



AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 53

SEPTEMBER 1988

CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
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AFGHANISTAN

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2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

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Place	Province	Date
Khawaja Ghowr	Takhar	14-08-1988
Chah Ab	Takhar	26-08-1988
Darqad-Sub-District	Takhar	27-08-1988
Khanabad	Kunduz	09-08-1988
Sher Khan Post	Kunduz	07-08-1988
Kunduz City	Kunduz	07-08-1988
<i>Alaiabad</i>	<i>Baghlan</i>	<i>12-08-1988</i>
Bamiyan City	Bamiyan	21-08-1988
Shakardara	Kabul	14-08-1988
Gulbahar Post	Parwan	19-07-1988
Charkh	Logar	29-08-1988

Najib Admits Pressure on Psycho-War Front

Recently Soviet and Kabul Media carried reports on "propaganda activities" of the Afghan Mujahideen, which presumably were creating problems for Najib regime.

On August 13, Moscow TV newscast carried its correspondent's report from Kunduz province. It stated that "Afghan extremists have been busy spreading rumors. ... They were also putting out propaganda pamphlets".

Moscow TV newscast Vremya carried a video report from Kabul correspondent Shkirando on 4th August. It mentioned activities of an extremist gang "who have been sowing fear and panic among the inhabitants of the Afghan capital".

Radio Kabul carried excerpts of Najib's speech to "representative citizens" of Kabul city on 9 August. "The President gave an account of the Afghan enemies' propaganda". Najib called upon his audience "to expose the provocative and false rumors and to quell panic".

The Soviet army newspaper 'Red Star' on August 5 carried Lt. Col Oliynik's report from Qandahar. Oliynik wrote that "the psychological warfare is unprecedented in terms of scale and form. ... The disinformers' aims have long been clear: they are using every means to try to create among the population a sense of lack of confidence in the strength of the country's President and government and in the potential of National Reconciliation Policy".

On August 10, Pravda published an article jointly written by correspondents V. Okulov and P. Studenikin. The two correspondents interviewed Colonel Nisar, an Officer of the ministry of State Security at Qandahar. Nisar told them that "the rebels have stepped up agitation among the population and units of armed forces. It cannot be denied

that sometimes it succeeds. There are instances of defection to the enemy side and instances have been noted of deals with the bandits. A sector of clergy is against national reconciliation, seeing the authorities peace efforts merely as a political game".

Colonel G. Miranvich contributed "Military observer's notes" in the 'Red Star' August 13th issue. In his article "Afghanistan: Alarms and hopes" he wrote: "leaders of the anti-government and their ... accomplices ... resort to psychological attacks".

A statement by the Afghan government was published in Kabul Times on August 16. It noted that "Foreign subversive propaganda had intensified and gained the dimensions of a real psychological war against the government of Afghanistan. ... The psychological warfare is conducted against the entire people of Afghanistan regardless of the fact whether they support the government or are with the opposition".

Addressing the inaugural session of the Afghan National Assembly on 27 August Najib said: "A strong propaganda and psychological war has been launched ... wholly devoted ... to test ... the present regime..."

3 - PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Nimruz

Mujahideen sources: On 28 July, the Mujahideen made a rocket attack on Zaranj military base of Kabul regime. Over 20 militiamen were killed and one security post, one tank and two other vehicles destroyed.

Earlier the Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy which was carrying food from Delaram in Khashrood district. Here a tank was destroyed and 11 soldiers taken prisoner.

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: On 3 August, an armoured unit of Soviet-Kabul troops attacked Mujahideen positions near Nad-e-Ali, northwest of Lashkargah. Mujahideen shot down a helicopter which was supporting the invading troops. Ultimately, the attack was repulsed.

On 4 August, Mujahideen attacked a military agricultural farm near Lashkargah. They seized 7 tractors belonging to the farm. The manager of the farm was also carried off to the Liberated Territory.

On 15 August, Mujahideen attacked a supply convoy in Grishik sub-division on the highway leading to Qandahar. The convoy suffered heavy losses in the rocket attack.

On 27 August, the Mujahideen gained 'control' of the Nad-e-Ali district.

VIRA: The Mujahideen have made several successful attacks on the positions of Kabul troops in Hilmand province and inflicted heavy losses in men and material on them (News—Pushto: 19 August, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen foiled an offensive of the Kabul regime troops in Lashkargah of Hilmand province in mid of Asad. In the course of operations, the Mujahideen shot down a helicopter of Najibullah regime (14 August, 1988).

TASS: On the same day the irreconcilables fired rocket projectiles against Kojaki township (place name as received) in Hilmand province. Four persons, including three children fell victim of that brutal action and several houses were damaged (15 August, 1988).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: 24, 25 July: Mujahideen attack Kabul regime security posts in Spin Buldak area.

Mujahideen fire rockets on military camp near Pashtoonabad. Twenty troops killed and 3 tanks destroyed.

26 July: Mujahideen attack a military convoy near Jaldak. Forty-seven troops killed and 32 captured. Three tanks and 2 oil vehicles destroyed.

29 July: Mujahideen continue attacks in and around Qandahar city. (Several hundred Soviet soldiers leave Qandahar by air presumably for Soviet Union. It is rumoured that the Soviets are using air transportation more frequently because roads to Kabul are blocked and those to Herat are unsafe).

30 July: Two military vehicles destroyed in a minefield in Dand area.

On August 1, Mujahideen ambushed a convoy in Shah Agha area in Arghandab district, hitting 3 tanks.

On August 2, Mujahideen fired rockets on the Military Headquarters in Qandahar, hitting a number of barracks and vehicles.

On August 5, Mujahideen attack security posts in Panjwai district. One post and 2 tanks destroyed.

On August 6, a large Soviet convoy, comprising trucks, lorries and tanks, left Qandahar presumably for Herat. On the same day Mujahideen fired rockets on targets in Qandahar city, including TV station.

On August 8, Mujahideen attacked regime troops and establishments near Spin Buldak. Thirty-five Afghan soldiers deserted their units and crossed into Pakistan near Spin Buldak.

On August 9, Mujahideen fired rockets on Qandahar Airport.

On August 11, Mujahideen renewed attacks on security posts near Spin Buldak. Fifteen soldiers were believed killed and two tanks destroyed.

On August 12 and 13, Mujahideen fired rockets on Qandahar airport. At least 3 security posts were destroyed.

On August 14, Sixty Afghan government soldiers were killed and one tank destroyed during an encounter with Mujahideen in Baba Wali Sahib district. A helicopter was shot down near Kajaki.

On August 15, Mujahideen attacked troops of the 15th Division near Qandahar city, and the Central Jail in Dand area.

On August 17, Mujahideen ambushed a convoy near Shanzarai.

On August 20, Mujahideen captured the Arghandab district after a prolonged seize. Five enemy tanks were destroyed during the fighting. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and other supplies fell to the Mujahideen. Arghandab is only 10 miles from Qandahar.

On August 23, Mujahideen attacked a military force in Takhta Pul area. A number of vehicles were destroyed.

On August 28, Mujahideen shot down a helicopter near Davari. On the same day they destroyed a security post near Saeedan Char.

By the end of the month of August Arghastan, Shavalikot, Khakriz, Ghorak, Panjwai, Tabush, Maruf, Shorawak and Baba Sahib districts were under Mujahideen's control. They were on the offensive and had given notice to the residents of Qandahar city to move away from certain areas close to the regime establishments and installations.

VIRA: The Muslim Mujahideen in the course of successful operations in Qandahar province, have liberated Panjwai, Shah Walikot, Arghistan, Maruf and Arghandab Woleswalis and presently Qandahar city is also under the siege of the Mujahideen (News Pushto: 28 August, 1988).

Radio Tehran: In a series of operations, the Afghan Mujahideen have captured the important military garrison of Baba Wali in the outskirts of Qandahar city. The Qandahar city is now under the pressure of the Mujahideen.

According to the reports, after capturing the Baba Wali Sahib garrison and all the troops of the Kabul regime in that area, the Afghan freedom fighters are now striving to get the control of Qandahar city. The Mujahideen are reported to have carried out attacks on the strongholds of the Kabul troops in an area ten kilometres from Qandahar city. During the attacks, the Mujahideen killed 16 Kabul regime troops and injured a large number of others (22 August, 1988).

