocketed Gardez, the provincial capital of Paktia, killing six people and injuring 11.

-- JULY 18 --
Radio Kabul reported that three persons were killed and 10 others injured, including two children, when a bomb went off in the Microrayon residential area of Kabul. Mujahidin were blamed for the bombing.

(more)
Radio Kabul reported that mujahidin fired rockets at a cinema in Bamian where people were gathered to discuss the draft of the new Afghan constitution. Six people were killed, including two women, and 20 injured.

Kabul's Bakhtar news agency reported that since the April Revolution of 1978, the Soviet Union has assisted Afghanistan with 1,100 million dollars in the form of project loans, consumer goods and grants. The total Soviet aid to Afghanistan before and after the 1978 communist revolution amounted to 3,000 million dollars.

Mujahidin sources monitored by Radio Pakistan said that napalm bombs were used by Soviet forces in Dand and Panjwai areas of Kandahar.

-- JULY 19 --
Radio Pakistan reported that the mujahidin had killed more than 1,000 Soviet-Afghan troops in three days of a major offensive against Soviet-Afghan bases on a 40-mile stretch of highway between Kabul and Jalalabad. Two military camps and 20 military bases near the road were wiped out and a large number of armored vehicles and ammunition destroyed.

The operation, code-named "Operation Avalanche," was shown on CBS television and is believed to be the largest set-piece battle against the Soviet-Kabul forces to date.

-- JULY 22 --
Kabul's Bakhtar reported that a mine planted by mujahidin in Takhar province near Taoqan blew up a bus killing all 22 passengers.

- In a 10-day meeting of 1,200 mujahidin commanders in the western Afghan province of Ghwir, a resolution was passed calling for the election of a jihad revolutionary council to determine the future of Afghanistan. The council would be elected within the next six months by provincial officials and authorized representatives from various war fronts and mujahidin from all Islamic groups would be invited to express their opinions. The resolution urged the unification of groups both inside and outside Afghanistan. The Ghwir meeting mainly brought together commanders from the Jamiat-e-Islami group and was not attended by several important commanders from eastern Afghanistan who belong to other groups.

-- JULY 26 --
Radio Kabul reported that the chairman of the national reconciliation commission of Andarab district in Baghlan province was killed by mujahidin while he was saying prayers in a mosque.

(more)
-- JULY 28 --

The Pakistan government protested to the Afghan government two separate incidents of artillery shelling in the Bajaur tribal agency which claimed the lives of six persons and injured five others.

-- JULY 29 --

Two powerful time-bombs weighing 15 kilograms each and fitted in batteries were seized from a truck with Kabul license plates parked in a serai (inn) in Peshawar, Pakistan. Five occupants of the truck were taken into custody.

-- JULY 30 --

A Shia resistance party, the Harakat-e-Islami, said its fighters in the Sanglalgh valley, 100 kilometers west of Kabul, downed 13 aircraft and four helicopters and killed more than 100 regime troops in nearly three weeks of fierce fighting. The AFP reported that the fighting began when motorized units of the Soviet-Afghan army came to block both ends of the strategic valley that links the north.

-- AUGUST 2 --

Visiting U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost called on Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi and exchanged views on U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relations and Afghanistan.

-- AUGUST 4 --

The Afghan Islamic Press Agency (AIP) reported that 35 mujahidin, including a provincial commander, were killed and 20 wounded while trying to ambush Kabul regime forces who counterattacked. Twenty-five government soldiers were also killed in the battle in Paktia province.

-- AUGUST 7 --

A Kabul regime terrorist bomb killed two persons and injured 34 when it exploded in a shop on the G.T. road in Peshawar, Pakistan.

-- AUGUST 8 --

Radio Kabul announced that the special rapporteur for the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, Professor Felix Ermacora, ended his nine­day visit to Afghanistan. He visited Kabul prisons, hospitals and met with different government officials. He also visited Herat and Balkh provinces. In Kabul, he visited the central Pul-e-Charkhi prison and the Investigation Center of the State Security Ministry. He talked with a number of people who were released in April 1987 as a result of the amnesty. He also visited the prisons of Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif. However, Western diplomats said he was allowed to meet privately with only two political prisoners.

(more)
**AUGUST 9**

More than a thousand refugees fled to Kabul after heavy shelling and a Soviet-Afghan offensive against mujahidin to the north of the Afghan capital, according to Western diplomatic sources. The refugees said many people had been killed and homes destroyed in the bombing and shelling by Soviet-Afghan forces.

- Western diplomats also said that mujahidin throughout Afghanistan shot down 42 planes and helicopters in July.

**AUGUST 11**

Three bombs exploded in Mardan, Pakistan, killing 18 persons and injuring 45. Two blasts occurred at the bus station and the third in a sports stadium in the city, 65 kilometers from Peshawar.

**AUGUST 13**

Radio Kabul reported that a mujahidin missile brought down an Antonov-26 transport plane carrying seven passengers and commodities needed by the people of Khogist district in Paktia province. The plane was en route to Kabul. In addition to the seven passengers that included two children, five crewmen lost their lives.

- Najibullah took part in a meeting at Storay Palace to mark the 40th anniversary of India's independence. The meeting was organized by the PDPA Central Committee and the Afghan-Indian Friendship Society.

**AUGUST 14**

A terrorist bomb killed two people and wounded 13, two of them seriously, in Peshawar, Pakistan. The bomb was planted in a drain outside a row of crowded shops in the city. Earlier, another bomb had exploded in the university area destroying an electricity transformer.

- Afghan Islamic Agency (AIP) reported that a bomb planted by Kabul regime agents exploded in a mujahidin-held market town, Kaga Bazaar, 40 kilometers from Jalalabad, killing 17 people and wounding 20. The victims were mostly peasants from surrounding villages who had come to sell their produce.

**AUGUST 16**

Tehran IRNA reported that mujahidin, in late July, destroyed about one kilometer of a pipeline carrying fuel from the Soviet Union to Afghanistan. The mujahidin claimed to have blown up the pipeline after a 7-hour battle. Two Soviet tanks were destroyed and three Soviet military advisers, and 16 officers and eight soldiers of the Kabul regime killed. The damage to the pipeline disrupted the flow of fuel from the Soviet Union to the largest Soviet air base in Shindand, Farah province.

