AFGHANISTAN CHRONOLOGY
1988

United States Information Agency
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Following is a chronology of events during the year 1988 related to the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan.

-- JANUARY 3 --

Western diplomats in Islamabad reported that Soviet-Afghan troops had broken the siege of Khost after wrestling control of the Gardez-Khost road from the mujahidin. The diplomats termed the five-week Soviet-Afghan offensive as "hard-fought" with "significant losses on both sides." They also said that Soviet bombers and other aircraft carrying troops had flown directly into Khost from bases in the Soviet Union.

-- JANUARY 4 --

French photojournalist Alain Guillot was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on espionage charges by the Kabul regime. The consul of the French Embassy in Kabul was present for the verdict. The French government was reported to have contacted Moscow in an attempt to obtain his release.

-- JANUARY 5 --

Radio France Internationale in Paris reported in an exclusive interview that former Afghan King Zahir Shah was willing to participate in the settlement of the Afghanistan issue.

Professor Felix Ermacora, special rapporteur of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, arrived in Kabul to prepare a human rights report on Afghanistan.

-- JANUARY 6 --

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze concluded his three-day working visit to Kabul and returned to Moscow. He said that the Soviet Union would like 1988 to be the last year that Soviet troops are in Afghanistan. He also expressed full support for Afghan president Najibullah’s policy of national reconciliation and the political measures taken to implement the policy.
-- JANUARY 7 --

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said at a news conference in Washington that the United States hopes the Soviet Union is sincere about withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan by the end of 1988. He said the United States was looking for "Soviet agreement to a firm schedule for withdrawal." He also emphasized that the schedule for a Soviet withdrawal "must be front-end loaded" so that once it starts there is no turning back.

U.S. Under Secretary of State Michael Armacost ended a three-day visit to Pakistan. At a press conference in Islamabad, he said that "the time has come for a credible agreement that will permit a rapid withdrawal of Soviet forces, self-determination for the Afghan people, a free, non-aligned Afghanistan, and the safe, voluntary and honorable return of the refugees."

-- JANUARY 11 --

Kabul Radio reported that Professor Felix Ermacora, special rapporteur of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, ended his one-week visit to Afghanistan and returned to Delhi. He visited the provinces of Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar, and Khost district. He carried out a series of studies on compliance and implementation of decrees on the release and pardoning of prisoners, restoration of properties to refugee returnees and other aspects of the Kabul regime's national reconciliation policy first announced by Najibullah in December 1986.

-- JANUARY 13 --

The Washington Post reported that President Zia ul-Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo of Pakistan declared their support for some communist involvement in a future Afghan government as the price for a Soviet withdrawal.

-- JANUARY 16--

Kabul's Bakhtar news agency reported an extraordinary session of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission in Storey Palace to mark the anniversary of the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy. In his speech, Najibullah claimed the following gains during the year: the return of more than 110,000 refugees from Iran and Pakistan; 3,200 villages
which now cooperate with the government; over 40,000 mujahidin
who have ceased resistance.

-- JANUARY 18 --

Washington Times reported that Yunis Khalis, the current
leader of the seven-party mujahidin alliance in Peshawar,
Pakistan, rejected Pakistani President Zia ul-Haq's request that
they accept communist participation in a future Afghan
government.

- Agence France Presse (AFP) reported that Soviet
authorities had drawn up a contingency plan and issued special
cards to their supporters in Kabul to be used in case of an
emergency evacuation. The cards, printed in Russian and Dari and
with a special embossed stamp, have maps attached indicating
designated assembly points in case of emergency.

     Pakistan Press International (PPI) said at least 60
families of senior Khalqi and Parchami officials have already
been moved to the Soviet Union although the heads of these
families were still in Kabul. PPI also said that India had
agreed to provide asylum to some 1,500 members of the Afghan
communist party.

According to Western estimates, there are about 200,000
members and supporters of the People's Democratic Party of
Afghanistan (PDPA), including some 10,000 activists serving in
KHAD, Kabul's secret police modeled on the Soviet KGB.

- The current leader of the seven-party mujahidin alliance,
Yunis Khalis, in Peshawar, Pakistan, said he would not meet with
Diego Cordovez, the U.N. mediator on Afghanistan who would begin
his shuttle diplomacy between Islamabad and Kabul January 20 in
preparation for the Geneva round of proximity talks.

-- JANUARY 19 --

Kabul's Bakhtar news agency reported that a protocol was
signed on direct cooperation between the power organization
departments of Kabul and Moscow. Moscow will send equipment
valued at over one million rubles and assist Kabul in training
professional cadre.
-- JANUARY 20 --

Veteran Pashtun leader of Pakistan, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, died in a hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan. He was 98 and had been in a coma for the past six months.

Pakistan's President Zia ul-Haq paid his condolences to Khan's son, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, the leader of the opposition Awami National Party, and ordered flags to fly at half mast in government buildings.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India flew into Peshawar to view Khan's body, scheduled for burial on January 22 in the grounds of his house in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, in accordance with his last wishes. Afghan leader Najibullah declared a four-day mourning period for him in Afghanistan and set up a commission to preside over the burial ceremony.

-- JANUARY 21 --

Kabul's Bakhtar news agency reported that a protocol of cooperation for the supply of electricity for Ghazni and Paktika provinces was signed between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic. Soviet specialists will come to the provinces to assist in the project while Afghan personnel will receive training in Moldavia.

-- JANUARY 22 --

Two bomb blasts at the funeral of Ghaffar Khan in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, killed at least 18 people and wounded 62. Tens of thousands of Pakistani Pashtuns were allowed to cross the border for the funeral. The mujahidin blamed the KGB for the blasts while the Kabul regime blamed the mujahidin.

U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez held a second round of talks on Afghanistan with Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, and later met with President Zia ul-Haq before departing for Kabul.

-- JANUARY 24 --

Pakistan President Zia ul-Haq in an interview with the Washington Post in Islamabad said he would not sign any agreement on Afghanistan with Afghan leader Najibullah.

- Kabul Radio reported that the regime had decided to withdraw its troops from the Gardez-Khost road less than four
weeks after a Soviet-Afghan force broke the siege of Khost. The report said that the decision was taken after Zadran tribesmen in the main valley said they would keep the road safe. But a mujahidin commander claimed that they had regained partial control of the road after several fierce attacks.

- U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez met with Afghan leader Najibullah and foreign minister Abdul Wakil for the first round of talks on the Afghanistan situation.

-- JANUARY 25 --

President Reagan in his State of the Union address said that there cannot be any settlement in Afghanistan unless all Soviet troops are removed and the Afghan people are allowed genuine self-determination.

- Washington Post reported that the United States and the Soviet Union have entered "preliminary" discussions about formal neutrality for Afghanistan based on the Austrian model which would preclude it from any military alliance or holding foreign military bases.

- Kabul's Bakhtar news agency reported the following information from a representative of the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education: over 8,500 Afghan students were in the Soviet Union studying in various vocational and professional areas; during 1980-87, more than 5,000 young Afghan students returned to Afghanistan after acquiring professional skills in the Soviet Union. Also, each year a thousand Afghan students go to the Soviet Union for graduate study and specialized technical study.

-- JANUARY 26 --

Agence France Presse (AFP) reported that western and resistance sources claimed that mujahidin armed with Stinger missiles have since January 21 regained control of the Gardez-Khost road. A French doctor with a humanitarian group just returned from the area gave an eyewitness account of the seizure of part of the road by the mujahidin. He said the mujahidin had fired 16 Stingers over the last three months and brought down 11 planes and one helicopter.

- Kabul Radio reported that Najibullah issued a decree pardoning six leading mujahidin commanders namely, Ahmad Shah Mahsud of Panjshir; Mohammad Panah of Panjshir; Jalaluddin Haqqani of Urgun; Mohammad Ismail of Herat; Saleh Mohammad of
Kandahar; and Abdul Sabur of Kapisa. These mujahidin commanders had been sentenced to death in absentia by the regime.

Kabul Radio reported that a delegation from the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan met with the governors of Kandahar, Zabul and Oruzgan provinces for talks on direct cooperation between the republic and the provinces.

- Kabul's Bakhtar reported that a protocol was signed between the Soviet republic of Tajikistan and Badakhshan province of Afghanistan to expand trade, economic and cultural relations.

-- JANUARY 27 --

AFP reported that the leaders of the seven-party mujahidin alliance in Peshawar, Pakistan, said they would only meet with U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez on condition that he accept the mujahidin as "the main party" in the conflict.

