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EVENTS
IN
KHYBER

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Background and traditions

The free tribes live along the south eastern and eastern borders of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA). Throughout history they have preserved their tribal freedom, national customs and traditions and system of self-rule with valorous and consistent struggle at the cost of blood of their brave ancestors. They have, defended these against all savage aggressors. Therefore, they are called free.

The British colonialists and their Pakistani inheritors had through various agreements recognized this freedom of the tribes and given assurance that they shall not interfere in the domestic affairs of the tribes and shall not hamper their accepted freedom. In this way in all historical documents the British and Pakistani governments referred to and admitted to the existence of the free tribal areas.

These tribes live in mountainous areas and their population reaches to three and a half million. From the point of view of administration their areas have been divided into seven political agencies. First of these agencies, i.e., the Khyber Agency was founded in 1878. Likewise, North and South Waziristan, were created in 1895 and 1896, Korm Agency, in 1902, Momand Agency in 1951 and Warakzai and Bajawar Agencies in 1973. The Agencies enjoy self-rule and historical freedom. Each Agency has a political agent sent to it who is equivalent to an ambassador of Pakistan. Control
of the tribes is exercised by themselves by convening jirgahs (assemblies). The decisions of the jirgahs are considered as laws binding on all.

The beautiful and famous Khyber Pass, 1030 meter high from the sea level, situated some 70 km away from Jalalabad. The Khyber Pass with its extremely sensitive, strategic position has always throughout history held great importance and vitality in this part of the world.

The centre of the Nangarhar province (Jalalabad) is connected through this pass to the city of Peshawar. To the north of the Khyber Pass is the agency which bears its historic name. On the north of the Khyber Agency is the Kabul river and the Momand Agency, on its western part the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan and Spin Ghar, on the south the Warakzai Agency and in the East it is connected with the Peshawar Zila. This Agency with 991 sq. miles area, and mostly mountainous lands has narrow passes and less cultivable land.

Two rivers, namely Orra and Joora, flow through the central part of the Agency. From the administration point of view the Khyber Agency has been divided into three Tahsils which consist of Landi Kotal, Bara and Jamroud.

According to the 1972 census conducted by the government of Pakistan, the population of the Agency then was 377,000. The main language of the people is Pashto, spoken by 96 per cent of the inhabitants. 14.2 per cent of the population can speak Urdu and some others Dari, Punjabi and English languages.

The major tribe of the Agency is Afridi, which consists of the following sub-tribes, Qamber-
khel, Malikdinkhel, Kokikhel, Zakhakhel, Aka-
khel, Saepai, Kamarkhel, Tera and Adam-
khel. Because of its particular strategic situation
the Khyber Pass has witnessed throughout
history scores of aggressions and momentous hap-
penings and victorious battles and wars. The Ma-
cedonians passed through this area in the 330 B.C.
During the reign of Ashoka Buddhist faith spread
to Balkh through this pass. Likewise, the Mo-
gul Kings in order to reach India passed thro-
ugh this area. Khyber has never submitted to
the sway of any emperor or to the armed incur-
sions of great conquerors. It has and will remain
as the land of free Pashtoons.

In this pass live the valorous Pashtoon tribes
of Afridis and Shinwaris. It was due to the im-
portance of this pass in Central Asia that no
caravan or armed unit could pass through the
area without the consent of the brave tribes of
Khyber. The Afridis being the main tribe of the
pass since the 15th century has had a vital role
in the liberation struggle of the inhabitants of
Khyber. When the British colonialists under the
command of William Kokhart moved their
strong armed forces to Tira, it were the Zakha-
thel Afridis who with the support of other Afridi
tribes that organized very brave and strong re-
sistance against the invading British forces and
inflicted great material losses on them. In the
year 1908 the British sent their armed forces
again to the area which was resisted once more
by the brave Afridis.

The British invaders attacked this Pashtoon
inhabitated area, eight times and each time met
with flagrant defeats. The inhabitants of Khyber were like a strong barrier and possessed of great will power and displayed epic heroism to preserve their freedom and independence. History is the best evidence of that fact that they never submitted to the attacks of the enemies and inflicted befitting defeats to the invading Macedonians, Mogul and British. These are inspiring to every youth and freedom-loving inhabitant of the area.

The free tribes in all their valorous struggles against the invaders have always had the selfless support and backing of the tribes and all fraternal people of Afghanistan and no force could break their organic unity.

The struggles of the Afghan peoples waged by all the sincere sons of all the ethnic groups, tribes and nationalities living in Afghanistan, and that of the tribal people not only have had similarity during the course of history but have usually had causes.

During the uprisings and heroic armed struggles of the people of Afghanistan, particularly during the three just liberation wars against colonialism and imperialism, deadly blows were dealt to the colonial designs. The heroic struggle of the tribal people during these wars from Chatral to Baluchistan and even farther, on both sides of the "border", is witness to the fact that the people of Afghanistan and the tribal people have fought unitedly as a fist against invaders.