(more)
-- AUGUST 17 --

Radio Kabul reported that the Afghan government sent to the Iranian government a strongly worded note protesting the firing of mortar, 23-mm artillery, antiaircraft, machinegun and surface-to-surface missiles at the border post of Islam Qillah. The shelling which had begun three days ago seriously wounded an officer and a soldier and caused heavy material losses and damage to installations.

-- AUGUST 21 --

Kabul’s Bakhtar reported that Najibullah toured Kandahar and met with armed forces, local clergy and party officials. The Afghan leader gave speeches on national reconciliation and bestowed medals on a selected group of officers and soldiers for bravery in fighting the mujahidin.

-- AUGUST 25 --

Western diplomats said that Soviet-Afghan forces have virtually destroyed the town of Sheikhabad in the Shomali region in continued heavy fighting in the area. Nearly 200 Soviet and Afghan soldiers were killed around Sheikhabad and Qara Bagh. Earlier in the month, mujahidin captured 17 Soviet soldiers including a senior military official which forced the Soviets to offer an exchange of prisoners. Kabul regime media claimed the capture of mujahidin commander, Aqa Muhammad, in Paghman and the seizure of a large quantity of ammunition and missiles.

- Radio Kabul reported that Afghan leader Najibullah took part in a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) Air Force and Air Defense Force. In his speech, he said that in the nine years since the April 1978 Revolution more than 100 Afghan pilots had graduated from Soviet air academies while more than 400 Air Force personnel had taken refresher courses. He also asked that a minute of silence be observed in honor of those officers killed in the war. He called out the names of 15 officers ranking from lieutenant to colonel who, among others, were killed in action.

-- AUGUST 26 --

AFP reported that mujahidin shelled a government military base for five straight hours north of Kandahar killing dozens of troops and blowing up fuel and supplies.

- A Kabul regime terrorist bomb exploded near a bus station in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan, killing one person and injuring five.

-- AUGUST 28 --

Radio Pakistan reported that more than 150 officials of the Kabul regime including KHAD agents were killed last week in a bomb blast in Jalalabad.

(more)
Talking to newsmen at the 63rd Meet the Press Programme of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists (Nawaz Raza Group), Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, Amir Hezb-e Eslami, Afghanistan, proposed a four-point peace formula to resolve the Afghan war. According to him, the Soviet troops should be called back from the war zones to the air bases of Bagram (Kabul province), Shindand (Farah province), Dehdadi (Balkh province), Dasht-e Abdan (Kunduz province) and Kelagai (Baghlan province) from where their withdrawal should begin. Secondly, all Afghan army and militia posts created for war should be abolished and troops should be called back to prewar positions.

Thirdly, an impartial government acceptable to mujahidin should be assigned the task of supervising the Soviet pullout. The security affairs of this interim and impartial government during the Soviet withdrawal would be assigned to the Afghan Army after it was determined that the commanders of all units were acceptable to the mujahidin and that all those officers who had defected to the mujahidin after the coup of 1978 were reinstated to their former ranks and positions.

Fourthly, the "impartial-interim" government would be immediately replaced by an interim mujahidin government to be formed by a representative Shooora (advisory council) elected on proportional representation basis by the refugees in Iran and Pakistan and by nationals living in liberated areas of Afghanistan.

- Gulbuddin said Zahir Shah’s role in putting an end to the war in Afghanistan was a Soviet move aimed at causing harm to the ongoing jihad and creating differences among the mujahidin. He said that the former king had been totally rejected by the Afghan people and therefore could not play any positive role in the future of Afghanistan.

Radio Kabul reported that Pakistani opposition leader, Air Marshall (retd.) Asghar Khan of Tehrik-i-Estiqlal Party, met Najibullah who explained the regime’s national reconciliation policy. Asghar Khan had arrived in Kabul for a friendly visit at the invitation of the DRA National Front

- Yuli Vorontsov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, met with the DRA minister of foreign affairs, Abdul Wakil, and exchanged views on bilateral relations between the two countries as well as international topics. The Soviet minister, who was in Kabul on a working visit, also discussed Kabul’s national reconciliation policy.
-- SEPTEMBER 7 --

Pakistan and the Kabul regime resumed their indirect talks on Afghanistan in Geneva. This was the fourth phase of the seventh round of talks.

- Western diplomats reported that six persons were killed and 30 injured when two bombs exploded in the Shahr-e- Nau fruit maket in Kabul.

-- SEPTEMBER 9 --

Western diplomats reported that a bomb exploded in the Ministry of State Security which houses the headquarters of the Afghan Intelligence Service (KHAD) causing extensive damage and an unknown number of casualties.

-- SEPTEMBER 10 --

A Kabul regime terrorist bomb in Peshawar, Pakistan, injured 10 persons, six of whom had to be hospitalized.

- A terrorist bomb blast in the Badamibagh suburb of Lahore killed two persons and injured 25, five seriously.

- The Geneva proximity talks on Afghanistan adjourned without any agreement. U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez expressed disappointment that no agreement had been reached on the timetable for the withdrawal but added that the differences between the perceptions of the two sides had been narrowed further.

- Visiting Belgian Minister Leo Tindemans in Pakistan reaffirmed his country's stand that the root cause of the Afghanistan problem was the Soviet intervention in that country.

-- SEPTEMBER 12 --

Radio Pakistan reported that a pickup vehicle was destroyed by a mine blast on Parachinar road in the Kurram Agency killing five persons and injuring seven.

-- SEPTEMBER 13 --

Kabul's Bakhtar News Agency reported that mujahidin fired a number of surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas of Jalalabad at night killing five persons and injuring 11.

- Kabul's Bakhtar reported that an AN-26 plane flying from Kabul to Kunduz was hit by a mujahidin missile near Kunduz city killing 13 aboard.

-- SEPTEMBER 14 --

Agence France Presse (AFP) reported that several hundred mujahidin mounted a big operation in southern Kandahar province to dismantle dozens of militia posts set up by turncoat mujahidin commander Esmatullah Muslim who defected in 1985. Some 35 mujahidin (more)
groups belonging to six resistance parties launched a coordinated attack over the week along a 70-kilometer stretch of highway between Kandahar and Spin Baldak along Pakistan's Baluchistan province killing 30 militiamen and wounding 55. The mujahidin smashed six posts and heavily shelled a regiment's base in Spin Baldak. About a dozen other militia posts were under pressure and Muslim called for reinforcements from Kabul.