During their operations the Mujahideen shot down a helicopter of Kabul regime in Qandahar province and liberated the strategic area of

Arghandab in Qandahar province (News Urdu: 23 August, 1988).

Radio Bangladesh: Mujahideen have captured an important military garrison near the Afghan city of Qandahar. They occupied the important post after many days of fighting. They also seized thirty light and heavy guns. The Soviet forces vacated Qandahar early this month, as part of Soviet withdrawal to be completed by February next year (News Urdu: 22 August, 1988).

Radio Dubai: Afghan guerillas attacked the last of the Soviet troops withdrawing from the southern city of Qandahar at the weekend.

Reports from the guerilla commandos reaching in Quetta in Western Pakistan, said the final contingent of twelve hundred men was shelled for the first 20 kilometres of its journey towards Herat.

Moscow, which is to withdraw its men from Afghanistan under last April Geneva Agreement, had said that last of its forces would quit from Qandahar last Friday, but a letter sent to Quetta by rebel commander Abdul Razzaq and other guerilla reports said the withdrawal ended only on Sunday morning.

The rebels put the number of Soviet soldiers involved of eight thousand five hundred while Western diplomats in Islamabad said it was six thousand seven hundred and fifty.

The guerillas in Quetta said the Afghan Garrison in Qandahar which has been badly damaged by some of the fiercest fighting in the year old guerilla war had been boosted from five thousand to twelve thousand government soldiers before the Soviets pull out. However, no independent confirmation of the figures is available. The rebels said they pounded Qandahar airport with rockets earlier on Sunday, causing a fire which continued for five hours (News English: 10 August, 1988).

The Soviet Communist Party newspaper, Pravda said that Mujahideen killed three soldiers and wounded six in the two days precede last weekends Soviet withdrawal from Qandahar, Afghan's second largest city (11 August, 1988).

VOA: The Soviet forces have returned from Afghanistan's main southern city of Qandahar and the seven thousand Afghan Communist troops who replaced them are facing a big attack being planned by the Mujahideen Commanders. Younas Wasti reads out details of the report of Irfan Ghazi from Islamabad, on the Soviet withdrawal and Mujahideen's activities:

Western diplomats in Islamabad have reported the long awaited withdrawal of Soviet troops from Qandahar ended rapidly, between 1st and 4th of August and they did not face any action from the Mujahideen's side. But the Afghan Mujahideen sources in the Pakistani city of Quetta say the last Soviet convoy left Qanda-

har on Sunday last when a severe rocket attack by Mujahideen was continuing. The report, which could not be confirmed from the independent sources, says that 250 rockets were fired on the airport before sunrise, destroying one helicopter and two warplanes, parked there. Besides a fire which continued for more or less five hours, destroyed stores and workshop area of the airport.

The sources said that the attack was carried out when the last Soviet convoy was preparing to leave. Soon after the rocket attack, the convoy left the airport and adopted the route passing through Qandahar. An eyewitness reaching Quetta said, when the Soviet unit, consisting of troops from Central Asia, drove into the city streets, the citizens raised slogans of Allah-o-Akbar and spit on the ground. The source said that the Mujahideen suddenly attacked the convoy in the south-western outskirts of Qandahar as they had done against a convoy early this week. The Mujahideen Commander in the area reported that they destroyed 14 tanks and other military vehicles.

According to Western diplomats, most of the 7,000 Soviet troops left Qandahar by air and the rest are on their way on Herat highway alongwith their luggage. The Soviets have been replaced by 7,000 Afghan troops who are defending Qandahar. According to resistance sources in Quetta, the Mujahideen Commanders in Qandahar are making preparations for a decisive attack on the city (Radio Report—Urdu: 9 August, 1988).

After fierce fighting of nearly ten weeks the Afghan Mujahideen have captured the military garrison of Baba Shah Wali Sahib, 15 kilometres in the north-east of Qandahar. The western diplomats say that people in Qandahar believe that capturing of this garrison would enable the Mujahideen to occupy the city within a few days. The Kabul troops had established this garrison last May in Arghandab district at a mountain when they had to vacate the Arghandab town. Strong trenches were set up on the slopes of the mountain around the cantonment. The Mujahideen were present on another mountain opposite to the slopes and they had besieged the Baba Shah Wali Sahib in early June. But they failed in capturing the garrison. According to Mujahideen sources heavy loss of lives occurred during this period. A radio message received in Quetta on Sunday says that the Mujahideen captured the cantonment by running over 30 posts around Baba Sahib Wali, at eleven O'Clock in the morning on Saturday. The report, however, has not been confirmed by the independent sources and the message is incomplete in the sense that it did not mention loss of lives in this final fighting. However, it is said that all government troops and militia present in the Baba Shah

Wali Sahib were arrested and their number is stated to be a few hundred. All military equipment in the garrison and posts was also seized by the Mujahideen. The Western diplomats in Islamabad said about two weeks ago that the civilians coming from Qandahar to Kabul believe that after the occupation of Baba Shah Wali by the Mujahideen, the Kabul government control on Qandahar will not last more than a few days. The diplomatic sources say that Qandahar city is at present practically under the control of Mujahideen and government troops could move on some roads in the centre of the city alone.

Another report from Qandahar says that Kabul troops fired in the air in jubilation when news of the death of President Zia-ul-Haq reached Qandahar on August 17. After being infuriated over it, the Mujahideen heavily shelled the military targets throughout the night and citizens say that they never saw such severe shelling during last ten years. The details of the damages caused by the shelling have not been received so far. Mujahideen sources say that Mujahideen fired rockets on military camp of Koh-e-Karan on August 18 and the entire camp was destroyed by fire. About fifty government troops were deployed at the camp, eighteen of them were killed, fourteen arrested by the Mujahideen and rest of them fled. Three Mujahideen were injured in the operation (Radio Report—Urdu: 21 August, 1988).

Radio Beijing: Reports from Islamabad say Afghan Resistance forces have surrounded Qandahar, the country's second largest city.

The Agency Afghan Press said on Sunday that the Afghan guerillas have also taken positions in many localities and set up their fortifications around the city.

Qandahar is about 450 kilometres from Kabul and 101 kilometres from South Western Pakistan.

The Afghan guerilla commander said heavy fighting to capture the city is expected in the coming winter when the withdrawal of the Soviet troops enters the final stage (News English: 1 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that 52 ground-to-ground missiles which were ready to be fired by the extremists at the residential areas of Qandahar city were unearthed and seized by the Armed Forces yesterday.

According to the report a number of extremist elements were also wiped out by the Armed Forces in Daman Woleswali of Qandahar (News—Push-to: 7 August, 1988).

According to a despatch from Qandahar a group of extremists while trying to fire mortars on residential areas of Qandahar province was killed when accidentally one of the shells went off. The report says that Abdul Wali, the leader of the group together with six others was

killed in this incident (News—English: 13 August, 1988).

The military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency has reported from Qandahar city that during the clashes between extremist groups in Arghandab and Bakhtar Uluswalis of Qandahar province recently, 21 persons from both the hostile groups were killed and eleven others seriously injured (31 August, 1988).

Radio Moscow: An unprecedented psychological war has been waged against Afghanistan. Western radio stations have been quoting Pakistani officials and the armed opposition as claiming the fall of Spin Buldak and Arghandab Ulaswalis into the hands of the Afghan opposition. But all these are lies. The Afghan security forces have wiped out that group of the armed opposition which tried, with the support of Pakistani militia to capture Spin Buldak, and even the group of Mullah Aqib did not succeed in capture Arghandab (News—Push-to: 5 Aug, 88).

Moscow TV: From the "Vremya" Newscast: Journalists' interest in the situation in the Afghan town of Qandahar has recently increased. Our correspondent Aleksandr Shkirando reports from there:

Shkirando: What has evoked such an interest in this town? The answer is that after the extremists' failure to capture Jalalabad, they are now concentrating their forces around Qandahar. On instructions from Pakistan, extremists are attempting to seize this town at any cost and declare it the capital of a temporary government. Convoys with weapons and ammunition are continuing to arrive in this region from across the border. Qandahar is, without exaggeration, now a frontline town. (Video shows damaged buildings, a market, street scenes). (TV Newscast Vremya: 9 Aug, 88).