- Kabul Radio reported that President Najibullah addressed an Afro-Asian writers' symposium on January 24. According to him, the Afghan "government system" consisted of 100,000 party members, half a million Armed Forces personnel, 300,000 trade union members, 120,000 women's organization members, and 230,000 youth organization members.

- Kabul Radio reported that at a regular plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, Najibullah delivered a report on the implementation of the national reconciliation policy and the new constitution.

-- JANUARY 28 --

Radio Pakistan reported that reinforcements of mujahidin broke through Soviet-RA (Republic of Afghanistan) forces who had been besieging 1,500 of their comrades in the Mahalajat suburb of Kandahar for the past month. The operation reportedly cleared mujahidin access to another of their strongholds in the area.

- Radio Pakistan reported that Diego Cordovez, the U.N. secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, called on President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq in Rawalpindi and held a detailed discussion with him on the issues to be settled with regard to Afghanistan.

- Kabul's Bakhtar news agency reported that the repair and rehabilitation of airports throughout Afghanistan was in progress. Kandahar airport was being repaired, while Herat airport was being rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of Khwaja Ghar
airport in Takhar province would be completed by the end of March 1988. Kabul international airport is being extended. Reconstruction work is also progressing at airports in Mazar-i-Sharif, Asadabad, Shibergan and Maimana.

-- JANUARY 31 --

APP reported that the seven-party mujahidin alliance in Peshawar, Pakistan issued a communique that it has decided to establish its own government which would assume power in Afghanistan before Soviet troops withdrew.

- Kabul Radio reported that protocols on direct cooperation between the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan and the Afghan provinces of Paktia and Paktika were signed.

-- FEBRUARY 1 --

Radio Pakistan reported that four persons were killed and 16 injured, including four seriously, when a terrorist bomb exploded in a vegetable market in Peshawar. The bomb was planted in a vegetable crate.

-- FEBRUARY 2 --

Western diplomats in Islamabad reported that intense fighting in northern Afghanistan since last week has led to the closure to civilian traffic of the Salang Tunnel highway, the main road link to the Soviet Union.

- A Pakistani daily, the Muslim, reported that the chief commissioner for Afghan refugees said that there was a "contingency plan" in preparation for the repatriation of Afghan refugees in case a political settlement is reached on the Afghanistan issue. According to the commissioner, Rustam Shah Mahmud, the refugees would voluntarily return within a period of 3 to 6 months. He said their present living conditions were so bad that no one would like to hang on for a single day after an Afghan settlement. Shah also disclosed that international agencies, notably the World Food Programme and the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, have stopped commodity aid consisting of sugar, tea and powdered milk to the refugees from January of this year. One of the reasons for this cutoff is diversion of aid to Sudan and Ethiopia, Shah explained.
-- FEBRUARY 5 --

Radio Pakistan reported that the mujahidin released Soviet-RA casualty figures for the Khost battle which included the following: 750 Soviet-RA troops killed and 1,500 injured, 111 captured. Among those killed were the chief of operations, General Imamuddin, and Brigadier-General Arif Qandahari. Also, 15 military and 4 transport planes were downed, and 30 tanks, 10 armored vehicles, and 70 trucks and oil tankers were destroyed. The mujahidin said they lost 104 men while another 128 were injured.

- New Delhi Radio reported that 11 Afghan refugees were killed and nine injured when a bus they were traveling in hit a land mine near Parachinar in the Kurrum tribal agency on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

-- FEBRUARY 6 --

Radio Islamabad reported that U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez had talks with Maulvi Yunis Khalis, current head of the seven-party mujahidin alliance in Peshawar, Pakistan.

-- FEBRUARY 8 --

In a statement on Moscow television, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev offered to withdraw Soviet troops beginning May 15 and ending 10 months later, provided a Geneva agreement was reached by March 15. He said the withdrawal would be frontloaded and take place without any precondition of an interim government in Kabul.

Kabul Radio reported that Najibullah in a statement said that the governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have come to an agreement that Soviet troops would begin withdrawing May 15 if the Geneva agreement is signed on March 15 and that the withdrawal will be completed within 10 months.

- Kabul Radio reported that a health delegation from the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic visited Kabul for talks on direct cooperation in the public health field with Logar and Ghor provinces.
-- FEBRUARY 9 --

U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez ended his shuttle diplomacy between Islamabad and Kabul and in a news conference in the Pakistani capital announced that the next round of indirect Geneva talks on Afghanistan will begin March 2. He also said that virtual agreement has been reached on the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The United States and Pakistan welcomed Gorbachev's offer of a fixed date for the proposed withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

- Bakhtar news agency reported that a protocol on direct railway links and the transfer of goods and materials from the Soviet Central Asian republics to Hairatan was concluded at Hairatan, the Amu Darya port in Balkh province.

-- FEBRUARY 10 --

Radio Pakistan reported that the deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union, Yuli Vorontsov, arrived in Islamabad for in-depth discussions with Pakistani leaders on all aspects of the Afghan settlement.

The Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin (the seven-party alliance) issued a statement after an eight-hour meeting asserting that the Afghan resistance movement has agreed on the basic principles for establishing an interim government of its own in Afghanistan. It also ruled out any possibility of an end to the war in Afghanistan until all Soviet troops have been withdrawn and the government in Kabul has fallen.

-- FEBRUARY 11 --

Radio Pakistan reported that Soviet deputy foreign minister Yuli Vorontsov concluded his one-day visit to Pakistan by delivering to President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq "an important message" from Mikhail Gorbachev on the Afghanistan problem. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad airport before departure, he said the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan will expedite the solution of all other problems in that country, including the formation of an interim government.

-- Syed Bahauddin Majrooh, a former professor at Kabul University and head of the Afghan Information Office in
Peshawar, Pakistan, was assassinated by a lone gunman. His killer remains at large and no motive so far has been established for the killing.

-- FEBRUARY 19 --

The pro-mujahidin Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported that 30 people were killed and around 100 wounded when a bomb ripped through a cinema in Herat. Mujahidin planted the bomb in the cinema when it was showing a Soviet film to Afghan army personnel and civilians.

-- FEBRUARY 20 --

Bakhtar news agency reported that seven groups composed of workers and clerical staffs of Samangan province will undergo training programs in Tashkent, Uzbekistan while seven groups of Soviet instructors will arrive in Samangan. Based on the economic, technical and cultural cooperation between Samangan province and Tashkent city, three convoys of aid goods have already reached that province.

-- FEBRUARY 21 --

AFP reported that several hundred nationals of Arab states -- Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia and Morocco -- as well as Palestinians between the ages of 20 and 30 have joined the mujahidin in their jihad. Almost all of them join fundamentalist groups such as Gulbuddin's Hisb-e-Islami or Sayyaf's Ittehad-e-Islami or factions of Wahhabi groups backed by Saudi Arabia.

- Radio Pakistan reported that Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Islamabad after talks with Saudi leaders who he said fully supported Pakistan's "principled stand" on Afghanistan.

-- FEBRUARY 22 --

The pro-mujahidin Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported that the chief public health official in Kabul has defected to the mujahidin after an amnesty call extended to regime officials by the mujahidin. The health official was quoted as saying that the number of health centers operating in Afghanistan had dropped from 340 before the communist coup in 1979 to 80 now.
-- FEBRUARY 23 --

A State Department official said that U.S. policy on Afghanistan has worked so far by making the Soviet occupation of the Afghanistan "increasingly costly." He also emphasized that the policy worked "principally due to the heroic effort of the Afghan people" and "Pakistan's steadfastness." Zalmay Khalilzad, a member of State's policy planning council, was addressing a panel on Soviet withdrawal prospects at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

- Radio Pakistan reported that after a visit to China by Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, China declared that it fully supports and appreciates Pakistan's principled stand for an immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the establishment of a broad-based interim government in that country.

- Western diplomats said that Soviet forces in anticipation of a withdrawal were reported to be already turning over some posts in Kabul province and the responsibility for security of the Kabul-Kandahar highway to Afghan government troops.

The Peshawar-based seven-party alliance in a communiqué announced the formation of an interim government which would sign any peace accord reached in Geneva. It said the transitional government would have a 23-member cabinet made up of 14 members of the mujahidin, seven Afghan refugees and seven "Muslims presently living in Kabul."

-- FEBRUARY 24 --

Radio Pakistan said that there is a complete identity of views between Pakistan and Iran on how to bring about a comprehensive solution of the Afghan problem. This was stated after a visit to Iran by Pakistan's foreign secretary.