-- SEPTEMBER 15 --
Western diplomats said Soviet troops devastated areas along the main road connecting the provinces of Kunduz, Badakhshan and Takhar, clearing houses and vegetation in a 500-meter swathe along the road.

-- SEPTEMBER 16 --
In a terrorist bomb explosion on Warsak road in Peshawar, Pakistan, seven persons were killed and 37 injured, six seriously. The bomb planted in a pickup damaged nearby vehicles and shops.

- A French journalist, who returned from a six-week visit to Afghanistan, told AFP in Paris that nine northern and eastern Afghan provinces could now be considered as "semi-liberated" from the control of the Kabul regime. Bertrand Gallet said that mujahidin commander, Ahmad Shah Mahsud, had consolidated his position in northern Afghanistan in the past few months. According to him, the situation in the north had evolved considerably since he last travelled there in 1984. In the nine provinces basically controlled by Mahsud's Northern Council, there was a four-tier resistance with peasants defending their own villages, a garrison defending several villages and a mobile group defending whole valleys. The fourth tier was an elite unit called the central group which was used for major battles against Soviet and Afghan troops. Gallet said the Northern Council's key goal was the cutting of roads leading from Kabul to the Soviet Union and Pakistan.

-- SEPTEMBER 17 --
Kabul's Bakhtar reported that mujahidin missiles hit Gardez killing two children and injuring four. The missiles caused extensive damage to residential houses and communal mosques in the city and its surroundings.

-- SEPTEMBER 19 --
A terrorist bomb exploded in a bus stand in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, killing four persons and injuring 17, including 12 seriously.

-- SEPTEMBER 20 --
Radio Kabul reported that Najibullah addressed the opening session of the first nationwide assembly of the Hazara people who number a million and are Shias by faith. He said a Shia section of the Religious Studies College and a special religious school would be (more)
opened, newspapers in their own language would be published, special radio programs would be broadcast for their homeland of Hazarajat and more Hazaras would be sent for education to the Soviet Union.

- Najibullah received Mati-ur Rahman, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist party of Bangladesh. They discussed expansion of friendly relations between the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

- Radio Pakistan reported that 50 Afghan nationals were arrested by the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) police for subversive activities. The interior minister informed Pakistan’s National Assembly that these Afghans had admitted their guilt and also disclosed that they were sent by KHAD, the Kabul regime’s secret police. The Pakistani police recovered explosive material and time devices from them.

-- SEPTEMBER 21 --

Pakistan’s prime minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo, met President Reagan when both arrived in New York to address the U.N. General Assembly. During the meeting President Reagan reaffirmed U.S. support of Pakistan on the Afghanistan issue. The two leaders agreed that the immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan was absolutely essential. They also agreed that in the future there should be a regime in Kabul which reflected the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan.

- Western diplomats reported that a bomb exploded in a building that houses the office of Bakhtar Airlines and the Ministry of Transport. Casualty figures were estimated at three to eight killed. The building was evacuated as well as the neighboring one housing Radio Afghanistan.

-- SEPTEMBER 24 --

Pakistan’s Prime Minister Junejo told the U.N. General Assembly that the Afghan problem was caused by the presence of foreign forces there, and that if they were to leave Afghanistan an agreement on its future government would be speedily achieved. He said Pakistan would welcome a return to normalcy in Afghanistan under any political arrangement acceptable to the Afghan people, including the five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran who constitute one-third of the population of Afghanistan.

- Kabul’s Bakhtar reported that 19 persons, including children, were killed when mujahidin fired missiles in the Shindand district of Herat Province.

- Radio Kabul reported that Najibullah inaugurated the Military Political University. He said the need for a military political (more)
university arose from the fact that the armed forces were the determining force in consolidating the people's power. He also said that the importance of this role had increased under the conditions of national reconciliation. The Military Political University of Minsk is assisting the formation of the university.

-- SEPTEMBER 28 --
Western diplomats said about 100 Afghan regime soldiers surrendered when mujahidin attacked their convoy near Ghazni.

-- SEPTEMBER 29 --
Western diplomats said Soviet troops had withdrawn from some exposed bases in Afghanistan because improved mujahidin air defenses made re-supply difficult. Many of the Soviet troops were now concentrated in Darul Aman, a large Soviet base just outside Kabul.

- Western diplomats said mujahidin ambushed a major Soviet convoy on the Logar road north of Pul-i-Alam destroying 20-25 armored and other vehicles.

-- SEPTEMBER 30 --
Kabul's Bakhtar reported that a routine session of the DRA Revolutionary Council unanimously elected Najibullah, who is general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, to the posts of president of the DRA Revolutionary Council and chairman of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The acting president, Haji Mohammad Chamkani, was elected first vice chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

- Kabul's Bakhtar reported that the Afghan foreign minister, Abdul Wakil, in his address to the U.N. General Assembly, said that the undeclared war against his country had ruined the national economy. He said 2,000 schools, 350 bridges, 50 cultural centres, 131 hospitals, 224 mosques and holy places of worship, 258 production institutions, thousands of trucks and thousands of kilometers of highways and communication lines were destroyed. According to him, the total damage to the national economy in billions of afghanis amounted to three-fourths of the total development investment made in Afghanistan over the past 50 years. He said more than 3,200 commissions for national reconciliation had been established throughout the country. About 83,000 refugees had returned and more than 30,000 mujahidin had laid down their weapons while nearly 600 armed opposition groups encompassing 53,000 people are in contact and negotiating with the government.

-- OCTOBER 2 --
Kabul's Bakhtar reported that a 5,000-man group led by Abdur Rasul Pahlawan in Faryab province accepted the policy of national reconciliation and surrendered a large quantity of arms to government officials.