One other particularly and in fact a vital characteristic of the anti-colonial and anti-imperia-
list struggles of the tribal people has been that they have stood as an unbreakable barrier against the invaders who wanted to invade the sacred land of Afghanistan. They have not, nor do they now spare any sacrifice, even shedding their blood, to keep their honorable and brotherly pledges to the people of Afghanistan. Although the oppressive Amirs of Afghanistan were demagogically talking of unity between the people of Afghanistan and the tribal people, in fact they were flagrantly trading and carrying on dishonourable political business, and used to manoeuvre for creating division among the tribes, ethnic groups and nationalities on both sides of the "border".
Pak treachery against free tribes

In order to consolidate and extend the expansionist positions of reaction and imperialism, led by US imperialism, the military regime of Islamabad made an attempt in the spring of 1985, to do away with the autonomy of free tribes and bring the peace-loving Pashtoon tribes under the direct control of the Pak army, an action which the British invaders and their inheritors after the partition of the Indian sub-continent had refrained from taking.

In March of last year, the Pakistani army destroyed the bazaar of Bara with artillery fire, attacked the house of Wali Khan Kokikhel, killed Nasib Khan Torikhel Wazir and attacked the house of Yar Padshah.

Moreover, in a barbarous offensive on valiant Momand tribe as well as Mamund, Salarzai and Otmankhel tribes of Bajawar, the Pak army making use of armed Afghan counter-revolutionary bandits killed tens of defenceless people including women, children and elderly people.

The military regime of Islamabad resorting to force and paying no heed to the resolutions of tens of tribal jirgahs and their peace calls aimed at preventing the conversion of their land into centres of deadly plots of US imperialism, laun-
ched military action on November 30, 1985, besieged and invaded the land of free tribes under the pretext of controlling and preventing drug trafficking. Violating the accepted norms of tribal life, the Pak regime disrupted their peaceful order and trampled upon their self-governing system, national and historic customs and traditions and freedoms.

The mercenary and aggressive army of Pakistan employing the most harsh inhuman methods and committing savage crimes against innocent Afridi and Shinwar people, dreamed of enslaving the valiant people of Khyber.

Ignoring the history of the free tribes, and learning no lessons from the ignominious defeats of invaders at various stages in the past and with the Pak militarists' aim of depriving the tribes of their freedoms, Khalid Aziz, the newly appointed commissioner of Peshawar warned the Khyber tribes on behalf of his imperialist masters that if they did not surrender their arms in 24 hours to the commissioner's office, their houses would be destroyed and their crops set on fire.

Numerous tribal jirgahs were held to condemn this hasty warning of Pak militarists, by the Afridi and Shinwar tribes wherein, the freedom-loving tribes expressed their indestructable will and cautioned the aggressors of Islamabad regime that they would neither lay down their arms nor bend to the enslaving and plundering schemes of the aggressive enemy.

Reiterating the invincible unity and solidarity of the tribes, the Jirgahs declared that they will courageously defend their traditional autonomy.
On December 2, 1985, Pak army division No. 9, brigade No. 107 from Kohat and division No. 7 and mechanised brigade No. 105 attached to central corps in Peshawar were mobilised for attack on Afridi and Shinwar tribes. The commando regiment and force No. 14 of Panjab were also on alert for the same purpose.

Despite the protests of Pakistani public and political parties of that country, General Zia-ul-Haq stated that these units will be stationed there for a long time. The Pak strike force comprising artillery, armoured vehicles and heavy weapons backed by 14,000 soldiers and militia, unleashed a barbarous raid on the free regions of Afridi and Shinwar of Khyber and razed to ground over a wide area villages, mosques and sacred places.

Though the Islamabad military regime tried to conceal from the public the real nature of the attack on free tribes the information released after censorship for justifying the invasion indicated that most of the densely populated localities of Afridi and Shinwar had been demolished by artillery and ground-to-ground rockets. Drinking water was cut, electricity and communication lines were disrupted in these localities and severe restrictions introduced on the movement of Afidis and Shinwaris from one place to another.

According to international news media, scarcity of foodstuffs is greatly felt as a result of the siege of densely populated regions of Khyber from Warsek to Shamshad. Religious scholars, clergymen and chiefs of Afridi and Shinwar tribes have been put behind bars on the charge of defending their rights and freedoms.

Groups of Afghan counter-revolutionaries have been sent to Khyber region to prevent the tribes
crossing to revolutionary Afghanistan. The participation of bandits in the so-called pacification operations against Afridi and Shinwar tribes is not accidental. The Islamabad regime uses the Afghan counter-revolutionaries stationed in Pakistan, not only for export of death and destruction to Afghanistan but also as an instrument for suppressing the righteous demands of free Pashtoon tribes.

A spokesman of Pakistani government admitted in the morning radio news on December 13, 1985 that, “Pak forces have destroyed over 100 houses in Khyber regoin, at the vicinity of borders with Afghanistan...”.

The Agence France Presse quoting an eyewitness reported:

“The Pakistani soldiers who have unleashed aggressive operations against free tribes in Khyber, killed several border militia who had deserted their jobs as a sign of protest against these operations...”

According to international media reports, a number of Pak border militia had risen against the invasion of Islamabad regime on Afridi and Shinwar free tribes, to resist the Pak aggressive army in their strongholds. The uprising of a number of Pak border militia led to suspicion of Pak militarists towards all militiamen. Accordingly, the Pak regime disarmed them under various pretexts and drove them out of their centres and traditional forts in Bajawar, Momand, Kurma, Northern and Southern Waziristan.

Hundreds of servicemen of Islamabad aggressive regime have perished as a result of the courageous resistance of Afridi and Shinwar militants.