- U.S. Undersecretary of State Armacost arrived in Islamabad to discuss the Afghan issue with Pakistani leaders. He arrived here from Moscow where he attended talks between Soviet leader Gorbachev and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. Armacost is expected to brief Pakistani leaders on those talks.

- Kabul Radio reported that a protocol on direct cooperation between the Soviet republic of Georgia and Kapisa province was signed in Kabul. Under the protocol Georgia will
help Kapisa in training personnel in agriculture, public health, communications, light industry, and education and training.

-- FEBRUARY 25 --

A State Department official denied that the United States had concluded any secret deal with the Soviet Union for its offer to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. Robert Peck, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, was responding to questions before a congressional panel.

- AFP reported that the seven-party Islamic Unity of Afghanistan Mujahidin has unanimously chosen Ahmed Shah to lead a mujahidin transitional government. Shah is deputy chief of the Ettehad-e-Islami group headed by Professor Abdul Rasul Sayyaf. Shah, 43, is an engineer trained in the United States who has worked in Saudi Arabia.

- Radio Pakistan reported that 12 Soviet-Afghan jets violated Pakistani airspace and dropped bombs in the Mohmand tribal agency bordering Afghanistan, killing one Pakistani civilian.

-- FEBRUARY 26--

AFP reported that at least seven people were killed and 15 seriously injured when 15 Soviet-Afghan jets bombed a Pakistani village in the South Waziristan tribal agency bordering Afghanistan. The casualties were all Afghan refugees living in the area.

-- FEBRUARY 27 --

Radio Pakistan reported that a terrorist bomb exploded in the main market of Thal in Kohat district of the Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan, killing five persons and injuring 11. Three of the dead and nine of the injured were Afghan refugees.

-- FEBRUARY 29 --

Kabul Radio reported that a delegation from the Soviet republic of Kirghiz visited Kabul for direct cooperation talks with the Afghan provinces of Bamian and Wardak.
AFP reported that at least 10 persons were killed and 12 wounded when 14 Afghan aircraft bombed the Robat region bordering Pakistan and Iran.

-- MARCH 1 --

Western diplomats said there were new reports from Afghan sources which supplemented earlier accounts of a Soviet intent to set up a "rump state" in northern Afghanistan. They said that the Soviets, in preparation for the possible loss of communist power in Kabul, may try to establish a fallback position in Mazar-i-Sharif to which the Afghan communist cadre could retreat to set up an alternative center of government.

-- MARCH 2 --

Fifty-one congressmen signed a letter to President Reagan demanding that he guarantee "the basic safety and freedoms of the Afghan people" in finalizing an accord for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The letter was initiated by Congressman Bill McCollum of Florida.

A similar letter initiated by Senator Gordon Humphrey of New Hampshire is being circulated in the Senate with 31 signatures collected so far.

Radio Pakistan reported that Afghan forces fired about 50 artillery rounds in the Kurram tribal agency in Pakistan killing four Afghan refugees and injuring five others.

-- MARCH 3 --

The Afghan foreign minister, Abdul Wakil, on the second day of the Geneva proximity talks, said his government was ready to see the Soviet troops withdrawn over a period of nine months instead of the 10 months originally offered. He also reiterated that half of the 115,000 troops would be withdrawn in the first three months.

Kabul Radio reported that a delegation from the Soviet republic of Byelorussia visited Kabul and signed protocols on cooperation with the Afghan provinces of Kunar and Laghman. Byelorussia would extend aid in education, communications, agriculture, land and water reform, public health and trade unions.
Radio Pakistan reported that two artillery rounds fired by Afghan forces landed in Kurrum tribal agency killing two Pakistanis and two Afghan nationals.

Western diplomats said the Soviets were continuing heavy construction activities in Afghanistan including the construction of a major dam and residential housing.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said U.S. aid to the Afghan resistance is linked to the Soviets' stopping their aid to the Mosow-based "faction" in Afghanistan. He said Secretary Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze discussed this issue when they met earlier in Moscow.

Pakistani Urdu-language daily, Jang, reported that a hijacking attempt on a Pakistan International Airlines flight from Karachi to Quetta was foiled and that the gunman who attempted to have the plane flown to Kabul is being interrogated on suspicion that he is a KHAD (Afghan secret police) agent. The man belongs to the Achakzai tribe which straddles northern Baluchistan and southeastern Afghanistan. He is thought to have links with a prominent mercenary commander of the same tribe, Major General Asmatullah Muslim, whose men control the Kandahar-Spin Baldak road for the Kabul regime.

Kabul television announced that Najibullah Masir, formerly "representative of the council of ministers to the north," has been named "deputy prime minister for the north."

AFP reported that Gulbuddin Hikmatyar was appointed to replace Maulvi Mohammad Yunus Khalis, who resigned as head of the seven-party mujahedin alliance (Islamic Unity of Afghanistan Mujahidin) based in Peshawar, Pakistan. (The leadership rotates among the seven parties.)
-- MARCH 16 --

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the United States was disappointed that the Soviet Union will defer its plan to begin withdrawing troops from Afghanistan on May 15 because of the failure of the Geneva talks to produce an agreement by March 15. He said that the March 15 target date to end the Afghan war was an "artificial and arbitrary date" put forward by the Soviet Union. He said the United States would maintain military support to the mujahidin until an agreement is fully satisfactory, and there is "a symmetrical cessation of military supplies" to the Kabul regime.

- Rome Radio reported that Fausto Biloslavo, an Italian photojournalist, was sentenced in Kabul to seven years imprisonment on charges of spying. He was captured in one of the eastern Afghan provinces while traveling with mujahidin.

-- MARCH 17 --

APP reported that in his first news conference since replacing Yunis Khalis, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar issued an appeal for worldwide recognition of a mujahidin government that would be installed in Afghanistan once the Soviets withdrew. He reiterated that the mujahidin would not put down arms until a mujahidin government is installed in Kabul. He said he believed that Pakistan would not sign a Geneva accord which is not acceptable to the resistance.

-- MARCH 18 --

APP reported that Pakistani police arrested an agent of the Afghan secret police (KHAD) as he was planting a bomb in a crowded bus station in downtown Rawalpindi. He is said to have confessed to the police that he received an advance of 30,000 rupees (1,705 dollars) against a total of 200,000 rupees (11,370 dollars) that was promised to him if the bombing was successful.

- APP reported that the mujahidin captured the town of Panjwai, about 20 kilometers west of Kandahar, inflicting heavy damage and casualties. During three days of fighting the mujahidin said they captured eight tanks, one military truck and 10 heavy artillery pieces. Twenty Afghan troops were killed against five mujahidin dead and five seriously wounded.
Kabul Radio reported that a delegation from Orenburg Oblast in the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic visited Kabul and held talks on extending technical and economic assistance to the irrigation complex in Jalalabad and to Nangarhar province in general.

--MARCH 19--

President Najibullah's office issued a decree on holding elections and forming constituencies for the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan.

- AFP reported that mujahidin captured a regime military post near Khost following heavy fighting during which dozens of government troops were killed and 50 captured. The mujahidin said they lost four men.

- Afghan Prime Minister Sultan Ali Keshtmand at the opening ceremony of Balkh University in Mazar-i-Sharif said that more than 10,000 Afghan students, including 2,000 in the Soviet Union, were studying in socialist countries. The new university in the north will have faculties of agriculture, economics, engineering, history and literature.

--MARCH 20--

AFP reported that a top Afghan diplomat fled to Pakistan and asked for political asylum. Mohammad Ghaus Amir, who was director of the Afghan Foreign Ministry's legal and judicial section and former charge d'affaires in Czechoslovakia, escaped with the aid of mujahidin.

--MARCH 21--

In a proclamation marking March 21 as Afghanistan Day in the United States, President Reagan said that even if the Soviets withdrew their troops from Afghanistan, U.S. commitment to the freedom of the Afghan people would not end. He said the United States would join other nations and international organizations to help the Afghans rebuild their country and their institutions.

--MARCH 22--

Western diplomats reported that the Soviets have started preparations for their withdrawal by taking inventories of the
places they occupy, stockpiling fuel and ammunition for the Kabul regime, and relocating Soviet civilians to areas closer to the Soviet Embassy. The Kabul regime, in anticipation of the Soviet troop withdrawal, announced the extension of a security ring by 30 more kilometers around Kabul but diplomats were skeptical of its success because the Afghan army already had their hands full maintaining the present security perimeter.