(more)
Radio Pakistan reported that two Afghan Air Force war helicopters landed in Chitral and were captured by the local authorities. A spokesman for Pakistan's Foreign Office later clarified that the two Soviet gunships had landed in Mastuj subdivision of Chitral. Upon the request of the Soviet government, who said the violation was not deliberate, the Pakistan government handed over the crew to the Soviet Embassy in Islamabad. The spokesman noted that the Soviets had damaged the gunships to make them inoperable.

The crew said they were affiliated with the KGB Guard Brigade and had flown from Alma Ata in Kazakhstan, across Wakhan into Mastuj, Chitral. The six crew members included a major and a captain.

-- OCTOBER 5 --

A terrorist bomb explosion in a vegetable market in Islamabad, Pakistan, injured four persons.

-- OCTOBER 6 --

Pakistan's foreign minister, Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, told the National Assembly that supply of weapons to agents of the Kabul regime as well as bomb explosions were tactics that were being employed by the regime to coerce the Pakistan government into abandoning its principled policy on Afghanistan.

Radio Pakistan reported that Afghan regime forces fired 21 tank shells into Landi Khana near the garrison town of Landi Kotal in the Khyber Pass killing one Pakistani and injuring 7 others, including two Afghan refugees.

-- OCTOBER 7 --

An American journalist who wrote a book of her travels inside Afghanistan told a congressional hearing that Afghan children were forcibly sent for education to the Soviet Union without the consent or prior knowledge of their parents. Jan Goodwin, executive editor of the Ladies' Home Journal in New York and author of "Caught in the Crossfire," had visited Kabul and interviewed regime officials in charge of the program in the fall of 1985. According to her, every two months children from Kabul and suburban schools were "shipped" to the Soviet Union without any advance warning to their parents.

Kabul's Bakhtar carried Najib's interview with TASS in which he said 2,000 villages had come over to the side of the government while 83,000 refugees had returned. Also, over 6,000 representatives of opposition armed groups were now working for the government.

-- OCTOBER 8 --

Kabul's Bakhtar reported that six leaders of opposition groups numbering 1,500 in Herat province had signed protocols of cease-fire in the past six months. Also, eight armed opposition groups
numbering 3,262 men responded to the call for national reconciliation and joined the government along with their weapons. During the same period 800 families numbering 4,000 returned home and resumed their normal lives in different areas of Herat province. Twenty-five tribal jirgas were also held to promote national reconciliation in the province.

- Western diplomats said the biggest car bomb to date killed at least 27 people and wounded more than 30 in the Shahr-e-Nau residential section in Kabul, and that there were unofficial reports from eyewitnesses that the toll could be as high as 72 dead and more than 100 wounded.

-- OCTOBER 10 --
Radio Kabul reported that Najibullah issued a decree whereby the armed forces, the ministries of National Defense, Internal Affairs and State Security were authorized to purchase weapons from defecting mujahidin at specified prices.

-- OCTOBER 12 --
Radio Pakistan reported that 11 people were injured in a terrorist bomb blast in a bus station in Peshawar, Pakistan. Around 15 buses in the station were damaged.

- The Soviet ambassador in Pakistan, Abdul-Rakhman Ogly Vezirov, in a speech at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIF), said his government was in earnest about withdrawing its "limited contingent" from Afghanistan, but the pullout had to be conditional on a total stoppage of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He said the Soviet Union wished to see Afghanistan "an independent and a neutral state having friendly relations with all its neighboring countries".

-- OCTOBER 13 --
Armand Hammer, who arrived in Kabul on a special flight for a short visit to the DRA, held talks with Najibullah. They talked about national reconciliation and discussed recent political developments.

- Maulvi Yunus Khalis, leader of the Hezb-e-Islami, in an interview with the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) in Islamabad, Pakistan, denied allegations that two of his commanders had sold 16 Stingers to the Iranian government for one million dollars.

-- OCTOBER 18 --
Kabul’s Bakhtar reported that the second PDPA conference on the policy of national reconciliation opened with the participation of 677 elected delegates.

- Maulvi Yunus Khalis, 66, of the Hezb-e-Islami, was unanimously elected chief of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance. The
post of spokesman, which used to rotate among the seven resistance leaders every three months, was abolished and all seven leaders voted to appoint Khalis as rais (leader) of the alliance for a period of 18 months.

-- OCTOBER 21 --
Western diplomats said after the conclusion of the second national conference of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), there were reports of large-scale arrests and dismissals of party members loyal to former Afghan leader Babrak Karmal. There were multiple reports floating in the capital that more than 2,000 PDPA members may eventually be expelled from the party and that many have already been arrested.

-- OCTOBER 22 --
In an interview with the BBC, Pakistan's interior minister, Nasim Ahmed Ahir, held the Kabul administration responsible for terrorist activities in Pakistan. He said arrested terrorists admitted that they were funded and trained by the Kabul administration. He added that surveillance had been strengthened and new legislation had been drawn up to give strong punishment to those involved in terrorist activities.

-- OCTOBER 23 --
A terrorist bomb exploded at the Badaber Scheme chowk (square) near Peshawar, Pakistan, killing four persons and injuring 17, six seriously. The bomb was planted under a pile of fruits. The blast damaged a nearby hotel and a vegetable shop.

- Western diplomats said the regime had reinstated press-ganging of youth as young as 16. Regime and KHAD officials visited many schools and conscripted youths directly from their classes.

-- OCTOBER 24 --
A special tribunal in Peshawar set up to hear cases relating to subversive activities, issued a death sentence to an Afghan national and agent of KHAD for two bomb blasts. One blast took place in an Afghan refugee camp and another near the Intermediate and Secondary Education Board office in which 14 people were injured.

-- OCTOBER 27 --
Western diplomats based in Kabul reported that their East European colleagues, who attended the recently concluded second PDPA congress, said that up to 2,000 backers of Karmal would be expelled soon. Others may be forced to resign if they failed to sign an oath pledging future loyalty and an abandonment of factional ties. Earlier in the month, 15 close associates of Karmal, including his cousin Mahmud Baryalai, were sacked.

(more)
- The French Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, told AFP that a French journalist, Alain Guillo, was caught by the Afghan Army in northern Faryab province. He was caught along with commander Mohammad Amin of the Harkat-e-Inquilab-e-Islami party late last month while he was traveling with the group. A defected mujahidin leader tipped off the Afghan army. Guillo was then taken to Shibergan.