Pravda: Experiences of Visiting Soviet Journalists: Qandahar, we flew here before daybreak. The airport on the "edge" of the Registan desert looked lifeless. Afghan soldiers stood next to our armoured carriers (the Soviet troops' base had virtually been handed over to the Afghan Army Corps). Our rear military personnel had been flying out of Qandahar day after day. Only the combat sub-units remained. They had to leave for the border along a route that skirted Afghanistan in a semicircle from the South—from Qandahar—to the North through Shindad. "Your departure from Qandahar at the first stage of implementing the Geneva agreements is well timed," many Afghans in Kabul and Qandahar said to us. This exposes true aims of the Peshawar gang-leaders' propaganda trump cards.

The situation in Qandahar, which has always been complicated, remains contradictory even now. According to information from competent Afghan organs, there are 389 gangs in the province—more than 17,000 men. Less than 200 of them are active—numbering 11,000 men.

As everywhere in Afghanistan, when the implementation of the Geneva Accords began, the process of polarization of forces increased in the opposition camp, and disagreements were exacerbated to the point of vicious fighting.

Many armed groups stopped the struggle against the Government and Soviet troops, but instead fought their "brothers-in-arms". These tendencies also exist in Qandahar. "The national Salvation front," and "the movement of the Islamic revolution" marked time.

Meanwhile, the gang formations of the two "Islamic Parties of Afghanistan" received the order from their gangleaders G. Hikmatyar and M. Yunis Khalis in Peshawar to step up combat operations and to struggle to seize power. The Peshawar extremists announced their intention to plan their "transitional government" in Qandahar, and they are nurturing plans for the division of Afghanistan.

We are discussing the situation with Colonel Nisar (name as transliterated), leader of one of the provincial sub-units of the Ministry of State Security. A strong man, as if hewn from stone, he does not conceal the difficulties. On the contrary, he wants to reveal to us all the factors which are complicating the situation in Qandahar.

"The irreconcilable opposition is assembling additional forces here, 400 men arrived from Uruzgan, 200 from Hilmand. They are waiting for additional detachments from the Pakistani bases to arrive. 'Milan' anti-tank guided missile systems have arrived for arming the rebels. According to our data more than 20 advisors—from the United States, the PRC, the FRG, Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia—are active in the gangs close to Qandahar."

About 300 terrorists went to the province from behind the border, from Quetta. Their task was to attempt to seize Soviet soldiers and officers and carry off people loyal to the authorities.

A fine day is breaking. Sappers with powerful mine clearing devices are the first to leave the camp: their task is to clear the road of mines...

Assault Forces: Combat vehicles are entering the city, they are taking up positions in guard detachments and block formation ready to protect the convoys from fire, the first to begin the march through Qandahar. There are few people in the streets, and this increases concern: will there really be fighting ahead? Check your weapons! put on your helmets and bulletproof vests!

The Dushmans are conducting a strong mortar barrage. A vehicle is on fire...

Now they can strike from the Kobaya (name as transliterated) direction. They will try to split the convoy...

... The first wounded man arrived at the battalion command post: Private Grigoriy Sukhanov was blown up by a mine. With the aid of his assistants senior Lieutenant Nikilay Baranovskiy, the battalion doctor, desperately fights for Grishin's life ... I saw Lt Col Dunayev grit his teeth: it is awful to lose guys, it is indescribably awful—especially on the way home!

Machineguns were still firing from the command post roof, and guns were blasting away behind the wall. We go to the roof: there is firing in the city itself, and the vehicles which have been knocked out of action, are marked out by plumes of smoke.

True, this picture can only be seen in Qandahar. We had just gone past numerous stalls, and waved in response to the little boys squatting under the trees, and then suddenly its fighting, shooting, and over the thickets nearly—black columns of smoke from the explosions. It is as if we are covering, a perfectly peaceful procession: an elderly townsman is moving along the roadside surrounded by women, they are leading children. As if it has not occurred to them, so accustomed as they are to everything in their city on the front, that they are in the epicenter of the struggle. Our APC brakes in an open space, and lets an oncoming Afghan vehicle rush by: two soldiers support a wounded captain—they rush through the city to the hospital.

The convoy leaves "Black Square", and gathers speed on a slope where the shells of burnt out trucks shield the roadway from the "Green Zone" as if with a metal barrier along the roadway.

Take cover on the right! the Lieutenant commands. Our faces are burning with the heat: the convoys are entering the Registan desert... ("Scorched by Qandahar," V. Okulov and P. Studenikin Pravda special correspondents' reports from Afghanistan, Moscow Pravda Russian: 10 August, 1988).

Zabul

Mujahideen sources: 19 July: Mujahideen frustrate a Kabul regime offensive to retake Shah Joi, Sub-divisional headquarters. Shah Joi has been under control of Mujahideen for over a month. Two enemy tanks and 2 other armoured vehicles were destroyed. Sixty Government troops join the Mujahideen.

21 July: Mujahideen consolidate control on Kabul regime strong-point at Nauras.

25 July: Mujahideen attack Kabul regime troops at Omkay. Two trucks captured. Twenty soldiers join Mujahideen ranks.

30 July: Soviet-made aircraft bombard Shah Joi and adjoining rural areas, killing and injuring a large number of non-combatants.

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen in the course of successful operations in Zabul province recently killed or injured seventeen troops of the Kabul regime. During these operations ten government troops were made captive and four tanks and military vehicles were destroyed. Sixty-six personnel of the communist regime troops are also reported to have joined the ranks of the Mujahideen in Zabul province (7 Aug, 88).

The Mujahideen sources have reported that the fighter planes of the Communist forces bombarded Shah Joi Uluswali along Kabul-Qandahar highway after their defeat at the hands of Mujahideen. As a result of air raids, a number of innocent people were martyred. Earlier, the Mujahideen seized two tanks, three heavy machine guns and one hundred and forty Klashinkovs in Shah Joi Uluswali (9 August, 1988).

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: 16 July: Bomb explosion in a Ghazni city hotel kills 15 'Khad agents'.

25 July: Mujahideen attack military post near Ghazni city. One tank and another vehicle destroyed. Twelve soldiers captured.

31 July: Twelve Afghan army troops killed in an explosion in Ghazni city.

Twenty Afghan army soldiers killed in an encounter with Mujahideen near Qarabagh.

On August 3, Mujahideen shot down a Soviet aeroplane bombarding Mujahideen positions at Tochi, 12 kilometres South-West of Ghazni city.

VIRA: A fighter plane of the enemy troops was shot down by the Mujahideen in Topchi area of Ghazni province recently. The fighter plane was heading to bomb the Mujahideen positions (7 August, 1988).

VOA: Afghan sources in Kabul say old city of Ghazni is in control of Mujahideen and government are now holding new city area only (23 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The people of Ghazni have risen against the extremist groups, which resulted in armed clashes between the local people and members of the Gulbadin band in the outskirts of Ghazni city. During the clashes two ring leaders of Gulbadin band, Faqirullah and Khan Zaman were killed (1 August, 1988).

The armed group led by Ghulam Haider who opposed the State for some time recently joined the national reconciliation policy in Ghazni province. According to the BIA, at a function held on this occasion Party leaders thanked the group for its patriotic sentiments. In reply Ghulam Haider, the head of the group pledged his commitment to the reconciliation policy and promised to redouble his efforts for en-

suring countrywide peace (News-English: 26 August, 1988).

Paktika

Mujahideen sources: On the evening of 21 August, Mujahideen fired rockets on Urgoon cantonment while Kabul regime troops were "rejoicing" on the death of General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq. A barrack was hit and burst into flames silencing the merry-makers.

On 2 August, a helicopter was shot down near Sharana.

On 4 August, two helicopters were shot down near Urgoon. Siege of Urgoon cantonment was tightening.

Radio Kabul: Mopping up operations of the Armed Forces against the criminal extremist groups are continuing in different parts of the country.