The brave Shinwar and Afridi people, entren-
ched in the high mountains have valorously defended their freedom, national honour, rights and independent traditions. Malik Wali Khan Koki-khel, renowned leader of the free tribes, addressing a grand tribal jirgah of Afridis declared that free Pashtoon tribes are ready to make any sacrifice for safeguarding their soil, freedom, traditions and honour and will preserve their freedom, inherited from their fathers and ancestors, as the apple of their eyes. He demanded the aggressive Pak army to evacuate immediately the Khyber pass.

The predatory aggression and impudent pronouncements of the Pak military regime regarding the permanent deployment of mercenary Pak army in Khyber region are contrary to all historically accepted norms, are a gross and rude violation of traditional freedoms of tribes and aimed at the submission of free tribes. The permanent occupation of free tribal territory by the detested Islamabad regime within the framework of the aggressive military strategy of US imperialism further deteriorates the situation around Afghanistan.

In order to lay the ground for building military bases of US imperialism in this region, the government of Pakistan has put into practice, first of all, the plan of suppressing the free tribes, opposed to the establishment of military bases in their peace-loving soil in a bid to remove the main obstacle caused by the tribal resistance. The free tribal people are not only against the establishment of military bases for the sake of preserving peace and tranquillity in their region, but against all factors causing tension and bloodshed, including the use of their soil as a springboard of aggression against their brothers in the DRA.
Old means, new conspiracies

The April Revolution in Afghanistan met with the unprecedented welcome of the Pashtoon masses. For the first time, in a part of the Pashtoon territory such changes were introduced which solved the problems of their economic and social backwardness. At the same time they clearly saw their own identity in the vanguard of these changes. The Pashtoon tribes were moved by the events and expressed their feelings of solidarity with the Revolution and their historic brothers, in various forms.

The April Revolution foiled all schemes of reaction and imperialism. After the fall of the Pahlawi dynasty in Iran, the geo-political importance of Pakistan in the strategic calculation of imperialism received a special place. Because of their national and historic relations with Afghanistan, the Pashtoons and Baluchis thus became at the center of special attention of imperialism.
Following the victory of the Revolution and in particular its new evolutionary phase in Afghanistan, largescale propaganda was unleashed against the Soviet Union and Revolutionary Afghanistan, under such pretexts as: “Islam is in danger in Afghanistan”, “The Soviet Union has occupied Afghanistan, the Pashtoons will be next, therefore, necessary assistance should be given to the holy war of the people of Afghanistan”, etc. Internal and foreign reaction and imperialism tried to provoke the Pashtoons against the “Soviet Union and Communism”. The Pashtoons, including those free tribes who in the long history of their valiant struggles against British colonialism had become fully acquainted with such provocative slogans, realising the truth of the so-called war of “Islam against infidelity” which is waged only for interference in the internal affairs of independent Afghanistan, declared their indignation and resentment over such shameful interference.

In order to hoodwink our free tribal brothers, the militarist regime of Islamabad following the commands of US imperialism, while raising the slogan of “war of Islam against infidelity”, started establishing military installations and espionage centers in the free tribal areas such as Waziristan, Korm, Khyber, Bajawar, and Chitral, and exerted all efforts to establish a network of roads in the tribal areas, on the one hand, to put an end to traditional freedoms of the tribes and on the other to connect the strategic points together.

The Islamabad regime follows specific objectives in establishing such strategic centers. On
the one hand it is striving to completely eradicate the freedoms of the tribes in due course, and on the other to remove any obstacle or resistance on the part of Pashtoon brothers to the dispatch of the armed counter-revolutionary bandits and arms to DRA and turning the tribal area as permanent center of aggression against Afghanistan.

These militarist and aggressive policies of imperialism which are being implemented by the militarist regime of Islamabad, have caused grave concern among the peace-loving Pashtoon brothers and have made them aware of their historic mission in foiling these plots and of the need for intensification of the struggle for the restoration of normalcy and tranquillity in the tribal areas and the cessation of the dispatch of the armed counter-revolution to the fraternal Afghanistan.

The participation of the authoritative representatives of the free tribes in the High Jirgah of the Frontier Tribes and the historic and destiny-making decisions of that grand Jirgah, are the manifestation of the peaceful demands of all the Frontier Tribes, including the free Pashtoon tribes.

The resolution of the High Jirgah of Frontier Tribes stated in part: "From now on the Pashtoon and other fraternal tribes will not let the reactionary militarist government of Pakistan and the world imperialism to sustain the shameful life of the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands in their region. The High Jirgah of Frontier Tribes declares that the valiant sons of the tribes on the basis of the inherited traditions of their forefathers, will form regional militia units in order
to strengthen the defensive might of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and will foil the ominous and inhumane plots of the enemy in their region with their own power. The participants of the Jirgah unanimously state in a single voice that they will not allow the murderers to infiltrate to the territory of revolutionary Afghanistan by the order of the militarists of Pakistan and their American patrons, to carry out destruction and murders.

When the participants of the Jirgah returned to their areas and villages, they convened jirgahs for the implementation of the decisions of the High Jirgah and started work for the shielding of the frontiers. These historic actions enraged the American imperialism and its subservient, the militarist General Zia, and the bandits residing in Pakistan who found themselves facing the inevitable doom, started desperate attempts. American advisers visited Islamabad and secret meetings were held. Finally they agreed on another shameful crime. Violating all the treaties and accepted norms existing between the government of Pakistan and the free tribes they trampled upon all the rights and historic and national traditions of the free tribes and resorted to armed aggression against them. The armed aggression against the Khyber Pass and the suppression of the innocent people of Afridi and Shinwar is the start of the aggressive and expansionist schemes of Islamabad regime against the free tribes.