AFP reported that former Afghan king Zahir Shah denied reports from Pakistan that he had held a meeting with Najibullah seven months ago in Moscow.

Peshawar daily, the Frontier Post, reported that mujahidin and Soviet representatives held secret negotiations in some western European countries in recent months. The paper said that an agreement on the exchange of prisoners was reached at one of the secret meetings in West Germany late last year.

- Kabul Radio reported that a delegation from the Soviet republic of Turkmenistan signed a protocol of technical cooperation to assist Herat Electricity Zone and Faryab Electricity Zone with equipment valued at 500,000 rubles.

--MARCH 23--

At the conclusion of two days of talks in Washington with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, Secretary of State Shultz said that the United States has suggested that if and when Soviet troop withdrawal starts, both sides should be ready to agree to "a moratorium on military assistance." He suggested that the moratorium should run initially from the period when troop withdrawal is completed and "perhaps three months thereafter, and then potentially extended." He stressed that the moratorium would be "a statement of willingness to refrain from supply during this period" and would be "without prejudice to assertions of legal rights to supply parties."

Shultz said although the Soviets did not feel they could agree to this proposal at the present time, the proposal would remain on the table and if in the future something close to it should be accepted by the Soviets, then the United States would be pleased to sign as a guarantor of the Geneva Agreement.

- Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported that a Soviet-Afghan force broke a three-year rebel mujahidin siege of Urgun in Paktika province. A convoy of 600 armored vehicles and trucks fought its way through after suffering heavy losses on the road
from Ghazni. The mujahidin claimed to have killed 83 Soviet-Afghan troops and destroyed 42 military vehicles including tanks. Mujahidin losses were 13 killed and 25 wounded.

- Radio Pakistan reported that 10 Soviet-Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace and dropped 20 bombs on the Domandi area of Chaman in Baluchistan province bordering southeastern Afghanistan. Two persons were killed in the bombing.

--MARCH 24--

Kabul Radio reported that a meeting of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo discussed the formation of a new province, Sar-e-Pol, composed of the southern halves of Balkh and Jauzjan provinces. Its provincial capital would be the city of Sar-e-Pol situated where Afghanistan's largest reserves of gas and oil are. Western diplomats said the decision to consolidate the area into a single administrative unit signified its economic importance and the need to provide better security coordination because of mujahidin activity in the rugged mountainous region.

--MARCH 27--

AFP reported that at least five people, including four Soviet advisers, were killed when a car bomb exploded in a busy Kabul street frequented by Soviet nationals and westerners. The bomb was planted in a jeep.

- Kabul Radio reported the signing of a scientific and cultural protocol between education ministries of East Germany and Afghanistan.

- Kabul Radio reported the signing of a direct cooperation protocol between the chambers of commerce of Bulgaria and Afghanistan.

- Kabul Radio reported that a delegation from the Soviet republic of Armenia signed a protocol on direct cooperation with the Afghan provinces of Ghor and Logar.

--MARCH 29--

AFP reported that mujahidin received a consignment of Milan anti-tank missiles in March. The first delivery involved about 140 of these light anti-tank missiles jointly produced by France and West Germany. Twenty mujahidin were trained to fire them.
- Western diplomats reported that the Kabul regime appointed a separate commander for the north, General Juma Asak, a former commander of Kandahar. The post, which has no counterpart in any other region of Afghanistan, was reportedly created three months ago and unifies the command of KHAD (secret police), sarandol (Ministry of Interior paramilitary units) and army units in the northern region.

--MARCH 30--

AFP reported that Pakistan has shut down a mujahidin training camp amid concern that foreign Muslim guerrillas, notably Moros from the Philippines, were being trained there. In addition to training mujahidin, the Sadda camp, operated by Sayyaf's Ettehad-e-Islami, trained volunteers from Algeria, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt as well as Palestinians. Nearly 1,000 Muslims from some 10 countries volunteer each year to take part in the jihad and are trained in mujahidin training camps.

--MARCH 31--

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that there will be a shift in emphasis in the way the United States talks about its policy of symmetrical U.S. and Soviet aid to the opposing sides in the conflict in Afghanistan. Instead of stating that the United States "would not cut off aid to the mujahidin until there was a Soviet cut-off of aid to the Kabul government," the United States will now express the policy as: "The United States will continue aid to the mujahidin as long as the Soviet Union continues aid to the Kabul government." Fitzwater emphasized that there has been no change in the U.S. insistence on symmetry.

Fitzwater also confirmed that President Reagan and Pakistani president Zia ul-Haq had a telephone conversation aimed at furthering progress in the deadlocked Geneva proximity talks. He denied news reports that Washington has already begun cutting back on aid to the mujahidin. He said there are "indications" that the Soviet Union has taken steps to prepare for withdrawal of its troops.

-- APRIL 3--

Kabul Radio reported the arrival of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze for a working visit.
Kabul Radio announced a governmental decree officially creating the new province of Sar-e Pol. The new province, Afghanistan's thirtieth, consists of the southern regions of Balkh and Jauzan provinces.

-- APRIL 6 --

The pro-mujahidin Afghan Islamic Press reported that 10,000 Afghan refugees at a rally near Peshawar rejected the Geneva talks between Islamabad and Kabul and demanded direct negotiations between the mujahidin resistance and Moscow.

-- APRIL 7 --

Tass reported a meeting between the Afghan and Soviet leaders, Najibullah and Gorbachev, in Tashkent where a joint statement was issued to the effect that the Soviet Union and Afghanistan believe that the last obstacles to concluding the Geneva agreements have been removed and that they favor the immediate signing of the accords. Najibullah also welcomed the readiness of the Soviet Union and the United States to act as guarantors of the Geneva accords.

Radio Pakistan reported that Pakistan welcomed the joint Afghan-Soviet statement and said Pakistan is ready to sign the agreement if Kabul and the two guarantors are also ready to sign.

-- APRIL 8 --

AFP reported that the current leader of the seven-party mujahidin alliance, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, rejected United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez's call to support the Geneva accords.

-- APRIL 10 --

Radio Pakistan reported that a fire in the ammunition depot of a military unit near Rawalpindi caused a series of explosions. At least 100 people were reported killed and 1,100 injured at Ojheri. The explosion destroyed a large quantity of ordnance believed to have been destined for Afghan mujahidin. President Zia said he couldn't rule out sabotage.

- Kabul Radio reported that an AN-26 passenger aircraft flying from Maimana to Mazar-i-Sharif was hit by a ground-to-air missile fired by the mujahidin. There were 23 passengers,
including two children and eight women, and six crew members on
the plane. There were no survivors.

-- APRIL 13 --

President Reagan said the United States expects the
mujahidin to fight on after the Geneva accords are signed, and
it will continue to meet their supply needs. He was answering
questions from members of the American Society of Newspaper
Editors.

-- APRIL 14 --

Pakistan and Afghanistan formally signed a U.S. and Soviet-
guaranteed accord that would lead to a pull out of all Soviet
troops from Afghanistan within a maximum period of nine months
starting May 15. The Soviet Union agreed to withdraw half of its
estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan by August 15. Under
the terms of a document signed only by Pakistan and Afghanistan,
but guaranteed by Washington and Moscow, the two countries vowed
to respect each others' "sovereignty, territorial integrity,
national unity, security and nonalignment." A separate
instrument, signed only by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and
Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, states that the
United States and the Soviet Union "undertake to invariably
refrain from any form of interference" in Afghan and Pakistani
affairs. However, the accord is not a peace treaty and both the
United States and the Soviet Union are free to continue
providing arms to their respective sides in the nine-year
conflict. The mujahidin rejected the accords and vowed to
continue fighting.

-- APRIL 15 --

A protocol on the reconstruction of water reservoirs, state
farms and water canals in Kunduz province was signed between the
Kunduz province of Afghanistan and the technical department of
the Ministry of Irrigation and Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic
(SSR).

-- APRIL 23 --

AFP reported that about 300 Afghan troops and 12 Soviet
advisers were evacuated by air from the garrison of Barikot in
Kunar province. The mujahidin then occupied the garrison they
have been besieging for nine years.
-- APRIL 26 --

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced the appointment of Diego Cordovez as his representative on the settlement of the Afghan situation. He also announced the appointment of Major General Rauli Helminen of Finland as Cordovez's deputy for military affairs and Benon Vahe Sevan, a director in the U.N. secretariat, as the senior political deputy. Plans call for the establishment of two U.N. observer posts in Kabul and Islamabad at an estimated cost of over 7 million dollars.