- About 1.5 million Afghans have been killed, seriously wounded or otherwise incapacitated since the resistance against the Kabul regime and the Soviets began in 1978, according to preliminary estimates of a survey of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Dr. Marek Sliwinski of Geneva University and Dr. Ijaz Gilani of Gallup Pakistan conducted the survey and concluded that nine percent of the pre-war Afghan population or one in every eleven family members of refugees was killed in the war and another 3.1 percent injured. According to the Swiss and Pakistani experts, the Afghan casualty figures are one of the highest in recent history and are higher than casualty rates suffered in a conventional war.

-- OCTOBER 28 --

Radio Pakistan reported that two U.S. photojournalists, Lee Shapiro and James Lindelof, who had made a documentary on the Afghanistan war, were killed in what turned out to have been a Soviet helicopter gunship ambush north of Kabul. Their film and photo equipment were reported to have been seized by Soviet soldiers who landed from the gunship to search their bodies. Shapiro and Lindelof were on their way back from northern Afghanistan to Pakistan with a party of mujahidin from Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's Hizb-e-Islami.

-- OCTOBER 29 --

Mujahidin forces under the command of Ahmad Shah Mahsud of the Jamiat-e-Islami captured the Afghan military police garrison of Keran in Badakhshan province, killing 29 soldiers and capturing 266. The mujahidin lost 14 men while 11 others were wounded. The subsequent surrender of Kabul regime militia in the neighboring valley of Monjan reopened an important supply trail to Pakistan.

-- OCTOBER 30 --

Kabul's Bakhtar reported that the Revolutionary Council issued a decree granting amnesty to Afghan refugees that would allow them to return home without penalty. Returnees liable for conscription would have a six-month grace period during which they would be allowed to leave the country if they wished.

-- OCTOBER 31 --

Kabul's Bakhtar reported that Najibullah accompanied by a delegation departed for the Soviet Union to take part in celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

(more)
-- NOVEMBER 2 --
Radio Kabul reported that the Revolutionary Council issued a decree approving a law concerning the convening and activity of the Grand Assembly. The Grand Assembly or Loya Jirga will be held for the sole purpose of approving the constitution and electing the president of the country, the decree said.

-- NOVEMBER 3 --
Radio Pakistan reported that mujahidin shot down three aircraft and two helicopters at the Kabul International airport.

-- NOVEMBER 5 --
In a press conference at the United Nations, Maulvi Yunus Khalis, leader of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin and head of Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan, categorically rejected attempts at a national reconciliation by the Kabul regime and peace efforts through the proximity talks by the United Nations. Instead, he said the resistance wanted direct negotiations with the Soviet Union.

-- NOVEMBER 6 --
Radio Pakistan reported that Soviet-Kabul forces used chemical gas in the Moqur area of Ghazni province killing four mujahidin. An armored unit attacked mujahidin positions but were driven back with nine Soviet-Afghan soldiers killed and many injured. While retreating the mujahidin claimed the Soviet-Kabul troops fired chemical gas shells at them.

-- NOVEMBER 8 --
Radio Pakistan reported that mujahidin destroyed two transport aircraft and one helicopter on the ground at the Khost military base in Paktia province. The aircraft had landed there to provide supplies to the garrison.

- Radio Kabul reported that the Revolutionary Council had issued a decree governing the formation and registration of political parties as part of the national reconciliation process.

-- NOVEMBER 9 --
Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, addressing the United Nations General Assembly, said the continued presence of foreign military forces was "the root cause of the conflict" in Afghanistan. He was opening the General Assembly's ninth annual debate on Afghanistan. He said the Kabul regime had tried to create a "mythical picture" of a credible regime with "wishful statistics churned out by propaganda agencies."

-- NOVEMBER 10 --
In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly, U.S. Ambassador Herbert Okun urged the Soviet Union "to match its words with deeds" and withdraw its military forces from Afghanistan. He said if the (more)
Soviet Union genuinely desired to solve the Afghanistan problem, it could agree to a short timetable for the withdrawal of its 120,000 troops from that nation.

- The U.N. General Assembly adopted for the ninth time, and by the largest majority ever, a resolution calling on the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan. The vote of 123 to 19 with 11 abstentions was also a rejection of the intense lobbying by the Soviet Union and the Kabul regime. Last year the vote was 122 to 20 with 11 abstentions.

-- NOVEMBER 12 --

Following a meeting with Maulvi Yunus Khalis, newly elected rais (leader) of the seven party alliance, President Reagan said the withdrawal of Soviet troops "is the key to resolving the Afghan crisis" and that until that happens," the support that the United States has been providing the resistance will be strengthened rather than diminished." He said: "On behalf of the American people, I salute Chairman Khalis, his delegation and the people of Afghanistan themselves. You are a nation of heroes. God bless you."

- A terrorist bomb ripped through a residential area in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, injuring nine persons.

-- NOVEMBER 13 --

A State Department official, in a press briefing in Washington, said that mujahidin morale was at "an all-time high" as Soviet forces appeared to have suffered a setback in Afghanistan. He said the Afghan resistance had done "extremely well" in 1987 and was expected to continue its "excellent performance" into 1988. He also said that the significance of the visit to the United States by a group of Afghan mujahidin leaders was heightened by the fact that it was headed for the first time by an elected permanent leader, Maulvi Yunus Khalis.

-- NOVEMBER 14 --

Radio Pakistan reported that mujahidin seriously wounded the head of KHAD intelligence, Brigadier General Abdul Mannan, in an operation near Ghazni city.

-- NOVEMBER 15 --

Afghan Agency Press in Peshawar reported that 130 Kabul regime troops joined the mujahidin forces under commander Maulvi Nizamuddin Haqqani of Hezb-e-Islami (Khalis) in fierce fighting in Paktia province.

-- NOVEMBER 17 --

A Soviet affairs analyst from the Rand Corporation said in Washington that the Soviet Union through Gorbachev's "glasnost" (openness) was trying to win politically what it could not achieve (more)
militarily in Afghanistan. He said over the past one year the Soviets lost 300 military aircraft costing 2,500 million dollars to sophisticated air defense weapons that the mujahidin were now using. He said if one added the training cost of the crews lost with the planes, the Soviets were now carrying a significant financial burden. He warned that the impression created by the Soviets of a willingness to compromise on Afghanistan meant only their doing so on their own terms.