In order to cover up the criminal and inhumane actions of the armed forces of Pakistan against the people of Afridi and Shinwar which has
created a bloodbath and killing of hundreds of men, women, children and elderly people, the despotic regime of Islamabad is striving desperately to rationalise these bloody aggressions under the guise of waging a war against narcotics in the Khyber Agency, while it is the influential personalities of the regime themselves, such as ministers, governors, and high-ranking diplomats of Pakistan who are taking direct part in the smuggling of narcotics and have turned Pakistan into a major exporter of narcotics. As facts testify, the leaders of the counter-revolutionary bands who have set up large heroin processing factories play a major role in the smuggling of narcotics in Pakistan.

The truth is that the despotic and aggressive policies of Zia's regime do not conform to the demands of the people of the free Pashtoon and Baluch tribes who have strong ties with their Afghan brothers. The people of Pakistan, especially the Pashtoon tribes, have repeatedly demanded from the despotic government of Zia-ul-Haq to give up its anti-Afghan policy which is to the detriment of the interests of the people of Pakistan and the Pashtoons.

The 'Political Affairs' magazine had long ago revailed the fact that the leaders of the Afghan counter-revolution and Zia-ul-Haq regime are playing a major role in the smuggling of the narcotics in Pakistan. The magazine described the Afghan counter-revolutionaries as professional smugglers and incorrigible gangsters.

Another American magazine, the 'Rolling Stone' recently revealed that due to the efforts of the
leaders of the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands such as Rabani and Gulbuddin, large factories which turn 100 tons of opium into heroin annually have been set up in Pakistan.

All these facts go to show that Zia's regime is trying to suppress the liberation movement of the Pashtoon tribes under the guise of the struggle against heroin.

The valiant Pashtoons have never submitted to the pressure of the enemy, and have defended their freedoms to the last drop of their blood. The courageous Pashtoons are inflicting strong blows to the militarists of Pakistan; the aggressors and doomed to complete defeat like their British patrons.
Sinister aims of militarists and imperialists

Due to the encroachment of the Pakistani army the situation of the free tribal regions, the tribal area of Khyber valley in particular, has seriously deteriorated.

The military regime of Pakistan, by launching a savage attack on the districts and hamlets of Afridi and Shinwar tribes and by their destruction, further exacerbated the tense situation and under the so-called pretext of "ensuring security and tranquillity" intentionally stepped up unrest. The Pashtoon free tribes have stood up to resist the barbaric attack of the regime. Thousands of tribal youth entrenched in the mountains and mobilizing themselves in a big tribal regiment halted the progress of the aggressive army of Pakistan in the Khyber mountainous areas. The information reaching here shows that severe clashes took place between the valorous tribesmen on the one hand and the aggressive forces on the other and the militarists of Pakistan could not achieve their heinous ends even initially.
Taking into account the recent developments, the question arises, for what purpose did the Pakistani militarists launch an attack on the Pashtoon areas and resort to such dangerous hysterical adventures. The militarists of Pakistan knew well and history has also demonstrated the consequences arising from the disturbance of tranquillity in the regions of the peace-loving Pashtoons.

The militarists of Islamabad pursue specific objectives by resorting to such adventures. The military regime of Zia-ul-Haq which seeks its survival in the continuation of the undeclared war against the DRA, intends to give ever-broader dimensions to it, and for ensuring of this by resorting to any means to remove all obstacles from its path. Today, the growing movement of the Pashtoons beyond the "frontier" has become one of the main obstacles for the accomplishment of the aggressive schemes of the Pakistani regime and the latter by waging a barbaric attack on the frontier regions is striving to remove all such obstacles in the first place.

But the military regime of Islamabad, carrying out and continuing the undeclared war against the DRA is faced with numerous other problems too. The US imperialism, China, and the regional and Arab reaction have been bringing pressure on Pakistan to be more active in this sphere. But the situation on the other side of the frontier develops contrary to the wishes of the ruling circles of Pakistan and the USA. The people residing in Pakistan have repeatedly expressed their opposition to the policies of the
military regime and have always asked the ruling circles to put an end to the armed encroachments on the territory of the DRA. They have also demanded that the Afghan miscreants should be removed from the tribal regions, the training bases of the mercenaries should be dismantled from their regions, and the Pakistani ruling circles should take necessary measures for the solution of the tense situation prevailing in the region and around the DRA by undertaking direct talks with the DRA.

The present armed encroachment of the dictatoral regime on the free tribal regions have different reasons. On the one hand, unrest is on the increase in the camps of the Afghan fugitives and deceived persons, and large number of deceived persons who intend to return to their homeland have clashed with the agents of the militarists and the miscreant bands. The military regime of Pakistan, which by making use of the militia and the bandits could not halt the wave of the return of the deceived elements and so endeavours at present through the stationing of its military units along the frontier to prevent the return of the Afghans to their country. Thereby the regime wants to prevent the scandal to the dictatoral regime of Zia-ul-Haq which will be brought about by the return of the deceived persons. On the other hand, the regime by launching such an unprecedented attack, intends to reinforce its control over the training camps of the mercenaries stationed in the tribal regions and to accelerate the process of military training in the military units under the direct supervision of the Pakistani militarists. But the free Pash-
toon tribes are the main obstacle preventing the materialization of such schemes of the Pakistani rulers. The valorous Pashtoon tribes do not want the subservient militarists of Pakistan to set their feet on the free tribal territories and to turn them into a springboard of aggression against the DRA.