In Urgan Woleswali of Paktika province 27 extremists were wiped out by the Armed Forces recently (13 August, 1988).

Paktia

Mujahideen sources: 16 July: Mujahideen attack military convoy on way from Ghazni to Gardez near Sahak village of Zurmat district. Mujahideen also fired rockets on Gardez city in a separate operation.

21 July: Kabul regime militias attack Sekandarah and Dausar mountain passes. They tried to establish security posts in the area. Four officers and 27 men of the militias were believed killed in the fighting.

On the same day, 24 members of the garrison at Nadershah Kot defected to the Mujahideen.

27 July: District headquarters of Sayed Karam captured.

29 July: Kabul regime troops move out in strength from Khost cantonment and proceed towards Ghaleng in order to attack Mujahideen bases in the area. This force was compelled to go back to Khost. Four militia officers and 16 men were killed.

31 July: Mujahideen attack military convoy near Magokhel on Kabul-Gardez road, hitting 3 tanks and 4 other vehicles.

On 3 August, Mujahideen carried out rocket attacks on Gardez airfield. One helicopter was destroyed on ground.

On 4 August, another helicopter was shot down near Khost. Meanwhile, the Mujahideen and regime forces clashed in the vicinity of Sinkai. Ten regime soldiers were killed. Two regime transport vehicles hit mines laid by Mujahideen in Jaji Maidan.

On 6 August, Kabul regime forces attacked Mujahideen base area at Balti, but failed to seize it. The attacking columns were supported by aeroplanes which intermittently continued bombing for 24 hours.

Two jet fighter-bombers were shot down and their pilots, who parachuted, were captured by Mujahideen.

On 8 August, Soviet-made aircraft bombarded Mujahideen positions in Jaji area.

On 9 August, Mujahideen attacked a convoy on Kabul-Gardez Road near Gardez city. Twenty soldiers were killed and 3 tanks destroyed.

On 13 August, a security post at Zarmanki was attacked and destroyed.

On 16 August, a large number of militiamen joined Mujahideen ranks in Sayed Karam area. They had belonged to the Mangal and other local tribes. With their defection, large areas of Chamkani and Mirzaka areas have come under the effective control of the Mujahideen.

On 18 August, Mujahideen fired rockets on Gardez airfield.

On 21 August, a large military transport airplane was shot down over Khost airport. It was believed to be a 4-engined Antonov.

On 23 August, Mujahideen fired rockets on Gardez garrison.

On 25 and 27 August, Mujahideen attacked regime establishments and troops near Banoozi and Nadir Shahkot.

VIRA: The Mujahideen have carried out several attacks on Communist troops positions including the airport and the military base of Gardez town causing heavy losses to Communist forces. The Mujahideen also captured huge quantity of arms and ammunition in these attacks. The report adds that after successful attacks Mujahideen returned safely to their bases. Several Kabul regime troops have joined the Mujahideen in Gardez area.

Meanwhile, a Commander of the Afghan Muslim Mujahideen in Gardez area of Paktia province, Hafizullah has stated that the Mujahideen have brought many villages of the area under their control (News-Pushto: 12 August, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen shot down two helicopters of Kabul regime in Paktia province on last Wednesday and Thursday (News-Urdu: 8 August, 1988).

The Mujahideen also carried out rocket attacks on the military centres in Khost and Gardez cities of Paktia province which resulted in the death of thirteen Kabul regime troops (News-Pushto: 14 August, 1988).

VOA: Western diplomats say Afghan rebels shot down an Afghan transport plane last week near Pakistani border, killing all forty-five government troops on board. The diplomats based in Pakistan say the plane was downed Thursday near the town in Khost in Paktia province (News-English: 9 August, 1988).

TASS said rebel forces also shelled the town of Gardez and Khost

killing 14 persons and wounding 20. The news agency says Afghan army units killed 30 rebels during an attack near Khost (News-English: 14 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The criminal extremists by firing ground-to-ground missiles at the residential area of Gardez city yesterday committed another crime against our people. Military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency reports that as a result of this brutal extremist act 13 compatriots were martyred and twelve others injured. One mosque was completely destroyed and two schools and eight houses were partly damaged (News-Pushto: 13 August, 1988).

A group of the Gul Badin band was wiped out by the Armed Forces in Zar Gul mountainous area of Paktia province recently. Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency reports that as a result of successful operations of Armed Forces, eight extremists including a ring leader Shahr Gul were killed and thirteen others were injured seriously. An ammunition depot of the extremists was also destroyed (News-Pushto: 26 August, 1988).

The Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that as a result of successful operations of the Armed Forces in the outskirts of Syed Karam Uluswali of Paktia province ten war-mongering elements including two Arab advisers were killed and twelve others injured (27 August, 1988).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: On August 1, Mujahideen attacked security posts at Landi and Basawal.

On August 2, Mujahideen shot down a Soviet-made jet fighter with ZPU-1 anti-aircraft machinegun in Khogiani district.

On August 4, Mujahideen attacked an Afghan Army 'border bridge' somewhere in Ningarhar province, killing 11 soldiers, including 2 officers.

On August 6, Mujahideen fired rockets on targets in Jalalabad.

On August 8-9, Mujahideen conducted rocket attacks on military establishments and security posts in or near Behsud, Shinwar and Ghanikhel areas. Forty-nine regime troops were killed and 3 tanks and 4 other vehicles were destroyed. Three security posts were eliminated.

On August 15, Mujahideen attacked security posts near Behsud. Twenty soldiers killed.

On August 24, ten regime soldiers deserted their post at Shamshad near Pakistani border and joined Mujahideen.

On August 28-29, Mujahideen made a series of attacks in Kohi, Loi Dakka and Jalalabad areas. More than 50 regime soldiers were killed

or wounded and 21 captured.

VIRA: Another fighter plane of the Kabul regime was shot down by Mujahideen in Khogiani area of Ningarhar province (News—Pushto: 7 August, 1988).

Radio Tehran: Twenty-four missiles were fired on military and economic facilities in Jalalabad city as a result of which a large number of communists were killed (News—Urdu: 6 August, 1988).

BBC: Radio Kabul has reported that nine people were killed and ten others injured as a result of guerilla rocket attacks on the eastern Jalalabad city. The radio said that six rockets hit residential areas last Friday killing seven children and three women (News—Pushto: 7 August, 1988).

According to reports rocket attacks were carried out in the first week of August on the Afghan city of Jalalabad. Western diplomatic sources say that some two thousand Hindus left the city (9 August, 88).

The official Kabul Radio has reported that six people were killed and others were injured yesterday when more than forty rockets struck two residential areas of the eastern town of Jalalabad (News—English: 15 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: According to a report, an armed extremist group attached with the group of Gulbadin which indulged in disrupting life of peaceful people of Ningarhar province, has been crushed. The armed forces had full support of the local people.

Two people were killed and their arms were also seized (News—Urdu: 5 August, 1988).

During successful operations, seven ground-to-ground missiles, which were ready to be fired at the residential areas of Jalalabad city by the extremists, were un-earthed and seized by the Armed Forces in Faqir Wagan Alaquadari.

According to another report, the heroic Armed Forces in the course of clean-up operation killed five extremist elements in Kameh Wolesswali of Ningarhar province. Eleven extremists were also reported to have been seriously injured (5 August, 1988).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the extremist elements fired twelve ground-to-ground missiles at the residential area of Jalalabad city today on the sacred day of Ashura. As a result of it, our one compatriot was martyred and two others injured. One house was also destroyed in the course of the missile attack (News—Pushto: 22 August, 1988).

Kunar

Mujahideen sources: 23 July: Mujahideen attack and destroy the

fort of Pashad in Kunar Valley. The rocket attack lasted about 24 hours. There were more than 1,000 persons in the fort. Most of whom fled before the Mujahideen closed in. The fleeing troops blew up arms and ammunition dumps.

24 July: Mujahideen Commander Kashmir Khan lays siege of Shigal Thana near Asmar.

27 July: Mujahideen attack regime troops in Asadabad.

On August 2, Mujahideen attacked troops of the 9th Kabul Army troops in Kunar Valley, killing about 15 of them.