- Radio Pakistan reported that President Zia ul-Haq addressed a big jirga (assembly) of tribals in the South Waziristan Agency in Wana. He told the tribemen that there was an impression that the Soviet Union had a desire to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan soon but that it wanted to preserve its gain at the same time.

- Kabul’s Bakhtar reported that DRA foreign minister Abdul Wakil, in a speech to the general assembly of the United Nations, said that to date 90,000 Afghan refugees had returned from camps in Pakistan and Iran while 30,000 men from 174 armed groups had joined the government.

-- NOVEMBER 18 --

An independent group of six international jurists, who investigated allegations of human rights abuse in Afghanistan, concluded that the Soviet Union and its client regime in Kabul committed genocidal acts on the people of Afghanistan. In their final report released to the press in Washington, they stressed that the implementation last January of the so-called national reconciliation policy failed to contribute to a restoration of minimal standards of human rights in Afghanistan. The group said that at least 10,000 Afghan refugees continued to flee every month to Pakistan.

- Saudi Gazette reported that mujahidin under the command of Ahmad Shah Mahsud captured a Soviet-Afghan post, Tappeh-e-Rhana, in Badakhshan province taking several hundred soldiers, including Soviets, prisoners. Before this strategic post fell, mujahidin had to make a two-week detour over the mountains instead of the customary two days short cut through open country.

- A terrorist bomb exploded in a bus near Peshawar, Pakistan, killing one person and injuring 19, 17 of whom have been admitted to hospital.

-- NOVEMBER 19 --

AFP reported that six persons were killed and 20 injured when six regime MIGs bombed the Bajaur tribal district 120 kilometers north of Peshawar in two separate attacks. The dead included four Pakistanis and two Afghan refugees.

(more)
Radio Pakistan reported that mujahidin captured a security post near Charika in Parwan province. Soviet-Kabul troops reportedly left the post without any resistance. Four soldiers and arms were captured.

Radio Pakistan reported that Pakistan's president, Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, in a press conference said that he was convinced of the sincerity of the Soviet offer to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. He said Pakistan was prepared to offer its full cooperation in this connection. He proposed that Soviet troops be pulled out of Afghanistan as soon as possible and that this move be coupled with the establishment of a care-taker government there under the control of a U.N. peacekeeping force. He said the caretaker government would have to be headed by someone having the confidence of the mujahidin, Afghan refugees and the present Kabul administration.

Radio Kabul reported that 100 mujahidin operating in Qarabagh district of Kabul province laid down their arms and accepted national reconciliation.

Najibullah's younger brother, Mohammad Siddique alias Siddiquullah, defected late last month to the forces of Ahmad Shah Mahsud in the Panjshir Valley northeast of Kabul. He was accompanied by his wife and children.

Afghan Agency Press reported that Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Hisb-e-Islami, declared in a press conference that the Afghan people by sacrificing 1.2 million had forced the Soviet Union to express willingness for pulling out its troops within a short time.

Kabul's Bakhtar reported that 300 mujahidin headed by Sher Ahmad Abbas Quli laid down arms in Herat province to join the process of national reconciliation.

AFP reported that Pakistan rejected as a farce an assembly of Afghan tribesmen to be convened by the Kabul regime on November 29 to approve a new constitution and elect a state president.

A terrorist bomb exploded in a shopping area in Peshawar, Pakistan, injuring 20 persons, including two women and two children. The bomb ripped through a clothes store in Meena Bazar destroying several nearby stores.
- Kabul’s Bakhtar reported that 650 armed and unarmed mujahidin headed by Samruddin joined the process of national reconciliation in Jowzjan province.

- Radio Pakistan reported that after a week of fighting, mujahidin captured Sangcharak garrison, 125 kilometers from the Soviet border, in Jowzjan province. About 200 Kabul regime soldiers were reported killed, and 21 soldiers and officers captured. One jet bomber was shot down and seven tanks and armored vehicles destroyed.

-- NOVEMBER 29 --

Kabul’s Bakhtar reported that the Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) opened this morning in the hall of Kabul’s Polytechnic Institute with the participation of 1,500 elected people’s representatives and foreign and domestic guests.

AFP reported that four powerful explosions shook the Kabul Polytechnic when mujahidin fired rockets from the hills west of Kabul. The rockets exploded as Najibullah was addressing the assembly. Planes circled overhead for the rest of his hour-long speech.

Western journalists invited to Kabul to witness the grand assembly drove through Kabul after the rocket attack and saw that Afghan and Soviet soldiers had sealed off a two square kilometer zone around the Polytechnic.

- In his opening speech, Najibullah admitted that Khost, 250 kilometers southeast of Kabul, was under siege by mujahidin and that 50 tons of food were being flown in nightly to help feed the 40,000 population of the besieged garrison city.

- In an interview with the London Sunday Telegraph, Pakistani President Zia ul-Haq said that an international presence was absolutely essential to insure that the pullout was complete and genuine, and to help safeguard against any return of Soviet troops. On the composition of the interim government, the president proposed that one-third each should be composed of mujahidin, Afghan refugees and the Kabul regime.

-- NOVEMBER 30 --

Kabul’s Bakhtar reported that the Loya Jirga approved the new draft constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan (previously the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan) which endorsed the importance of national reconciliation. The Loya Jirga also unanimously elected Dr. Najibullah as president of the Republic of Afghanistan.

- The New York Times reported that Afghan leader, Najibullah, proposed a 12-month timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He said his proposal had already been "negotiated" with the Soviet side.

(more)
President Reagan, in a speech to high school students in Florida, said he would tell Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the upcoming summit that it was time for the Soviets to set a certain date for the withdrawal of their troops from Afghanistan.

- London Times reported that 12 people were killed in a bloody clash between regime soldiers and private guards of a former mujahidin commander who defected to the regime two years ago and was promoted to the rank of general. The confrontation began when General Esmat Muslim, a delegate to the Loya Jirga and member of the regime's ruling Revolutionary Council, attempted to force his way through a road block.