The free tribes, through holding tribal Jirgahs (assemblies) and the High Jirgah of Frontier Tribes in Kabul have already given such a commitment. The situation is quite clear. The military regime of Pakistan, cannot conceal the facts by cheating and swindling. The continuation of the tense situation along the “frontier” and the repressions of the tribal militants not only do not help to improve the situation in the region and around the DRA but on its part further increases the unrest.

The free tribal people of Khyber are going through difficult moments which occur only on few occasions in the history of a heroic nation. But whenever they occur, they create history and will never be forgotten. History has well recorded that any aggressor who encroached on the soil of Pashtoons with arms, was thrown out with arms. This is the certain fate of the militarists of Pakistan as well.
Solidarity Against Aggressor

All free tribal peoples and forces favouring the relaxation of tension throughout Pakistan, the people and the state of the DRA, the peace-loving forces of the region and the world condemn with deep hatred and resentment the clashes and bloodshed caused by the audacious and irresponsible act of the Islamabad government. They, recall the valorous struggle of valiant tribal people and are sure that this time too, the Pak aggressors, the loyal hirelings of US imperialism, will face with ignominious defeats. The truth of the just demands of free tribes is, as it was in the past, the guarantor of their victory.

The interference and predatory and inglorious invasion of despotic regime of Pak militarists on peaceloving Shinwar and Afridi tribes have aroused the deep hatred and resentment of parties, social organisations, personalities and peoples of other Pashtoon tribes. They have expressed, through their solidarity and protest messages, their solidarity with and unswerving support to these tribes and strongly condemned the bestial deeds of Pak military regime.

Different tribes of Momand Agency through their tribal jirgahs, have expressed their support and solidarity with the righteous struggles of free
and valiant Afridi and Shinwar tribes against the predatory operations of mercenary Pak troops on the soil of the tribes. In these jirgahs the military government of Islamabad has been warned not to disturb the peaceful life of free tribal people, to put an end to such ugly, misanthropic and anti-Islamic deeds. Otherwise, as they put it, the responsibility of its grave consequences will rest on their shoulders.

The people and chieftains of Bajawar, in a message, declared their solidarity with the peoples and tribes of Afridi and Shinwar of Khyber. It was stated in the message: “You, the Afridi and Shinwar brothers, are not alone. All tribes and tribal brothers, particularly we, the Bajawar people, are with you and declare our support to your struggle against the military government of Pakistan. We will never leave you alone and preserve our soil, honour and dignity on the basis of our Pashtoon fervor as our fathers and ancestors did...”

The Qambarkhel tribe convened a grand tribal jirgah in Kajori region under the chairmanship of Qazi (judge) Lal Mohammad. A decision was taken in this tribal jirgah that free tribal people will not lay down their arms till the last moment in their fight against the enemy, that is, the mercenary army of Pakistan. Also the jirgah extended support to the stand of Malik Wali Khan Kokikhel regarding the traditional tribal autonomy from Khyber to Baluchistan.

Wraniing Pak militarists, the Khyber Tribal Unity, in a declaration, said: “The military government of Pakistan will never be able to impose its will on Pashtoons. Pashtoons never laid their arms and submitted to tyrannical power
even in the hard conditions of struggle against British colonialism. This fact can be learnt from the history of their heroes”.

At a grand meeting the Pashtoonkhwa students' organisation of Karachi University condemned the attack of mercenary Pak army on free Af-ridi and Shinwar tribes, and called upon all progressive and peace-loving peoples of the world to denounce the illegal, satanic and misanthropic attack of military government on free tribal people and to declare their total solidarity with free tribes.

The people of North and South Waziristan strongly condemned the predatory attack of Islamabad government on Khyber and in a message declared solidarity with their Afridi and Shinwar brothers.

It was stated in the message: “In all history, the Pashtoons offer the best example of unity and solidarity. They have always inflicted blows on the enemy. Brave men of the mountains of North and South Waziristan are standing beside their Afridi and Shinwar brothers, and will inflict on the aggressor such blows like the ones which their fathers and fore-fathers dealt on British masters of Pak rulers.

Jamiati Ulama (association of religious scholars) of Momand agency released a message addressed to the zealous brothers of free tribes regarding the brutalities of Pak military regime on Afridi and Shinwar tribes, and strongly condemned this audacious act of Pak militarists.

Different Warakzai tribes, in a message, expressed hatred and indignation and condemned the
brutal aggression of aggressive Pak army on free and valorous Afridi and Shinwar tribes of Khyber.

The message concludes by saying that Afridi and Shinwar tribes are not alone in this struggle, but all tribes living in the area ranging from Chatral to Rigistan are with them.

Also, the Jamiat-e-Ulama of Warakzai, in a message addressed to the valiants of Khyber, proclaimed the total support of Warakzai tribes to the valorous resistance of courageous Afridi and Shinwar tribes against the sanguinary attack of Pak militarists on the free tribes of Afridi and Shinwar, and expressed readiness for the joint struggle against the military aggressors of Pakistan, these subservient hirelings of US imperialism.