On August 5, Mujahideen ambushed a mobile military force coming in to relieve the Kabul regime contingent in Shigal Thana. An armoured vehicle was destroyed. Three Mujahideen were killed. Also on the same day, the Mujahideen destroyed a security post near Asadabad.

On August 8, Mujahideen captured security posts at Slampur.

On August 11, Mujahideen under the command of Kashmir Khan conquered the Kabul army strong point at Shigal Thana. This should make the Mujahideen progress towards the strategic cantonment of Asmar easier.

On August 14, fifteen Mujahideen were killed and 34 injured in a clash with regime forces near Sarkani township.

On August 18, Mujahideen fired rockets on troops in Asadabad and Asmar.

On August 24, Mujahideen attacked army establishments in Narang district.

On August 28, Mujahideen attacked troops at Chauki.

On August 29, a large ammunition depot was destroyed at Asadabad.

On August 31, Mig fighter aeroplane was shot down near Asmar cantonment.

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen destroyed a fort of the communist regime in Kunar Province early this month, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy troops and forcing others to flee.

According to another report, the Afghan Mujahideen have got the control of a large portion of Jalalabad-Asadabad highway (9 Aug, 88).

BBC: Radio Kabul says Afghan army in a clash has killed 45 rebels in a district in Kunar province. The Radio said that during the clash which took place yesterday, another 35 rebels were wounded and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was destroyed (News—Urdu: 8 August, 1988).

Radio Beijing: The Afghan resistance forces have taken a strategic post of Shigal in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province.

Radio Beijing's correspondent in Islamabad reports that the

Mujahideen took Shigal after one and a half month's of fighting.

Our correspondent quotes report as saying that the victory will enable resistance forces attack the strategically important town of Asmar near Pakistan very soon (News—English: 16 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The heroic Armed Forces, in the course of successful operations have dealt heavy blows to the extremist elements in Kunar province recently, causing heavy casualties to the criminals.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the Armed Forces, in the course of mopping up operations, have wiped out 67 extremists in Kunar province.

During these operations sixty-nine extremists were reported to be injured and their several hide-outs were destroyed (24 August, 1988).

Radio Moscow: In Afghanistan, armed units of the Opposition made heavy shelling on the positions of Afghan forces near Chaukanai village in Kunar province. The shells and mines used by the extremists apparently contained poisonous chemical material because immediately after their explosion a cloud emerged which caused great damage to the forests (News—Urdu: 23 August, 1988).

Nooristan

Nil report from all sources.

Provinces Bordering Soviet Union

Badakhshan (also bordering Pakistan)

Radio Kabul: An extremist group belonging to Gulbadin Hikmatyar, which was engaged in subversive activities in the Badakhshan province, has been wiped out by the security forces (News—Urdu: 24 August, 1988).

Takhar

Mujahideen sources: On August 1, Soviet forces seemed to have evacuated some sizeable parts of Takhar, but they still were there to strengthen the provincial headquarters, Taloqan. Their airfields were also operative.

The countryside presented a scene of utter devastation by Soviet artillery and aerial bombardment over the years, particularly in the previous few months. Much of Takhar provinces agriculture and fruit-bearing orchards had been destroyed.

There was some sort of a lull in operations which seemed ominous amidst rumours circulating that guerilla fighter Ahmed Shah Masood might strike Soviet-Kabul establishments anytime. Other rumours said

Ahmed Shah was negotiating with the Russians, independently. Mujahideen sources discounted rumours adversely reflecting on the steadfastness of Ahmed Shah.

On August 10, Ahmed Shah Masood suddenly struck on the provincial headquarters, Taloqan and after two days of fierce fighting on August 12 forced occupation forces to withdraw towards the Soviet border town of Archi. He collected a large quantity of arms and ammunition from Taloqan. Shortly before Taloqan's fall, Kabul regime soldiers had switched allegiance to Mujahideen at several places in Takhar, for instance, no less than 500 of them joined the Mujahideen at Bangi on August 5.

On August 15, Mujahideen "triumphed over" Soviet-Kabul forces in Yangi Qala District, lying close to the Russian border. The attack which took the local authorities by complete surprise yielded the Mujahideen over 800 pieces of arms and 15 vehicles. They also took into custody about 600 regime soldiers. Another 25 were killed. The Mujahideen lost 8 fighters in this operation.

Soviet aircraft followed up with bombardment of the Mujahideen and civilian targets in the Yangi Qala and Imam Sahib districts.

On August 26, Mujahideen attacked government troops and establishments in the Chaab town, close to the Soviet border. They also took some security posts near Darqad.

VIRA: The Muslim Mujahideen in the course of successful operations have taken the control of Taloqan city of Takhar province. Taloqan city is located in the north of Afghanistan (28 August, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim freedom fighters during their operation in the Taloqan city of Takhar province liberated the city from the Kabul troops and occupied it. They had also occupied Bamiyan city last Sunday. The city was besieged by the Mujahideen for the last four weeks. With this Mujahideen have achieved prospect to gain control over the entire Bamiyan province (News—Urdu: 26 Aug, 1988).

VOA: Afghan Mujahideen have claimed that they have not only captured Kunduz town in the north of country but have also gained control over Taloqan, the headquarters of the Takhar province, close to the Soviet border. Taloqan is situated 70 kilometres, east of Kunduz (16 August, 1988).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: 17 July: Mujahideen attack a Soviet military convoy in Shorab area of Imam Sahib district. Three tanks hit.

23 July: Mujahideen attacked and occupy an 'important' bridge near Kunduz.

On August 7, an audacious group of Mujahideen who evidently had links with elements in Kunduz city's civil and military administration entered the provincial headquarters. A part of the Kabuli garrison joined the Mujahideen. Others fled after a fight. The Mujahideen captured more than 1,600 light weapons and 67 heavy weapons. At least 30 Mujahideen and 150 civilians were killed in the fighting. On arrival of fresh troops from other parts of Afghanistan and air support from the Soviet Union—the Mujahideen pulled out from Kunduz city, after remaining there for about 10 days.

On the night of 7-8 August, Mujahideen waylaid and inflicted heavy losses on an 'operational group' of the 18th Division of Kabul army, while it was moving from Mazar-e-Sharif to Kunduz.

On August 13, Mujahideen clashed with Kabul forces in Shorab area of Imam Sahib District.

On August 17, Mujahideen attacked a Soviet military convoy in Shorab area of Imam Sahib district.

On August 22, Mujahideen entered the Amu river port of Sher Khan. Here they captured a number of troops and officials, besides large quantities of arms and ammunition.

On August 23, Mujahideen shot down a Soviet-made transport aircraft over Kunduz city.

VIRA: Fierce fighting between the Afghan Muslim Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul troops is continuing in Kunduz province. A source of Afghan Mujahideen in Islamabad says that serious clashes are continuing in Kunduz and its adjoining areas and the Mujahideen are in the control of strategic areas of the province (17 August, 1988).

The Afghan Mujahideen have shot down an aircraft of the Afghan Air Force over Kunduz city.

Giving details of the incident, a Soviet daily, *IZVESTIA* has written that 120 soldiers of the joint forces on board were killed.

Referring to the capturing of the city by the Mujahideen, the daily writes that at present the government troops are not able to check Mujahideen's attacks on military and others government installations in that area (19 August, 1988).

Radio Jeddah: In Afghanistan, fighter and bomber units of the Soviet forces had been asked to help the Kabul government troops in taking back Kunduz city in the middle of this month. It may be recalled Soviet forces did not support the Government troops in taking back Kunduz. The situation in Kunduz is very critical but it is not a threat for the Soviet Union (News—Urdu: 22 August, 1988).