- Kabul's Bakhtar reported that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and handed a note of protest. The note said that on November 28 as a result of firing surface-to-surface missiles on border security forces in Dakka and on border security posts near Torkham, two persons were killed and another eight were injured.

- Kabul's Bakhtar reported that mujahidin using missiles attacked areas in Khost district in Paktia province, and Sarkani and Asmar districts in Kunar province destroying residential houses and killing several people.

- Kabul's Bakhtar reported a press conference by Dr. Najibullah, the president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), in which he made available the following information to domestic and foreign journalists, including Western journalists:
  -- He said total foreign assistance to Afghanistan amounted to 220 million dollars or 11 billion afghanis for socio-economic development, 80 percent of it coming from the Soviet Union;
  -- The Soviet Union also rendered "gratis aid" in the form of primary goods worth billions of afghanis.
  -- In seven years, 37,000 refugees on an annual average of 5,000 had returned home, but in the nine months since the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation, 100,000 persons had returned home.
  -- In eight years, 12,000 men from opposition armed groups had surrendered but in 10 months since the announcement of national reconciliation, 30,000 persons had joined "the peoples' sovereignty." The figure could have been much higher if Pakistani and Iranian authorities were not hampering the return of the refugees.
  -- He said the unilateral cease-fire had been extended until July 20, 1988. Thus the cease-fire period would cover one and half years in total, he said.
  -- He said Esmat Muslim, the ex-mujahidin chief, is sick and extravagant in the use of narcotics and alcohol and therefore he behaved the way he did when he confronted regime forces manning a (more)
road block on the way to the Loya Jirga. He was under treatment previously and that presently he was hospitalized.

-- Earlier, in his closing speech in the Loya Jirga, Najibullah said that during the war 10,000 youths had been sent to the Soviet Union to study science.

-- DECEMBER 2 --

A powerful car bomb went off at the old district court in Peshawar, Pakistan, killing one person and injuring 11 others. The police arrested a suspect who was trying to flee to the tribal area.

-- DECEMBER 3 --

Radio Kabul reported that Najibullah received the chieftains, elders and representatives of the Zadran tribe and spoke to them about the issues and difficulties of the Khost district. The meeting was also attended by Sulaiman Laiq, minister of nationalities and tribal affairs.

Najibullah also received a number of Kandahar elders who had participated as peoples' representatives in the Loya Jirga. He issued instructions to the appropriate bodies to resolve the difficulties and problems of the people of Kandahar.

-- DECEMBER 4--

On ABC World News Tonight, the director of the Soviet Institute of World Economic and International Relations, one of Gorbachev's chief advisers, told reporters that he expected the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan during 1988.

-- DECEMBER 5 --

Radio Pakistan reported that Afghan armed forces fired seven artillery rounds which landed near Ashakhel, north of Landi Kotal in the Khyber Agency, killing four Pakistani women and three children.

-- DECEMBER 6 --

Radio Kabul reported that in accordance with President Najibullah's amnesty decree to free 5,000 prisoners, 2,300 prisoners were released from the Pul-i- harkhi central prison and another 94 from Jalalabad prison.

- Maulvi Yunus Khalis, the chairman of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin, said that accepting a coalition with the communists in Afghanistan -- as proposed by Pakistani President Zia ul-Haq -- would amount to accepting communism and a betrayal of the Afghan martyrs and their struggle.

-- DECEMBER 7 --

Kabul's Bakhtar reported that a group of 600 men led by Abdul Rahman pledged to end fighting in Herat province.

(more)
- AFP reported that one Pakistani soldier was killed and about two dozen injured, some seriously, in the first ever missile attack on a Pakistani garrison town. Afghan troops fired ground-to-ground missiles on Landi Kotal garrison in the Khyber Pass, 30 miles from Peshawar. Landi Kotal is the headquarters for the Frontier Force Militia and Army.

Mujahidin had stepped up activity on the Kabul-Torkham highway shortly after the Loya Jirga. Traffic had remained suspended after mujahidin had blockaded the highway at several points. Fighting was reported heavy at Dakka, Kama Daka, Monau and Nazian in Afghanistan, and the bodies of six mujahidin who died in the fighting were brought back to Peshawar. People living in villages around Landi Kotal were vacating their houses as Afghan shelling by mortars and long-range cannon entered its fourth day. Residents in the area staged a rally against the Afghan artillery shelling.

-- DECEMBER 8 --

Kabul's Bakhtar reported that a protocol of mutual cooperation between the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and the Socialist Party of Yemen was signed.

-- DECEMBER 9 --

West German newspaper, Die Welt, reported that in the northern Soviet border provinces of Afghanistan new weapons were being used against the mujahidin despite Kabul slogans of "cease-fire" and "national reconciliation." In an interview with a resistance member who visited the European Hezb-e-Islami office in Bonn after a three-month visit to Balkh province, fighting was said to be so intense that many Soviet villages had been evacuated on the other side of the Amu Darya river.

The mujahid said Soviets fired a type of bullet that decayed and decomposed the body of the person it hit. This was a deliberate act meant to attack the Islamic belief that the body of a Muslim fallen in a jihad does not decay. The Soviets also used bombs that exploded only at certain noises and bombs that exploded in the air spewing sharp nails. The Soviets operated more and more at night firing flares that blinded the mujahidin because they did not wear protective glasses like the Soviet soldiers.

- Kabul's Bakhtar reported that the Loya Jirga sent a message to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The message said that more than 120,000 refugees had returned home despite the policy of intimidation by border gendarmerie and official authorities of Pakistan and Iran.

- Radio Kabul reported that under the November 30 presidential decree, 515 prisoners were released: 260 from the central Kabul prison of Pul-i-Charkhi, 196 from jails in Balkh province and 59 from jails in Farah province.
Radio Pakistan reported that mujahidin in a missile attack killed or wounded 90 Soviet-Kabul soldiers in Kandahar.

-- DECEMBER 12 --
Radio Kabul reported that mujahidin fired missiles and mortar shells into the city of Maimanah in Faryab province killing 10 people and injuring 34.