-- APRIL 27 --

AFP reported that a powerful car bomb exploded in Kabul on the 10th anniversary of the communist revolution. According to Kabul's Bakhtar press agency the mujahedin-planted bomb killed six persons and injured 49, including school children and women.

-- APRIL 28 --

In a press conference in Kabul, Najibullah said that the Soviet forces would not turn over their arms to the Afghan Army when they began their withdrawal May 15. However, he said he expected Soviet advisers to remain with the Afghan Army even after the Soviet troop withdrawal.

-- APRIL 29 --

Kabul Radio reported the signing of an agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva to establish a U.N. office to provide necessary facilities and assistance for the voluntary return of emigrants.

-- MAY 4 --

Amnesty International accused the Soviet Union and Afghanistan government forces of deliberately killing Afghan refugees traveling toward Pakistan.

-- MAY 5 --

The New York Times, quoting State Department officials, reported that the United States would support the mujahedin in their effort to form a provisional government if they
consolidate their control of most of the country and meet other criteria.

-- MAY 6 --

Afghan leader Najibullah ended his three-day visit to India, and the Washington Post reported that he met at least three times with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

-- MAY 9 --

AFP reported that 30 Afghan Air Force planes bombed Arandu in Chitral district killing at least six people and destroying several houses. The formation, said to be the largest in number since the Afghan war began, also attacked Barikot garrison -- recently evacuated by Afghan troops and occupied by mujahidin -- killing 12 mujahidin and injuring 20 others. The planes also dropped incendiary bombs setting ablaze crops and forest land in the area.

-- MAY 12 --

AFP reported that Soviet troops began pulling out of Jalalabad and that a convoy of nearly 70 Soviet tanks and armored vehicles left for Kabul 100 kilometers away. According to the Afghan Media Resource Center (AMRC), 300 empty trucks had arrived recently in Jalalabad to evacuate a Soviet brigade which is to be replaced by Afghan troops. AMRC added that 4,000 Soviet soldiers based in Samar Khel, eight miles away, were on their way to Jalalabad to be evacuated.

-- MAY 14 --

In a press conference in Kabul, the commander of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan, Lieutenant General Boris Grimov, said that one quarter of his troops would be home in two weeks.

-- MAY 15 --

Soviet troops began their withdrawal from Afghanistan with the first contingent arriving in Kabul from Jalalabad on the way to the Soviet Union.

-- MAY 16 --

The White House in a press statement said that the United States will monitor the pace of the Soviet pullout. It also
said that it expected a new, broadly based government to replace the Najibullah regime.

-- MAY 17 --

AFP reported that mujahidin captured the town of Hesarak near the strategic Jalalabad-Kabul highway after clashing with departing Soviet and Afghan troops.

-- MAY 18 --

Kabul Radio reported that the first group of Soviet troops returned to the Soviet Union via Hayratan in Balkh province, where a farewell ceremony was attended by the minister of defense and other ministers and officers of the armed forces.

Radio Kabul reported the death of a brigadier general who was the deputy commander of Kandahar.

-- MAY 19 --

Robert Peck, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, said in a congressional hearing that the United States is free to continue its aid to the mujahidin resistance in Afghanistan without violating the Geneva accords. He explained that both the Soviet Union and the United States as guarantors of the accords were free to aid their respective sides.

-- MAY 20 --

AFP reported that the Afghan Army has withdrawn from military posts at some points along the border with Pakistan in a strategic retreat ahead of an expected mujahidin offensive. Quoting Asian diplomatic sources, it said the Army has so far vacated about 15 posts within six kilometers of the frontier.

-- MAY 23 --

Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad, a member of the State Department’s policy planning council, said that the fall of the Najibullah regime is just a question of time and that an Islamic government would be set up in Kabul. He was being interviewed by telephone by Arab journalists in Doha and Amman.
-- MAY 24 --

AFP reported dissident Afghan Army officers blew up an ammunition depot in Herat following the defection of a major general to the mujahidin.

-- MAY 26 --

Kabul Radio reported that Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq has been appointed prime minister designate by President Najibullah. He replaced Sultan Ali Keshtmand who became a secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

-- MAY 28 --

Radio Kabul reported that Najibullah pardoned French photo-journalist Alain Guillou upon an appeal by French President Francois Mitterand. Guillou was sentenced in January to 10 years imprisonment on charges of spying.

-- JUNE 1 --

Kabul Radio reported that President Najibullah pardoned Italian journalist Fausto Biloslavo who was sentenced to seven years imprisonment on charges of spying.

-- JUNE 6 --

Kabul Radio reported that a ministerial delegation from Tajikistan Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR) arrived in Kabul and talked about direct economic cooperation between the Tajik SSR and the Afghan provinces of Badakhshan, Takhar and Kunduz.

-- JUNE 8 --

Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad, a member of the policy planning staff and a special adviser to the Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, predicted that the Kabul regime may fall during 1988 or shortly thereafter when the Soviet troop withdrawal is completed February 15, 1989. He was being interviewed by telephone by Pakistani journalists and area specialists.
Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, U.N. coordinator for humanitarian and economic assistance programs for Afghanistan, launched a special appeal for 1,200 million dollars to help resettle Afghan refugees over the next 18 months. It is the first phase of a two-phase comprehensive relief and rehabilitation program. The second is a three-year recovery phase for rehabilitation of the country’s infrastructure at an estimated cost of 839.6 million dollars.

President Reagan assured Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, coordinator for U.N. humanitarian and economic assistance, that the United States will continue to "contribute significantly" to assistance programs for Afghans "adversely affected by the war."

The first meeting of the "Donors to the Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programs Relating to Afghanistan" was opened by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and chaired by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the coordinator of the U.N. effort.

Marion Creekmore, Jr., the State Department’s deputy coordinator for Afghan affairs, in testimony before Congress said that the United States will take the lead in providing humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan once Soviet troops complete their withdrawal and refugees return to reconstruct their war-ravaged country. The United States currently provides 119 million dollars a year in humanitarian assistance to the Afghans -- more than any other nation.

AFP reported that Afghan mujahidin shot down a transport plane flown by a Soviet pilot over the garrison of Khost in Paktia province. At least 30 military or civilian personnel were killed.

Pakistani daily, Muslim, reported that 11 people were killed and 45 injured when Afghan planes bombed the mujahidin-controlled garrison of Alikhel and four neighboring villages in Paktia province. The mujahidin, who had been besieging Alikhel
for nine years, occupied the garrison after Afghan troops abandoned it in mid-May.

-- JUNE 21 --

AFP reported that the mujahidin were forced to retreat from the provincial capital of Qalat after holding it for 48 hours. After seizing the town in Zabul province, they were forced to abandon it June 19 after pressure from reinforced Kabul troops and aerial bombing.

-- JUNE 23 --

Undersecretary of State Armacost said the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan is going well. In testimony before a Senate panel, he said 25,000 Soviet troops had left their garrisons in Afghanistan and that more than half that number had already crossed into the Soviet Union. He said Soviet troops so far have left most of eastern and southeastern Afghanistan including the major cities of Jalalabad, Ghazni and Gardez.

- Richard S. Williamson, assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, told a Senate panel that U.S. humanitarian aid to Afghanistan for fiscal year 1988 totals 142 million dollars.

--JUNE 24 --

Abdul Haq, the leader of a 5,000-unit mujahidin force of Hisb-i-Islami (Khalis) based near Kabul, told a U.N. official that it was premature to dispense U.N. aid before a new government is set up in Kabul. According to him, such aid at this time would only help the current communist-backed Kabul regime.

- Radio India reported that India and Afghanistan signed a protocol on the exchange of television programs and personnel.

-- JUNE 25 --

Radio Pakistan reported that 14 persons were killed in a suspected Afghan terrorist bomb blast which destroyed a hotel frequented by Afghan mujahidin and refugees in the old city of Peshawar.
-- JUNE 26 --

AFP reported that a fire destroyed eight Soviet SU-25 fighter-bombers at Kabul airport. Western diplomats said a mujahidin rocket probably set the fire.

-- JULY 9 --

Radio Pakistan reported that at a news conference in Islamabad the U.N. mediator, Diego Cordovez, suggested the setting up of a national government for peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan consisting of Afghans of recognized independence and impartiality. He said such a government may be set up by the first of September with a simultaneous cease-fire observed by both sides.

-- JULY 11 --

AFP reported that the mujahidin's interim government has rejected a U.N. proposal that an impartial government be placed in Kabul and a cease-fire be implemented from September 1.