BBC: In Afghanistan, where the withdrawal of Soviet forces is continuing as planned, the Soviet Union has confirmed that the rebels

have captured the provincial capital of Kunduz, close to the Soviet border, the first city to fall since the Soviet troops withdrawal began three months ago. A report by Brain Hammerhan in Moscow:—

Moscow radio says UN observers have been monitoring the pull out and can confirm that it is going according to the agreed time-table. The Soviet Commander says that all departing troops will be across the border and back inside the Soviet Union by this morning. With the first stage of the Soviet retreat finished the burden of continuing the war against the rebel Mujahideen now falls on Afghan government troops. Soviet Commander says his forces garrison only two wedges of Afghan territory. The first is a corridor stretching north from Kabul to the Soviet border. The second is along the border with Iran. Qandahar in the south, also without Soviet defenders, is now considered vulnerable to the Mujahideen. The cities have been shaken this week by rocket and artillery attacks. The Soviet news agency Tass says that nineteen people were killed on Saturday night and accuses the rebels are trying to panic the population. But if the Mujahideen can capture and hold the city then they could proclaim it as a capital of an alternative government for which they can seek international support (Newsreel—English: 15 August, 1988).

On the day when the Soviet Union has confirmed that half of its soldiers backing the Government of Dr. Najibullah in Afghanistan have withdrawn, there is confusion about the status of the northern city of Kunduz near the Soviet border. Yesterday, it was said to have fallen to the Mujahideen, but today President Najibullah says his Government has retaken it. I asked a writer on Afghanistan R. Owens what he made of the claims and counter claims?

R. Owens: Given the quality of Kabul regime's press releases over the years, I think it would be safe to take it at its face value. I think that what it means is that there is fighting now going on in Kunduz between the Mujahideen resistance and the regime itself. If the Soviets do not directly intervene, I would think that the Kabul regime may be hard-pressed to hang on to that and other provincial cities over the long term.

T. Lumas: And yet everyone has been forcecasting that it would be able to hold on to the cities in the short to medium-term?

R. Owens: Well, I think Kabul is where all of the military efforts in the end must be centred and the regime's ability to hold Kabul is probably not in question, atleast not now, not until perhaps early next year when all the Soviet troops have gone.

T. Lumas: How important will it be for the Mujahideen to take a

city and to hold it in the face of strong attempts by the Kabul Government to win it back?

R. Owens: I think that the importance of getting and hanging on to a major population centre cannot be over-estimated. The Mujahideen need a city for several reasons. First of all, it would be an enormous moral victory and huge moral defeat for the regime. Secondly, it would allow them (Mujahideen) to proclaim a Provincial Government on Afghan soil which would then start the proceedings for receiving United Nations recognition and would allow the commanders doing fighting to be directly resupplied through UN or other efforts, directly into Afghanistan as opposed to through the intermediary of Pakistan and that is where a lot of the arms and lot of the money is sucked off.

T. Lumas: And would Kunduz be a good city for them to choose for their purpose.

R. Owens: I don't think so simply because it is very near the Soviet frontier and very vulnerable to Soviet air strikes, and very hard to resupply because it is very high mountain range. I think Qandahar would be the more likely candidate, but can never tell.

T. Lumas: But head-on fighting for cities is going to be expensive for the Mujahideen in terms of manpower and in terms of resources. Are not there other tactics that they will be following?

R. Owens: I think it will be expensive in both terms and even more importantly, there will be high civilian casualties and this is some thing that the more sensible Mujahideen commanders are very eager to avoid. They do not want the kind of civilian casualties that could turn the civilian population against the resistance. Some of the commanders are opposed to this long-range bombardment of Kabul that has been going on, where civilian have been indiscriminately killed. Blockading has always been one of their most successful tactics. It is very labour-intensive to employ a lot of people and it requires a lot of regime's soldiers to keep up the defence against them. And when they are blockading a city, the Mujahideen are in an advantageous position because they can keep reshuffling troops around and keep replacing troops and sending other ones back to Pakistan for resupply while the regime trapped in the cities is really unable to do this and it can really grind down the soldiers morale and bring about the kind of mass defections, whole companies and regiments as we have sometimes seen in the past. That the Mujahideen are really going to have both, capturing weaponry that they will receive from these defections and also to be able to show the civilian population that, look, here is another company of regime's soldiers defecting to our side (Twenty-Four-Hours—English: 15 Aug, 88).

The United States has accused the Soviet Union of violating the

terms of the Geneva peace agreements under which Soviet troops are being withdrawn from Afghanistan. A State Department spokeswoman Mrs. Filis Oakley says the United States has information, which suggests that Soviet planes were used in a military operation earlier this month to retake the city of Kunduz in Northern Afghanistan and that was a violation of the Geneva Accord. From Washington, here is Peter Ross:

The weeks ago, the Mujahideen rebels occupied the town of Kunduz and, in response, Soviet ground troops returned to the city, and there was widespread fighting. According to American information, combat and some artillery units were moved from other parts of Afghanistan to retake the city from the Mujahideen. That action, in itself, did not break the Geneva agreements. But, the United States, said it has information, probably coming from intelligence satellites, that during the fighting, there were at least five bombing missions by Soviet aircraft, some of them based in the Soviet Union itself. If that is true, it would be a violation, Mrs. Oakley said, and that the administration had lodged a formal complaint, although she was not clear exactly now (News Desk—English: 30 August, 1988).

VOA: News reports say Afghan rebel have seized the provincial capital in Northern Afghanistan near the Soviet border. The reports quote Soviet sources who say the rebels gained control of Kunduz Friday after three days of fierce fighting with Afghan government troops. They say the Afghan army now holds only the city's airport. The rebels struck earlier this week after Soviet forces withdraw from the city (13 August, 1988).

Soviet troops in Afghanistan have been redeployed, north to Kunduz city, the capital of Kunduz province, next to the Soviet border. With details here is VOA's John Shultz in Islamabad:

Mujahideen commanders near Kunduz say they occupied the city completely for some time before being forced to pull out August 17th. Western diplomats in Islamabad say as many as three to four thousand Afghan government troops are confirming the presence of Soviet reinforcements returning to the city as well. The diplomats say there are five fights a day from Kabul, carrying supplies and ammunition to Kunduz. They also say Soviet air strikes against targets in Northern Afghanistan continued from bases inside the Soviet Union, a violation of the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan.

But they say they see no sign of any Soviet troops being reintroduced into the country as the nine months process of withdrawal continues (Radio Report—English: 30 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The naked aggression of the 'American Mujahideen' on Kunduz city has recalled the savages of Changez and Halakoo. The hirelings of the American imperialism did not even spare the old women and children. They looted the houses of the people and set on fire grain markets and godowns. They burnt mosques alongwith the copies of the Holy Quran. They also set on fire the vegetable ghee and soap factories in Kunduz, built fifty years back where thousands worked to earn livelihood for their children. In Kunduz, the Mujahideen of dollars have committed such inhuman crimes against the people which was not done by Israeli Zionism with the Palestinians. The Mujahideen of dollars, the mercenaries are so much hated in Kunduz, that sensible Afghans feel shame on hearing names and they do not consider them as Afghans and Pushtoos. BBC, VOA and Radio Pakistan propagate fighting for the sake of Islam in Afghanistan and as waging a Jihad against the Russian troops. These radio stations are calling, the Mujahideen of dollars as real Mujahideen. Every Afghan knows the fact that the acts and deeds of ring leaders, the seven Parties Alliance are repugnant to the principles of Islam and Jihad. In the name of so-called Jihad, Gulbadin, Sayyaf, Gillani, Mujadaddi, Khalis and Rabbani have earned millions of dollars and rupees. These leaders in the name of Jihad against the Soviet troops have killed thousands and lakhs of innocent Afghans for dollars and rupees from America and Pakistan.

The cowardly attack of the Mujahideen of dollars of Kunduz took place at a time when the Soviet troops had left that province and returned to their country a few days earlier. When the brave Afghan armed forces, reached Kunduz, the thieves were puzzled and fled. They were unable to face the Afghan Armed Forces. Majority of the Mujahideen of dollars fled leaving behind the looted goods but the armed forces blocked their way and they were punished (Commentary—Pushto: 21 August, 1988).

Kabul Times: The last few weeks had some bitter lessons for us. The Kunduz incident has indicated to the entire country, what the lack of decisive approach toward the extremists', lack of attention to the defence and security, and differences between responsible figures of the provinces, being away from the people and the capitulatory spirit would result in. Today Kunduz city has been freed, and normalcy is returning to the province. When I was coming to the present session, the message of the elders and chieftains of Khan Abad and Imam Sahib districts, indicating the readiness of the armed opposition forces of the district negotiations, was submitted to me. We would ensure peace in these districts as per the coalition administration and without using force, and establish as soon as possible popular coalition power there.