The Jamiat-e-Ulama of North and South Waziristan sent a message addressed to the Secretary General of the United Nations in connection with the inhuman aggression of Pak military army on free Afridi and Shinwar tribes. The message reads, in part: “We join our tribal brothers in raising the voice of protest, and through you would like to demand the member countries of this prestigious international organisation to exert pressure on the military government of Pakistan and the masters of Zia-ul-Haq to put an end to the siege of Khyber and pay respect to the accepted principles and laws relating to the prestige of free tribes. The government of Pakistan should withdraw its forces immediately from this region”.

The Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) in Pakistan, in a declaration released in Peshawar, severely denounced the treacherous aggression of the military regime of Islamabad.

In this declaration, the Movement for Restoration of Democracy stated that an end must be put
urgently to the aggression of the despotic government on free tribes.

Malik Wali Khan Kokikhel, the renowned leader of the Afridis in Khyber had sent a message to the UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar with regard to the barbaric aggression of the treacherous regime of General Zia and his army of mercenaries wherein it has been stated: Some time ago the armed forces of Pakistan made recourse to a time-tested colonial practice and laid siege to the Khyber Agency under the false pretext of “fighting against the production of heroin”. They with the help of heavy artillery, tanks and from air demolished the houses and hamlets of the Pashtoons of Afridi and Shinwari tribes. Under these venomous pretexts they are brutally killing innocent people, but the realities are just the opposite. The aim of these brutal and adventuristic actions are, the Pakistani regime wants to bring an end to the traditional historical autonomy of the free tribes.

By resorting to such brutal actions, the military rulers of Pakistan are not only violating the established norms and principles of the traditional historical autonomy of tribes but they are also trampling under military boots the treaties entered into, between the successive British governments in India and the successor Pakistani authorities and the tribes. Thus, through their military might they are trying to impose upon the tribes their will. Even though we are against any kind of killings and massacres, still we are ready for any kind of sacrifice for safeguarding our popular norms and principles and traditional freedom. History is witness to the fact that Pashtoon tribes in the past and in the present do
have the necessary preparedness to defend their traditional historical autonomy, honour, status, dignity and customs.

In the end, this message reads:

Being under heavy military siege, we could not send you this letter from Pakistan. So we are sending this to you from Kabul, capital of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Malik Wali Khan Kokikhel, had sent a message to Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and the Chairman of the NAM with respect to the brutal aggression unleashed by the oppressive regime of General Zia-ul-Haq against the free tribes.

The message reads:

"The Pakistani military forces have sieged Khyber region and have begun slaughtering innocent people of the Pashtoon tribes of Afridis and Shinwaris by using heavy weaponry and are demolishing their houses under the false pretext of "struggle against the production of heroin". This action is still continuing. In reality the adventurism and actions of Pakistani military junta is aimed at doing away with the traditional and historical autonomy of the free tribes and is in clear violation of all the treaties". In the message it has been pointed that in the areas of the free tribes contrary to the wishes of the inhabitants of that area, the armed bands of the Afghan counter-revolution are being trained and armed by Pakistani and US masters for carrying out subversive actions against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The aim of such pressure of the government of Pakistan against the free tribes is to preserve this area as a base for aggression.

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against the DRA. The message urged the Indian PM and Chairman of the NAM to help the free Pashtoon tribes.

Moreover, Malik Wali Khan Kokikhel, the authoritative chief of the Afridi tribes, addressed another message to the Secretary of the Organization of Islamic Conference in which he said: “We are against the policies of the military regime of Pakistan which, under the guidance of USA wants to use our land for training and arming the enemies of Afghanistan. The Pashtoon tribes have time and again stated that based upon Islamic traditions they are against killing of Moslem by Moslem. For such a deed is to the good of the enemies of Islam, such as USA and Israel. Instead of paying heed to our requests, they have resorted to arms and have started destroying houses, villages and hamlets of the tribes of Afridi, Shinwar, Malakori and Shalmani in Khyber region.

In conclusion, the message asked the Islamic Conference to voice carry this protest to the Moslems all-over the world and to force the Pakistani military regime to stop the killing Muslims by Muslims and put an end to its acts against the legal autonomy, the historical and traditional freedom of tribes.

The people of the DRA have traditional and historical friendship with the free people of the tribes and have always fought the enemies unitedly. And always in the critical and difficult moments in history, it has enjoyed the support of the free tribes and its fraternal solidarity in defence of its freedom, independence and the national integrity of Afghanistan. The continuation of the intervention and aggression of the Islamabad regi-
ime in the sacred areas of Afridi and Shinwar has further raised the indignation of the people of Afghanistan and it is clear that they can never be indifferent to this.

At a time when the people of Afghanistan voice their support to and solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of free tribes of Afridi and Shinwar against the inhuman attacks of the military regime of Pakistan, we have full faith that these insane efforts of the Pakistani military regime and its masters are bound to fail.

Elders and other toiling masses in the provinces, cities and districts in different parts of Afghanistan, students in Universities, members of the social organizations, different collectives of workers, school students have condemned through various jirgahs and meetings the inhumane aggressions of the military rulers of Pakistan against the free people of Afridi and Shinwar tribes in Khyber region and have voiced their solidarity with them against the aggression.

Similarly, thousands of toiling masses of various provinces of Afghanistan like Kunar, Nangarhar, Helmand, Ghazni, Herat, Nimroz, Farah and Paktika have through messages and meetings condemned the armed aggression of the military regime of Pakistan against the free people of tribes which is taking place under the guidance of the US imperialism and have demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the Pakistani troops from the lands of the Afridi and Shinwari tribes.