-- JULY 13 --

AFP reported that the Afghan mujahidin seven-party alliance demanded direct talks with Moscow for the release of Soviet prisoners. Moscow says 313 soldiers have been listed as missing since the invasion in 1979. Between 200 and 250 of them are prisoners of various resistance commanders, diplomatic sources told AFP.

-- JULY 20 --

A French photo-journalist, Alain Guillo, who was imprisoned in Kabul for nine months in 1987-1988, said in a press interview in Washington that the Najibullah regime is so faction-ridden that it will crumble from within once Soviet troops complete their withdrawal early next year.

-- JULY 25 --

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said that the Soviets had given both public and private assurances that they will withdraw half of their forces from Afghanistan by August 15 as pledged in the Geneva accords. He said the United States had
no indication that the Soviets had reintroduced troops into Afghanistan as alleged by President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan.

- AFP reported that at least 34 people were killed in an 11-hour artillery battle between Afghan tanks and Pakistani cannon in the Baluchistan border town of Chaman.

--- JULY 27 ---

Western diplomats reported that over the past week more mujahedin rockets hit Kabul than in the past four years. Fifty persons were killed or wounded and the French Embassy was damaged. They also reported that intervention by Soviet troops prevented the fall of Paghman to the mujahedin. Also, in a recent clash, 18 Soviet soldiers were killed by the mujahedin -- the highest toll since the troop withdrawal began.

--- AUGUST 1 ---

Reuters reported that the seven-party mujahedin alliance in Peshawar was releasing two Soviet prisoners of war as a gesture of goodwill marking the Soviet troop withdrawal. Moscow lists 311 Soviet soldiers as missing in Afghanistan but says a third of them are probably dead.

--- AUGUST 3 ---

AFP reported that east European embassies and western missions reduced their personnel in Kabul to a minimum, and the families of U.N. diplomats had left.

--- AUGUST 4 ---

The Pakistani newspaper, Muslim, reported that a Pakistani F-16 shot down an Afghan Air Force plane piloted by a Soviet near Miran Shah in the North Waziristan tribal agency. The plane was bombing Afghan refugee camps about 30 kilometers inside Pakistan. The Soviet pilot, who bailed out, was captured by local tribesmen and then handed over to Pakistani government officials in return for 50,000 rupees (2,700 U.S. dollars), the promise of a road for their village and two seats in the local administration.

- Kabul Radio reported that Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Kabul on a working visit.
-- AUGUST 5 --

Soviet army newspaper Red Star said helicopter units left Kandahar and mechanized and paratroop units were being withdrawn from the city as a prelude to the removal of all Soviet troops from southern Afghanistan.

-- AUGUST 6 --

AFP reported that Pakistan accused the Soviet Union of violating the Geneva peace accords by sending billions of dollars in weapons to Kabul and warned that arming an unpopular regime would only prolong the Afghan conflict. Foreign minister Sahibzada Yaqub Khan conveyed the Pakistani concern to his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, during talks in Moscow.

-- AUGUST 7 --

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze left Kabul after four days of talks with Afghan officials. According to Tass, a joint statement was issued accusing Pakistan of "interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan" and aiding the "subversive activities" of Afghan rebel forces. The statement indicated that the Soviet Union and Afghanistan might retaliate if Pakistan continued to supply the mujahidin with arms and supplies. Shevardnadze also charged in an interview with Kabul's Bakhtar press agency that Pakistan was preventing refugees from returning to Afghanistan.

-- AUGUST 11 --

Bakhtar press agency reported that the first session of the Council of Nationalities and Tribes was held in Kabul. Najibullah in his address said that the formation of the council was approved by credible representatives of the Afghan people in a historic loya jirga (grand assembly) in late November, 1987.

-- AUGUST 12 --

AFP reported that fighting was raging in the streets of Kunduz and that the Afghan Army retained control of the airport only. Mujahidin had entered Kunduz immediately after the Soviets withdrew from the city on August 5.
-- AUGUST 13 --

AFP reported that the mujahidin captured Khanabad, a district capital 25 kilometers from Kunduz.

-- AUGUST 15 --

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the United States estimates that there are between 10 and 30 million mines in Afghanistan placed by both Soviet and Afghan forces. These mines pose a hazard to returning refugees.

- Najibullah's younger brother Siddiquullah Rahi arrived in Pakistan and requested political asylum in the United States along with his wife and two children. Last October he had defected from Kabul and sought refuge in the Panjshir Valley with mujahidin leader Ahmad Shah Masud.

- In a press conference in Kabul, Afghan president Najibullah announced that government forces recaptured the city of Kunduz. AFP reported that Afghan troop reinforcements and bombing by aircraft based in the Soviet Union played a significant role in the recapture of the strategic northern garrison.

-- AUGUST 16 --

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he is "satisfied that the withdrawal of foreign troops has been proceeding in compliance with the fourth instrument of the Geneva accords" which states that half the Soviet troops would exit Afghanistan by August 15, 1988, and the remaining half by February 15, 1989. The United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) certified that the Soviet Union had complied with the Geneva accords by withdrawing one-half of its troop strength.

- Radio Pakistan reported that the government handed over to the Soviet Embassy in Islamabad a Soviet pilot whose SU-25 plane was shot down by one of Pakistan Air Force’s F-16s when it penetrated 22 kilometers into the Miranshah area of Pakistan’s North Waziristan tribal agency on August 4.

--- AUGUST 17 ---

Radio Pakistan reported that President Zia ul-Haq and the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Arnold Raphel were killed when their
plane exploded soon after take-off from Bahawalpur on their way back to Rawalpindi. Among the 30 killed were the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, the army chief of general staff and several other generals who were top Pakistani policy makers on Afghanistan. Also killed in the crash was the U.S. military attache in Pakistan, Brigadier General Herbert Wassom. Pakistani defense officials suspect sabotage. Leaders of the seven-party Afghan Resistance Alliance declared mourning for Zia, calling him a "shaheed" (martyr) to the Afghan cause.

- AFP reported that mujahidin rockets partly destroyed a munitions and fuel depot at Kelagay near Pol-e-Khumri, the capital of Baghlan province on August 11. Mujahidin sources claim as many as 800 people were killed including Soviet personnel and civilians and that more than 200 tanks and military vehicles were destroyed. The facility, 150 kilometers north of Kabul, was a principal ammunition storage site for the Soviet 40th Army. A commander of the Jamiat-1-Islami mujahidin group was responsible for the attack.

-- AUGUST 13 --

State Department deputy spokesman Phyllis Oakley endorsed the findings of United Nations observers that the Soviet Union has withdrawn one-half of its forces from Afghanistan over the past three months. She said the Soviets have returned roughly one-half of their combat units in Afghanistan to bases in the Soviet Union and have evacuated a number of their support units.

--AUGUST 25--

AFP reported that the mujahidin have captured the provincial capital of Bamian, Bamian province.

--AUGUST 30--

Pakistan Radio reported that a suspected Afghan terrorist bomb blast aboard the Peshawar-bound Khyber Mail near Attock railway station killed three and injured 13 passengers.

- Western diplomats in Islamabad confirmed that Taloqan, the capital of Takhar province, was captured by mujahidin of Jamiat-1-Islami led by Ahmad Shah Mahsud.
---SEPTEMBER 1---

AFP reported that six Afghan planes bombed a village near an Afghan refugee camp 20 kilometers from Peshawar killing one person and wounding 23. All the casualties were Pakistanis in the village of Dallazak, located 80 kilometers from the Afghan border. This was the deepest penetration of Pakistani airspace so far in the Afghan war.

---SEPTEMBER 2---

AFP, quoting Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad, said mujahedin rockets destroyed two military transport planes and a helicopter at Kabul airport killing around 30 people. Tass news agency gave the toll as nine dead and 21 injured and said 48 rockets had been fired.

---SEPTEMBER 5---

AFP reported that in another deep penetration raid eight Afghan planes bombed the village of Dugai in Dir district, 45 kilometers from the Afghan border, killing a 12-year-old boy and wounding six people. The victims were all Pakistanis.

---SEPTEMBER 7---

Radio Pakistan reported that the Pakistan Air Force shot down an Afghan plane which intruded into Pakistani airspace near Nawagai in the Bajaur tribal agency.

---SEPTEMBER 8---

Radio Pakistan reported that five Afghan pilots defected to the mujahedin including a lieutenant colonel, a major and three captains from Squadron 377 based in Kabul.