Those who fought in Kunduz against the government received deadly blows. When they referred to Imam Sahib and Khan Abad and said that they were no longer fighting, we agreed to stop operations. What we are interested in is the aim of war. We have formed a coalition administration not only in one province but in many others. It has been done to stop further bloodshed and fratricidal war.

The wounds inflicted by the Kunduz incident will continue for a long time. We will rehabilitate Kunduz and make it more beautiful than ever. We will punish the former officials of the province whose cowardice and irresponsibility led to the incident in Kunduz. But we cannot bring back the martyrs. We cannot condole their widows and orphans. The only thing we can do, and are obliged to do, is that the incidents of Kunduz should not repeated in future. (Excerpts from Dr. Najibullah's speech in the National Assembly in Kabul on August 27, 1988). (KNT: August 28, 1988).

Radio Moscow: Life is returning to normal in Kunduz province. According to a report of Bakhtar news agency hundreds of those families which had fled the city due to terrorists' threats have now returned to their abodes. Buildings demolished by terrorists in the city are being reconstructed and government is extending financial assistance to the residents of the city. Tons of eatables and relief goods have been despatched to Kunduz city.

The Afghan armed forces are continuing their clean up operation in villages in the suburbs of Kunduz (News—Pushto: 25 August, 1988).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: On August 1, Mujahideen attacked Soviet troops in their cantonment at Kelagai. A large quantity of arms and ammunition dump was ignited and continued burning from 10 am to 11 pm at night. It was stated that 5 helicopters and several tanks were destroyed in the fire. An unspecified number of Soviet troops were also killed.

On August 4, twelve Kabuli troops were killed when Mujahideen attacked a security post guarding Baghlan city.

On August 5, Mujahideen attacked transport on the Salang highway.

On August 7, Mujahideen attacked a military post at Salang in Baghlan city. The building was dynamited. Thirty-five Kabuli troops join the Mujahideen. On the same day, they attacked yet another post at Piani.

On August 10, Mujahideen busted the oil pipeline near Pul-e-Khumri.

On August 12, Mujahideen eliminated a military post at Chehl Dakhtaran and captured the township of Aliabad after fierce fighting.

On August 14-15, Mujahideen attacked a large Soviet convoy consisting of some 200 trucks, armoured cars and tanks near Pul-e-Khumri. The convoy was proceeding northward. At least 2 tanks were hit.

On August 17, Mujahideen hit oil tankers along the Salang highway in Baghlan province.

On August 20, a platoon of 160 men defected to the Mujahideen near Pul-e-Khumri, as the Mujahideen increased pressure on this city. Pul-e-Khumri lies on the withdrawal route of the Soviet troops. It has large fuel and ammunition depots and an exclusive residential area for the Russian. A huge explosion in one of the ammunition dumps in Pul-e-Khumri had killed a large number of Russians about a week earlier.

Also on August 20, Mujahideen shot down a Russian-made aircraft which was reconnoitring Mujahideen positions near Baghlan city.

On August 23, another Russian-made aircraft was downed in Hasantal area.

On August 26, Mujahideen attacked Kabuli troops in the Nahrin area and security posts along the Baghlan-Mazar road.

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen have destroyed a security post of the Kabul regime troops in the suburbs of Baghlan city. The Mujahideen also captured twenty communist troops (10 August, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Mujahideen have destroyed three tanks and military vehicles of the joint forces of the Salang highway. The Mujahideen also wiped out a security post of the Kabul regime troops and captured twenty communist troops near Baghlan city (14 August, 88).

The Afghan Mujahideen have inflicted heavy casualties on Soviet troops in an attack on a Soviet military convoy consisting of two hundred tanks and other armoured vehicles in Pul-e-Khumri area. Similarly, the Afghan Mujahideen succeeded in wiping out a number of military posts of the joint troops besides killing a number of communist troops in Baghlan Province. The Mujahideen have also shot down a fighter plane of the Kabul regime in Baghlan Province.

On the other hand, one hundred and twenty-five Kabul regime troops have joined the ranks of the Mujahideen along the strategic Salang highway.

According to the reports, two thousand troops of the Kabul regime have joined the ranks of the Afghan Mujahideen in Baghlan Province since the signing of the Geneva Accords (28 August, 1988).

BBC: Western diplomatic sources and Afghan guerillas in Pakistan say that the Mujahideen have blown up an ammunition dump at a Soviet military base in the north of Afghanistan. Reports indicate a

heavy loss of life as well as widespread damage to equipment. George Arney in Islamabad has been gathering the reports:

The Soviet military base at Kalagai lies just off the Salang highway, about half way between Kabul and the Soviet border. It was one of the Afghan army's main ammunition depots and the large amount of Kabul fuel supplies is still there as well. Hundreds of Soviet families are believed to be stationed at the base. Western diplomats have received conflicting reports but they quoted an unidentified Soviet troop as saying that a stinger rocket fired by guerillas blew up fuel and ammunition, destroying an unspecified number of helicopters and causing heavy Soviet casualties.

According to a separate message sent to Peshawar by an Afghan guerilla commander in the area, hundreds of Soviet civilian and military personnel were killed and injured when a huge explosion showered missiles and ammunition over a wide area. The Commander had claimed that six helicopters and dozens of tanks and other vehicles were destroyed in the blast (Newsreel—English: 16 August, 1988).

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman has, for the first time, spoken about an explosion two weeks ago at an ammunition depot north of the Afghan capital, Kabul.

At a news conference in Moscow, Mr. Grasimov confirmed that there had been an explosion at a depot about half way between Kabul and the Soviet border. But, he said, there were no casualties and gave no further details.

Reports last week quoting Afghan guerilla sources and Western diplomats say that hundreds of Soviet soldiers and civilians had died in the explosion (News—English: 24 August, 1988).

VOA: Many sources have reported that the Mujahideen fired rockets on the largest supply depot of the Kabul regime on August 8, 9. The fuel and ammunition supply depot is located in Qalagai near Pul-e-Khumri along the Salang highway, nearly one hundred kilometres south of Kunduz. The depot contained ammunition and huge quantity of fuel which could be used by the Afghan Army for at least two years (16 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Another armed group of the extremists which had been disrupting peaceful life of the people, was wiped out by the Armed Forces in the outskirts of Baghlan city recently. Six missiles and ten Machineguns were seized from the extremists (News—Pushto: 27 August, 1988).

Samangan

Mujahideen sources: On August 2, Mujahideen fired rockets on Kholm as a result of which a security post guarding the township was wiped out. The Mujahideen also attacked a mobile force at Hazrat Sultan.

On August 17, Mujahideen conducted a rocket attack on Aibak city, headquarters of Samangan province. Two security posts were hit and a number of troops killed and wounded.

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: 25 July: Mujahideen conduct a rocket attack on Mazar-e-Sharif, the headquarters of Balkh province bordering with Soviet Union. Two official buildings were destroyed and several Kabuli troops were killed and injured.

26 July: Soviet planes bomb the Mujahideen position, three Mujahideen killed and 14 injured.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen have succeeded in wiping out a number of military posts besides capturing 60 communist troops in Mazar-e-Sharif (News—Pushto: 29 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Under decree No. 204 of the President of the Revolutionary Council on the purchase of arms and equipment from the opponent armed groups, four ground-to-air missiles and a number of other arms were purchased in Deh Zadi Alaquadari of Balkh province. Bakhtar news agency reports these missiles and arms were brought from across the border by the extremists for shooting down of the passenger planes and other terrorist activities in Afghanistan (News—Pushto: 8 August, 1988).

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: 11 July: Mujahideen attack security posts in Ardang area.