The message of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of the DRA, in part states:

...The history of tribes speaks of their unity and solidarity and their heroic struggle against Alexander of Macedonia, Chagiz Khan and Moguls.
The Afridis clearly manifest that the heroic tribes have never bowed their heads. Never has there been a force to subjugate the free tribes.

In conclusion, it stated that PSFO, DRA expressing its solidarity with the tribal people, once again, declared that if the Pakistani regime was really in favour of improving the situation in the region, it should immediately withdraw its troops from the free tribes' areas and should dismantle the training camps of the counter-revolutionaries in the area of the peace-loving people of tribes and not export the criminals and mercenaries trained by the US imperialist administration into the DRA.

Abdul Rahim Hatif, President of the NFF of the DRA in his interview to the Bakhtar Information Agency said that the NFF expresses the condemnation and indignation of the people of Afghanistan with regard to the war and aggression of the Pakistani military regime in the free tribal area of Afridi and Shinwari of the Khyber region and further emphasized that the Afghans and Pashtoon, wherever they may be, are brothers and share their sorrows and joys. He said that they are bound to each other by common national, tribal linguistic and historical fraternal and friendly ties.

The brutal armed aggression of the Pakistani military regime against the free tribes of Afridi and Shinwar in the Khyber region has angered public opinion and all the progressive and peace-loving forces have voiced their deep indignation
at the genocidal action of the military junta against the free tribes and have hailed the heroic struggle of the people of the Khyber region.

International news network, among them the Soviet press and the press of other socialist countries, have widely covered the realities in the Khyber region. The TASS Agency through a commentary expressed: “The military regime of Islamabad has been trying to hide the realities of the events in the tribal areas in vicinity of Afghanistan’s borders. The regime of Islamabad has been conducting genocidal actions against the free people of tribes. Islamabad has adopted the policy of genocide. Tens of thousands of armed forces of Pakistan have been deployed in the territories of the free tribal people of Pashtoon who have been traditionally enjoying freedom. The world public opinion expressing condemnation of the killing of the tribal people by the forces of Islamabad-Washington do call for the withdrawal of the Pakistani armed forces from the tribal area.

The newspaper ‘Pravda’, organ of the Central Committee of the CPSU writes:

The military adventurism of the Islamabad regime is a clear flagrant violation of the legal status of tribes and their traditional freedoms of the tri-
bal people and furthermore is a violation of hu
man rights.

The events in Khyber, the attack on the area
and the traditional freedom of the tribal people,
once again manifest the venomous plots of the
US imperialism conducted through the military
regime of Pakistan.

As the pressure and attacks of the puppet reg-
ime of Zia-ul-Haq increases over the free tribal
people, it further results in increase of the resis-
tance of the people of free tribes and also the extent
of the support and solidarity of the people to their
struggle increases.

History is witness to the fact that never has
there been any power which could impose its will
on the people of the free tribes and do away with
their traditional freedoms. Soon the time will co-
me when the military regime of Pakistan shall
itself burn in the flames it has started.
Elders of free tribes condemn aggression

Nawrat Khan Afridi, one of the leaders of Jamrud region speaking about the aggression of Pakistani government against the free tribes said: A glance at the history would show that the free tribes have not only safeguarded their independence but have also resolutely supported and defended the progressive movements of the region. For example, they forged a heroic struggle in support of the Roshanid Movement in the 17th century against the Moghul Emperors of India, and against the British colonialists in the 19th and 20th centuries.

With the victory of April Revolution our region acquired a new significance, because imperialism and reaction, relying on their plots, launched subversive activities from the free tribes regions. They have been trying to suppress the revolution in Afghanistan. I should point out that we the tribal people by now have fully realized the truth and that is why various tribes through holding tribal jirgahs have adopted valuable decisions, the most important of which were the decisions of the High Jirgah of Frontier Tribes (held in Kabul in mid-September 1985).

The decisions of the High Jirgah of Frontier Tribes once again proved that the Pashtoons based on historical traditions are brothers of the Afghans. Therefore, the free tribes valorously decided to nullify the ominous plots of US imperialism in
the region, and pledged that they would not permit the Afghan miscreants to launch attacks against Afghanistan from free tribe regions. These militant decisions of the free tribes enraged the Pakistani Generals who ordered their mercenary soldiers to besiege the Khyber Agency.

Haji Shah Bahram, one of the elders of Madokhel from Northren Waziristan expressed his impressions in the following: The main objective of the interventions of the Pakistani militarists launched under the dictate of US imperialism is to, on the one hand trample upon the traditional autonomy of the free tribes and on the other to use our region against the fraternal and revolutionary country of Afghanistan.

Bahram added: Various branches of free tribes have convened tribal jirgahs, staged grand demonstrations and adopted concrete decisions. They very clearly declare that all Pashtoons are brothers of each-other and have common state and common enemies and that they should unite and give a telling blow to the enemy.

Our relations with Revolutionary Afghanistan are not something new. On the contrary, close and fraternal relations have existed between us all through history and we shall keep these good relations in the future as well. I should indicate that this matter was vividly reflected in the High Jirgah of Frontier Tribes.

Sultan Mohammad Atmarkhel Momand: We were free, are free and will remain free and would not allow anybody to suppress our freedom. We have our special regulations on the basis of which we solve our problems. We warn Ziaul-Haq once again that he should visit the British cemetary in our region which came about as a result of
their war waged against free tribes and it would certainly teach him some lessons.