---SEPTEMBER 9---

Kabul Radio reported that a mujahedin missile hit a military transport plane, an Antonov-32, near Kunduz killing three generals.

---SEPTEMBER 10---

The Nonaligned Movement held its ministerial meeting from September 5 to 10 in Nicosia, Cyprus, and adopted a consensus
resolution expressing "deep satisfaction" at the conclusion of the Geneva accords and urging that a "broad-based government" be established in Afghanistan.

- Radio Pakistan, quoting the pro-mujahidin Afghan News Agency, reported that the mujahidin captured Zarghun Shahr (Khairkot), a regiment headquarters in the Katawaz district of Paktika province.

--SEPTEMBER 11--

Radio Pakistan reported that a suspected Afghan terrorist bomb exploded in Qissa Khwani bazaar in Peshawar injuring five persons, one of them seriously.

- Kabul Radio reported that a car bomb planted by the mujahidin exploded in the Shahr-e-Nau section of the city killing 10 and injuring 22 persons.

- AFP reported that the mujahidin captured the border town of Spin Boldak in Kandahar province on September 9 when about 1,000 government troops and militia forces surrendered. But around 500 people including mujahidin were killed when the Afghan communists retaliated by carpetbombing the town.

--SEPTEMBER 12--

Radio Pakistan reported that six Afghan planes violated Pakistan's airspace north of Nawagai in the Bajaur tribal agency and that two of the planes were hit by missiles fired by F-16s flown by the Pakistan Air Force.

--SEPTEMBER 15--

Radio Pakistan reported that according to a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman the Kabul regime committed 295 ground and 92 air violations of the Geneva accords between the 15th of May and the 18th of August. The ground violations killed 29 persons and injured 85 and the air violations killed 13 and injured 29, mostly civilian Afghan refugees and Pakistanis.

--SEPTEMBER 17--

AFP reported that mujahidin blew up three planes, a helicopter, two ammunition depots and killed ten soldiers in an attack on Kandahar airport.
--SEPTEMBER 19--

Kabul Radio reported that Professor Felix Ermacora, the special U.N. Human Rights Commission investigator, left for Geneva after completing his 10-day visit to Afghanistan to monitor the human rights situation there.

--SEPTEMBER 23--

APP reported that 16 Afghan planes bombed two villages in Dir district 20 kilometers inside Pakistan killing five and wounding six Pakistanis.

--SEPTEMBER 24--

APP reported that leading mujahidin commander Ismail Khan of the Jamiat-i-Islami party in Herat, escaped an assassination attempt by Kabul regime agents who ambushed him killing two of his bodyguards.

--SEPTEMBER 26--

APP reported that a mujahidin-placed time bomb killed more than 40 Afghan soldiers and wounded 200 at the Afghan Army's 11th Division base at Samarkhel in eastern Nangarhar province, 25 kilometers from Jalalabad. Hisb-e-Islami (Khalis) claimed responsibility for the bomb.

- Radio Pakistan reported that six Afghan planes bombed a village near Parachinar five kilometers inside Pakistan killing five and wounding seven Pakistani civilians.

-- SEPTEMBER 28--

Radio Pakistan reported that in his speech to the United Nations, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan urged that body to continue playing its role in Afghanistan until the Geneva accords are completely implemented, all foreign forces are withdrawn from Afghanistan, and a broad-based interim government is established in that country through negotiations between the various Afghan groups.

- Kabul Radio reported that mujahidin missiles fired into the city of Kabul killed 33 persons and wounded 127.
--SEPTEMBER 29--

AFP reported that about 30 military personnel and civilians were killed, including the provincial governor's wife and two sons, when mujahidin shot down an Afghan Army transport helicopter near Gardez in Paktia province soon after it took off for Kabul.

--OCTOBER 4--

AFP reported that some 50 representatives of moderate Afghan resistance groups called the Afghan Committee, as well as Afghans living in Europe, launched an appeal for exiled king Zahir Shah to "enter the Afghan political scene" and help convene a loya jirga or traditional Afghan assembly. The meeting was held in Lausanne, Switzerland.

--OCTOBER 5--

AFP reported that mujahidin captured Sharana, the capital of Paktika province and that Kabul regime troops were evacuating the garrison of Urgun and other areas in the province.

--OCTOBER 11--

AFP reported that mujahidin captured Asadabad, the capital of Kunar province, taking nearly 500 Afghan government troops prisoners. Asadabad was the base for the Afghan army's 9th division and the last regime stronghold in the province.

--OCTOBER 12--

Speaking at the United Nations pledging conference for Afghan aid, U.S. Ambassador Herbert Okun noted that in fiscal 1988 the total U.S. bilateral and multilateral assistance for Afghans amounted to 142 million dollars and that the United States envisioned "another substantial contribution" when it completed its budget for fiscal 1989. Okun said the United States strongly supported the launching of "Operation Salam" to help raise the 1,200 million dollars needed for about 100 relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programs relating to Afghanistan. At the conference, 795.5 million dollars were pledged, including 600 million dollars (400 million rubles) from the Soviet Union in supplies and transportation items.
- AFP reported that Afghan Prime Minister Mohammed Hasan Sharq in a press conference with a group of foreign journalists in Kabul said that the Afghan government would not fight to retain power in any coalition government with Muslim rebels. He said he would personally resign if any party tried to hang on to power. He said that the Afghan people have no more confidence in the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) than they have in the opposition (the mujahidin).

--OCTOBER 13--

Deputy White House press secretary, Roman Popadiuk, said the United States will probably contribute about 150 million dollars for the post-war reconstruction of Afghanistan in 1989 despite budget constraints.

- Kabul Radio reported that Yuli Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister, has been appointed Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan.

--OCTOBER 17--

AFP reported that Burhanuddin Rabbani of the Jamiat-i-Islami group took over as leader of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance based in Peshawar, Pakistan. He told a press conference that the mujahidin would be prepared to open negotiations with Moscow and ruled out any role for ex-king Zahir Shah in a future government in Afghanistan.

--OCTOBER 19--

AFP reported that according to diplomatic sources in Islamabad, Kabul airport was shut down amidst a rocket attack by mujahidin that left 15 persons dead and the terminal building damaged.

--OCTOBER 24--

AFP reported that mujahidin captured the provincial capital of Mahmud-e-Raqi in Kapisa province in fierce fighting that left about 100 government troops dead. Mahmud-e-Raqi is 50 kilometers north of Kabul and strategically located south of the Panjshir valley.
--OCTOBER 26--

AFP reported that the Soviet Union has agreed to hold direct talks with mujahedin leaders on securing the release of Soviet prisoners of war, according to diplomatic sources in Islamabad. Moscow lists 311 Soviet soldiers as either missing or prisoners of the mujahedin.

--OCTOBER 27--

Radio Kabul reported that Afghan president Najibullah confirmed rumors of dissatisfaction among several high-ranking Army officers and an attempted military coup.

--OCTOBER 28--

AFP reported that the Kabul government sent a special emissary to Rome to patch up differences with former King Zahir Shah.

--OCTOBER 30--

AFP reported that newly arrived Soviet MiG-27 fighter bombers with laser-guided bombs and camouflaged light helicopters have been attacking mujahedin positions around Kandahar over the past week in order to break their stranglehold on the city and the cut-off of the road link to the airport.

--OCTOBER 31--

Kabul Radio reported the burial ceremony for Brigadier General Sayyed Ghani, deputy commander of the Kandahar Corps. He was seriously wounded on October 25 and died in the hospital.

--NOVEMBER 1--

AFP quoting diplomatic sources in Islamabad reported that two Soviet-made SS-1 (Scud) missiles arrived in Kabul and were taken to a military base there.

--NOVEMBER 2--

AFP reported that mujahedin seized Torkham border post on the Khyber Pass, capturing at least 35 government soldiers. The capture of Torkham followed surprise mujahedin attacks at several places on the Jalalabad-Torkham highway.
--NOVEMBER 3--

The 43rd United Nations General Assembly passed a consensus resolution on Afghanistan without debate. It specifically stated that the situation found today in Afghanistan results from "the violation of principles of the charter of the United Nations and of the recognized norms of inter-state conduct." By agreeing to the resolution, the Soviet Union reaffirmed its commitment to fulfill the provision of the Geneva accords, specifically the removal of its troops by February 15.

- Radio Pakistan reported that a Pakistani Air Force F-16 shot down a MiG-23 plane of the Afghan Air Force when it intruded six miles inside Pakistan near Thal. The Afghan pilot bailed out and was arrested.