A French doctor doing humanitarian medical work in Afghanistan, in an interview with AFP, said that the Khost battle was continuing. He said it was no longer a guerrilla war because battles between the mujahidin and the Soviet-backed Afghan troops have been raging for the past three weeks. He said he was under massive aerial bombardment that was carried out day and night with flares. He said government helicopters were rarely seen.

-- DECEMBER 13 --
Tehran IRNA reported that the mujahidin smashed a massive attack of Afghan and Soviet forces to break the three-month old siege of Khost. In their counter-attack, the mujahidin killed or wounded 300 Afghan troops. The joint Afghan-Soviet forces then landed 500 commandos but the mujahidin repulsed them with heavy casualties. They also shot down three planes killing the pilots, and destroyed five tanks and several armored vehicles. About 150 Afghan soldiers and officers, including a colonel, surrendered to the mujahidin. All told, the mujahidin said they killed, wounded or took captive 800 communist troops since the battle for Khost began.

-- DECEMBER 14 --
In an interview, Robert Peck, deputy assistant secretary, Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, said the United States hoped that 1988 would be the year for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He said the December 8-10 Reagan-Gorbachev Summit in Washington laid the groundwork for further diplomatic efforts on a settlement of the Afghanistan issue to be pursued at the next Geneva proximity talks in February.

-- DECEMBER 15 --
A State Department spokesman said that the United States still awaited an announcement by the Soviets for the timetable of the withdrawal of their troops from Afghanistan.

-- DECEMBER 16 --
Kabul Radio reported that a protocol of mutual cooperation between the Central Council of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union was signed. The two unions will cooperate in matters of mutual concern in 1988.

-- DECEMBER 17 --

(more)
Western diplomats said that mujahidin rockets pounded areas near central Kabul for at least 20 minutes overnight. They also reported that turncoat mujahidin commander Ismatullah Muslim had gone to Moscow.

Kabul Radio reported that a treaty of direct cooperation for the supply of electricity was signed in Kabul between the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan and Balkh province. Electrical equipment valued at 200,000 rubles will be supplied by Uzbekistan in a year while technical personnel from Balkh received training there.

--- DECEMBER 19 ---
Kabul Radio reported that another 351 prisoners were released from jails in Nangarhar, Konarha and Herat provinces in accordance with the presidential amnesty decree.

--- DECEMBER 20 ---
Kabul's Bakhtar reported that Sar-e-Pol district in Jowzjan province and Chahar Asiab district in Kabul province were declared "peace zones."

--- DECEMBER 21 ---
Michael Armacost, under secretary of state for political affairs, said that the United States hoped that the February Geneva proximity talks on Afghanistan would be the last. He was presenting the State Department's annual report on the Afghanistan situation which categorized 1987 as "the year of the mujahidin" because of resistance successes against Soviet-Kabul forces. According to the report, 150 to 200 Soviet-RA military aircraft were shot down by the mujahidin in 1987.

--- DECEMBER 22 ---
Pakistani police discovered a bomb weighing 30 kilograms near Chamkani, eight kilometers from Peshawar. The bomb was hidden in a Suzuki van tire and lashed to the railroad track. A railway guard on patrol noticed the bomb a short while before the Khyber Mail was due to pass by.

--- DECEMBER 23 ---
BBC reported that Soviet paratroopers were dropped from helicopters December 20 night about five miles from the Sato Kandao pass to support Afghan and Soviet ground forces fighting to clear the Gardez-Khost road to relieve the siege of Khost. In another report on Radio Pakistan, 40 Kabul regime troops were killed and 45 others captured with arms and ammunition on the evening of December 20. One tank and seven armored vehicles were destroyed.

The London Press Association reported that a British TV cameraman, Andy Skrzypkowiak, was believed killed while filming in northeast Afghanistan. Mujahidin of the Hisb-e-Islami (Gulbuddin (more)
Hikmatyar) were said to be involved in the killing. Pakistani police detainted four of the mujahidin and were questioning them about attacks on other journalists and cameramen.

-- DECEMBER 24 --
Radio Pakistan reported that a special court set up in Peshawar to investigate terrorist activities sentenced a KHAD agent to death after he was convicted in two cases of bombing in the city.

-- DECEMBER 26 --
APP reported that two powerful car bombs went off in crowded markets in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad injuring a dozen people and causing extensive damage to dozens of shops and vehicles. One person later died of his injuries. The KHAD were blamed for the blasts in Ayub Market and Super Market.

- DECEMBER 27 --
APP reported that a mujahidin leader, Hamid Gailani of the Afghanistan Islamic National Front, denied Radio Kabul reports that Soviet-Afghan troops had managed to break through the mujahidin siege of Khost.

- The Peshawar-based Afghan Resource Media Center (ARMC) reported extensive damage to the Soviet-Afghan military convoy at Maranjin on the Gardez-Khost road. It said 30 Afghan soldiers had defected and several tanks, military vehicles, and armored personnel carriers were destroyed. Aircraft flying from Kabul and Gardez were providing aerial cover to the military convoy which was using long-range artillery. Soviet commandos dropped at Showrak and Nadir Shah Kot were trapped by the mujahidin and were fighting for their survival.

- Tehran IRNA reported that thousands of Afghan refugees staged a massive rally in Tehran to commemorate the ninth anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The marchers, chanting anti-Soviet and anti-U.S. slogans, called on Afghan mujahidin to continue their struggle until they drove all occupiers out of Afghanistan. They also called for the establishment of an Islamic Republic in their country.

Similar rallies and demonstrations were staged in various Iranian cities including Mashad, Zahidan and Isphahan. In Isphahan, the Soviet consulate was attacked by a group of Afghan marchers.

-- DECEMBER 28 --
Kabul Radio reported that the Ministry of Mines and Industries of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan SSR (Soviet Socialist Republic) signed a protocol of direct cooperation and assistance in the field of petroleum and gas exploration in Mazar-i-Sharif, Balkh province.

- The State Department denied that there were any American advisors in Afghanistan. It was responding to Soviet reports that an American advisor was killed in the battle for Khost.

(more)
Radio Rome reported that Kabul regime authorities arrested Italian journalist, Fausto Biloslavo, who was said to be missing in eastern Afghanistan since November 14.

- Kabul Radio reported that the first convoy of 1,200 tons of food and consumer goods on 155 vehicles arrived in Khost.

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