Shaikh Jamir, one of leaders of Shinwar made the following assertions: As is clear to all, after the victory of April Revolution in Afghanistan, a number of those who had lost their predatory interests in the country fled to Pakistan and through demogogy and force, made some people to leave their homeland. And with the direct assistance of the US, China, Britain and Pakistan as well as other reactionary forces, started brazen aggressions against Revolutionary Afghanistan. The only rout by which the Afghan counter-revolutionaries could be sent to the territory of Afghanistan was through the free tribes region.

After the convocation of the High Jirgah of Frontier Tribes, which was held in Kabul with special glory, all the free tribes decided not to allow the Afghan miscreants to launch aggressions against the DRA through the free tribes regions, because we were witness to the fact that these mercenary bandits, in direct collaboration with the Pakistani militia were launching bloody subversive activities, killing innocent people in the territory of Afghanistan.

Today the regular army of Pakistan, which under the guise of a campaign against heroin, has launched savage attacks against Khybar Agency, harbours another aim behind the curtain. It is aimed at our political freedom. On the other hand the military regime of Pakistan and its patron Reagan have noticed that the free tribes have decided not to permit the Afghan miscreants launch counter-revolutionary activities against Afghanistan. Hence the White House
has ordered its subservients in Islamabad to attack the Khyber Agency.

Today the Afridi and Shinwari valorous people are fighting for their self-determination against Pakistani aggression. They prove to the offensive government of General Zia-ul-Haq that the free tribes are invincible.

Sheikh Jamir in response to a question of Stuart Loory correspondent of US (CNN) TV network asking whether they received arms from Afghanistan or Soviet Union said: No! Most of our arms are made locally, and the rest are US, Chinese and Egyptian made that we confiscated from Afghan mercenary bandits or previously bought from the Afghan counter-revolutionaries.

Abdul Khaliq, an elder from Hazarnaw speaking on the Pakistani onslaught on Khyber Agency said: The Pakistani aggressions against the Afridi and Shinwar tribes essentially is an aggression waged against all Pashtoon free tribes. They, contrary to the accepted international norms want to eliminate the traditional autonomy of the tribes. But the peoples’ will and determination is much stronger to be defeated by these intrigues and aggressions. The regime has send Punjabi soldiers in the costume of militia forces to tribal region and have unarmed the Pashtoon militia and sent them to Peshawar.

Mira Jan one of the leaders of the brave Dowar tribe in connection with the brazen attacks of the militarists against the Shinwari and Afridi free tribes’ territory in Khyber Agency said: The savage attacks that the military regime of Pakistan have recently launched against the Shinwari and Afridi regions in the Khyber Agency are aimed
at trampling down all the accepted norms, traditions and history of the Pashtoon free tribes and is considered one of the most shameful deeds of the militarist regime of General Zia, carried out during his deceitful reign.

Last week, I came from the free tribe regions to Kabul. There, I was witness to the most savage aggressions of Pakistani regime against the residential area of Khyber Agency. Innocent people of Afridi and Shinwari were mercilessly massacred and houses, mosques and other establishments were demolished so brutally that it is unbearable for any Pashtoon tribe.

In the course of these wild attacks, helicopters, tanks and heavy artillery accompanied by thousands of regular army force opened fire from air and ground, as a result of which countless innocent Pashtoon people including children, women and elders were martyred.

The militarist regime of Pakistan carry on all these criminal activities under the pretext that there are arms and heroin in these regions, while it is well known that the aim of these aggressions is to impose the military and political rule of Pakistan over the free tribes, eliminating their historical autonomy which existed for centuries in these regions and for which our fathers and forefathers had shed their blood in heroic struggles against the British colonialism. The British colonialists were not able to trample upon these traditions and norms of the Pashtoons and had accepted them.
Another goal of Pakistan behind these activities is to use the territory of the free tribes for continuation of the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Since the free tribes and Afghans are brothers to each other and have common destiny, therefore these vicious activities of Pakistani authorities have been posing a danger to peace in the region. Realizing the decisions of the High Jirgah of Frontier Tribes, the free frontier tribes do not surrender to this vicious activities of the satanic regime of Pakistan, and have forged steadfast resistance against the militarists, because they would not surrender the highly-cherished traditions of their ancestors and would never capitulate to the Pakistani militarists.

Etebar Khan Mamond commenting on the matters said: When the High Jirgah of Frontier Tribes was held in Kabul, Atawollah Khan Kokikhel, son of Malik Wali Khan Kokikhel, the national figure of Afridi tribe, along with 2000 militant Afridi youth participated in it. The jirgah made important decisions for safeguarding the national pride, territorial integrity and shielding the frontier of the DRA. At this jirgah, representatives of all tribes unanimously took a Pashtoon oath and condemned the shameful interventions of the government of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. They pledged that they would not gave any opportunity for the mercenary bandits hired by the blood thirsty US imperialism and the Pakistani militarist circles, to carry on subversive activities, destructions, killings against Afghanistan from the frontier regions.
Likewise, all the 3796 representatives supported the historic and sound speech of Babrak Karmal and expressed their all-out support to the domestic and foreign policy of the DRA.

As a result of these developments, the deceitful and vicious enemies resorted to plots and conspiracies claiming that they were trying to prevent drug smuggling in Khyber Agency and sent huge regular army to Khyber Valley.
Map of Free Tribes Area