- Kabul Radio reported that two Afghan Air Force jets were shot down by Pakistani Air Force F-16s over the Khost border region.

--NOVEMBER 4--

Tass reported that Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh told journalists in Moscow that Soviet forces in Afghanistan will be pulled out under "suitable conditions" but that present conditions do not allow their normal withdrawal. He also noted that some Soviet forces are being replaced with units that have more modern equipment.

- AFP, quoting diplomatic and mujahedin sources in Peshawar, reported that between six and eight SS-1 missiles fired from a launching site in Kabul failed to hit mujahedin targets in Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan.

--NOVEMBER 9--

Burhanuddin Rabbani, current spokesman for the Afghan Resistance Alliance, met with President Reagan, Vice President Bush and Secretary of State Shultz. After his meeting with Rabbani, Reagan issued a statement in which he said: "The commitment of the American government and people to the Afghan people's cause...will not waver. It will continue so long as the Afghan people require it to regain their freedom."
--NOVEMBER 16--

AFP reported that a SS-1 (Scud) missile fired by Afghan troops landed in the Bajaur district north of Peshawar, Pakistan killing at least 10 people.

--NOVEMBER 18--

The New York Times reported that Afghanistan's deputy foreign minister, Abdul Ghaffar Lakanwal, defected to the United States and was seeking political asylum along with another Afghan diplomat. A former agriculture minister and a member of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), Lakanwal was described as the highest-ranking Afghan defector to the west since the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979. Lakanwal had come to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly session.

--NOVEMBER 20--

Radio Pakistan reported that an Afghan military plane which intruded into Pakistani airspace in Kurram Agency was shot down by groundfire near Parachinar. The wreckage fell inside Pakistan and all aboard were confirmed killed. The headquarters of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) was requested to investigate the incident.

--NOVEMBER 21--

The Afghan Information and Documentation Centre in Peshawar said that some of the surface-to-surface SS-1 Scud missiles fired from Kabul by Soviet-Afghan forces contained "poison gas." The gas released over Besawul and Hazar Nau areas in eastern Nangarhar province caused eye lesions and itching among villagers there.

--NOVEMBER 24--

AFP reported that a pro-mujahidin military coup attempt was made in Kandahar province on the night of November 21-22. The rebels tried to capture the command post of the Second Army Corps and help mujahidin infiltrate. However, 30 of the rebels were killed and the rest either wounded or taken prisoner.
--NOVEMBER 26--

AFP reported that mujahidin have recaptured the key border post of Torkham on the Khyber Pass. Mujahidin sources claim 184 soldiers surrendered after suffering an acute shortage of food and other supplies. The troops said they lost hope after mujahidin captured four more districts along the highway between Torkham and Jalalabad and cut all links with the garrison including supply by air. The post had fallen to the mujahidin early in the month but was recaptured by Afghan troops in a counterattack November 12.

--NOVEMBER 27--

Kabul Radio reported that the first meeting between Soviet Union Embassy representatives in Pakistan and Afghan armed opposition representatives took place in Islamabad. They discussed the return of Soviet military personnel taken prisoner by mujahidin. The mujahidin agreed to release four Soviet POWs in exchange for 100 mujahidin captured by Soviet forces. According to Soviet officials, the mujahidin are holding 313 Soviet POWs.

--NOVEMBER 29--

AFP reported that a cousin of Afghan President Najibullah announced in a press conference in New Delhi that he had defected to the mujahidin and that many other senior Kabul officials were ready to defect. Mohammad Gul, 27, a Soviet-trained KHAD brigadier general, said he had used his position and his family ties with the president to get a passport and exit permit to fly to New Delhi with his new wife on October 28.

--DECEMBER 3--

Kabul’s Bakhtar news agency reported that the mujahidin under Burhanuddin Rabbani began a meeting with the Soviets led by Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet deputy foreign minister who is also the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, in Taif, Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the Saudis. According to Kabul Radio, the issue of the repatriation of Soviet soldiers held prisoner by the mujahidin was raised. Both sides agreed to continue the talks in Islamabad at a date to be determined later.
--DECEMBER 6--

APP, quoting western diplomats in Islamabad, reported that Afghan government troops foiled an attempt by mutinous soldiers to take over the eastern garrison city of Jalalabad. The attempt was made by soldiers in collaboration with mujahidin on November 21. Two officers and 20 soldiers defected to the mujahidin following the mutiny.

--DECEMBER 7--

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly proposed a cease-fire in Afghanistan beginning January 1 to be overseen by U.N. peace-keeping forces, together with a halt to arms supplies to both sides. However, the Pakistani government and the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance alliance rejected the proposal. Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations called the plan "unrealistic" because the position on the ground of the opposing sides was tenuous at best while the mujahidin said they would continue fighting until all Soviet troops were out of Afghanistan.

--DECEMBER 8--

The Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported that an Afghan Air Force pilot defected and landed his MiG-21 plane on an airfield in the North West Frontier border province of Pakistan.

--DECEMBER 11--

Kabul's Bakhtar news agency reported that a military transport plane carrying civilians was shot down by the Pakistan Air Force en route from the border town of Khost to Kabul.

--DECEMBER 16--

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said that the United States is concerned about the intensity of Soviet offensive activity in Afghanistan. He indicated that Under Secretary for Political Affairs Michael Armacost took up the issue in a meeting with Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin at the State Department.
--DECEMBER 17--

AFP reported that Soviet officials and representatives of the Afghan resistance alliance met for talks on a prisoner exchange in Islamabad, Pakistan. These talks were the third between the two sides.

--DECEMBER 18--

AFP quoted Afghan resistance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani as saying that the Soviets are willing to drop the Najibullah regime in exchange for a broader based government in Afghanistan. Rabbani, who led the mujahidin in their recent talks with the Soviets in Taif, Saudi Arabia, cited the head of the Soviet delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov, as saying that "we do not insist on retaining the present regime (in Kabul), we want a new system and a new situation."

--DECEMBER 24--

Kabul Radio, quoting international news agencies, reported that Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, met in Rome with Zahir Shah, the former Afghan king, and discussed in detail methods of settling the situation in Afghanistan.

--DECEMBER 27--

In a statement marking the ninth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Reagan said he fully expects the Soviets to honor their obligation under the Geneva Accords to withdraw completely from Afghanistan by February 15. He praised the "resolute people" of Afghanistan and expressed confidence that the Afghan people "will be able to take charge of their own affairs and get on with the formidable task of rebuilding their country."

- Michael Armacost, undersecretary of state for political affairs, warned that if the Soviets don't withdraw all their troops from Afghanistan by February 15, they would get off to "a very bad start" with the new U.S. administration under George Bush. In an interview with journalists from the Middle East on WorldNet Dialogue, a program of USIA's television and film service, he said any delay "would cast a huge cloud" over the U.S.-Soviet relationship.
In its ninth annual report on the situation in Afghanistan, the State Department said the shape of a post-Najibullah government has not yet emerged, "but the mujahidin should play a central role." According to the report, "the demoralization of the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul has accelerated" and "the shift of military momentum toward the resistance, or mujahidin, probably is irreversible."

--DECEMBER 29--

State Department deputy spokesman Phyllis Oakley said the United States has seen "some indications" that the Soviet Union is making preparations to resume its military withdrawal from Afghanistan. She reiterated that the United States expects the Soviets to meet their commitment of completing the withdrawal of all their troops by February 15, as required under last April's Geneva Accords.

--DECEMBER 30--

Kabul Radio reported an announcement by President Najibullah which invited all opposition and armed groups to observe a complete cease-fire throughout Afghanistan starting January 1, 1989. He said he was ordering the Afghan armed forces to hold their fire except in self-defense. He said he was endorsing the call for a cease-fire made earlier by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in his address to the United Nations General Assembly. Najibullah warned that if the opposition forces failed to observe the cease-fire by January 5, it would be taken as a sign of rejection.

--DECEMBER 31--

The spokesman for the seven-party alliance, the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin, rejected the offer of a unilateral cease-fire by Najibullah, calling it another gimmick by the communist Kabul regime. He said the mujahidin would only heed a cease-fire call from an Islamic regime in Kabul.

The twelve member states of the European Community issued a statement on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The statement noted that "numerous signs indicate that the expectations of the Afghan people to regain its independence and to master its own destiny are to be fulfilled" and called on "all parties concerned to implement the Geneva agreements and, in particular, the Soviet
Union to respect its commitment to proceed, before February 15, 1989, to the full withdrawal of forces stationed in Afghan territory."

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