17 July: Mujahideen attack military convoy near Seyshanbe. Three vehicles destroyed.

Radio Moscow: Foreign Military advisers keep crossing into Afghanistan with anti-government formations, reports coming here say. Two Arab advisers arrived in Hamari Kala village of Aqchah district, Jozjan province, recently. They set up a propaganda centre of "irreconcilables" in the mosque of this village. The character of propaganda can be judged, in part, by the following fact. On one of the days the Arab advisers disguised two groups of rebels in the uniform of government troops and staged before cameras Afghan servicemen's violence against peaceful residents of the village. Eventually, it is supposed well be used the taped

material as a certain proof of the ruthlessness of the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan (TASS: 3 August, 1988).

Sar-e-Pul

Radio Tehran: The Mujahideen attacked government posts in Sar-e-Pul area on the 20th of Sartan inflicting heavy losses to the enemy troops. Six Mujahideen were martyred and four others injured during the operations (News—Pushto: 16 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: A group of thirty armed men headed by Zainullah which was involved in destructive operations in Sar-e-Pul province stopped armed activities and joined the process of national reconciliation.

BIA reports that at a gathering held on the occasion the leader of the group pledged support and readiness to cooperate with the Government for ensuring peace in Sar-e-Pul province (1 August, 1988).

Faryab

Radio Kabul: Likewise an armed group of twenty-three men headed by Wakil Abdul Hameed joined the process of national reconciliation in the city of Maimana in Faryab Province.

BIA reports from the city of Maimana that these compatriots were welcomed by the people and concerned authorities of Faryab Province (News—English: 30 August, 1988).

Radio Moscow: An increasing number of opposition units, realizing the senselessness of further bloodshed, are laying down the arms despite threats from Peshawar. Thus 80 Oppositionists went over to the side of people's power in Faryab province. On behalf of these people the commander of the group announced full support for the national reconciliation policy (5 August, 1988).

Badghis

Nil report from all sources.

Provinces Bordering Iran

Herat (also bordering Soviet Union)

Mujahideen sources: On August 4, Mujahideen ambushed a military supply convoy near Islam Qala (Iran-Afghanistan border area), hitting 2 vehicles and killing 10 Afghan troops.

On August 5, about 100 militiamen defected to Mujahideen in Injil district.

On August 7-8, Mujahideen fired rockets on Herat city, hitting two security posts.

On August 12, Mujahideen attacked security posts around Herat city, capturing four of them. Sixty troops were believed killed or injured.

On August 15, Mujahideen attacked a convoy in Islam Qala area.

On August 18, Afghan government troops and Russian troops exchanged fire at Shan Dand airbase resulting in about 50 dead. Afterwards a number of Afghan army officers were arrested and flown to Kabul.

On August 28, Mujahideen shot down a helicopter near Pashtoon Zarghun.

A correspondent sent the following report on military situation in Herat on August 25.

Element in the Afghan army in Herat province are secretly cooperating with Mujahideen and the town's fall after the Soviet withdrawal is inevitable according to a resistance sources.

With the Mujahideen's announcement of amnesty in April, army desertion has grown. There were three thousand troops who intended to join the Mujahideen and asked them for families. But the Mujahideen were unable to provide them, they were asked to stay on with the government, and cooperate with us.

Under the Mujahideen amnesty decree, 100 armed militiamen led by Noorgul Pahlawan defected to the Mujahideen in Injil district on August 5. Jamiat-Islami sources said, the defection was followed by a bombing raid by Kabul regime aircraft.

A Jamiat-Islami fighter said: "The Mujahideen are able to take Herat, but it would be difficult to hold it while the Soviets are there. After they are gone, the Mujahideen will seize the city because then there will be no one to fight against them."

He said that Soviet troops are deployed in the Miraud Adraskan and Lakhsak areas around Herat.

According to him, four security lines each consisting of 30 to 40 posts, defend the city. Thirteen lines of mines lie around each post, he said. But the Mujahideen's influence in the army helps them to operate at close range (AMRC, 25 August, 1988).

Radio Tehran: In Herat province, the Mujahideen killed forty-five Communist troops, as they were back masive attack of the Kabul regime troops (18 August, 1988).

The INDEPENDENT daily carries a report by Mark Irvin from Herat. He writes there is peace there, but this peace may be misleading. The correspondent, however, writes that the guerillas have made claims several times that they have destroyed the city, but the city stands at its place. Only some buildings around the city have been damaged

(Sairbeen Press-Review: 15 August, 1988).

VOA: People coming from Herat say that despite presence of the Soviet forces there, the situation is worse than in Qandahar. All the sub suburbs of Herat city have gone under the control of Mujahideen (23 August, 1988).

Kabul Times: Seven persons, including women and children, were killed and two others severely injured when the criminal extremists fired heavy weapons at residential areas of Injil district, Herat province (3 August, 1988).

A Soviet regime left Herat province for home on August 13 after performing their international duties in Afghanistan.

According to Bakhtar News Agency, a message of Afghan President Najibullah was read out at the function held in this connection. Then, the Deputy Secretary of the Communist party, Herat province expressed his views about the performance of the human duties performed by the Soviet officers and men. A Soviet officer thanked for the good behaviour of the people of Herat. Later, the troops presented general salute and the audience showered flowers petals on them. According to the report, some three thousand people attended the function (News-Urdu: 15 August, 1988).

Farah

Mujahideen sources: On August 7, Mujahideen attacked regime mobile and immobile targets near Farah city during which a number of tanks and other vehicles were destroyed.

VIRA: Quoting a source of Muslim Mujahideen AFP has reported that as a result of successful operation of the Mujahideen in shindand area of Farah province, one Russian military officer was killed and three others were made captive.

According to the report, following the arrest of the Soviet officers, the Soviet Military Commanders approached the Mujahideen for their release. In reply to this the Mujahideen demanded that first all prisoners belonging to the Mujahideens ranks in the area be released. Finally, the Russians agreed to pay a ransom of one hundred and eighty thousand dollars to the Mujahideen to secure the release of their three military officers and for the deadbody of another one. (3 August, 1988).

Radio Beijing: Another ten thousand Soviet troops on Friday started pulling out of Farah province in South west Afghanistan.

Radio Beijing's Islamabad correspondent quotes Western diplomats as saying that the Soviet troops had not been attacked by the resistance forces during their withdrawal.

According to a Pakistan international news agency, Soviet troops

have withdrawn from nineteen provinces by Wednesday.

Under the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan the remaining sixty thousand Soviet troops stationed in eleven provinces will put out before February the fifteenth next year. (News-English: 12 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: A group of armed extremist elements which had been disrupting peaceful life of our people in Balabaluk Woleswali of Farah province was wiped out yesterday.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency says that a result of the military operations of the armed forces which took place with the cooperation of the local people in the outskirts of Balabaluk, eight extremists were killed and five others injured seriously. (News-Pushto: 25 August, 1988).

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan

Mujahideen sources: On August 3, a joint force of the Mujahideen made a massive attack on the headquarters of Bamiyan province, the Bamiyan city. The Kabul forces had been reinforcing their garrison there by air for sometime as over time the Mujahideen siege of the city was tightening. At the very outset of the attack a number of regime soldiers defected to the Mujahideen side.

The attack on Bamiyan city continued for more than 20 days and the city fell to the Mujahideen on August 21. A large number of soldiers, Khad personnel and communist party members were killed in the fighting.

On August 22, Kabul regime aircraft bombarded Mujahideen positions in and around Bamiyan city. Soviet forces had already cleared off the city before the Mujahideen arrival. Likewise, when conditions became too hot in Bamiyan, high civil and military officers left the city by air.

VIRA: The Muslim Mujahideen have captured Bamiyan city on Sunday last. The Bamiyan city had been under the siege of the Muslim Afghan Mujahideen for the past four weeks. The surroundings areas, infact the entire Bamiyan province has all come to the control of the Mujahideen. (28 August, 1988).

Radio Tehran: According to a report of the Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA, Bamiyan city, 150 Km west of Kabul, has been the scene of fierce fighting between the Afghan Mujahideen and the Soviet-Kabul troops during last week.

Quoting the Mujahideen sources, the report says following capture of eight security posts near that city, siege around Bamiyan has been narrowed by the Afghan Mujahideen and in retaliation of Mujahideen

attacks the Soviet-Kabul forces have resorted to aerial bombing of the the areas under Mujahideen control. (News-Persian: 31 August, 1988).

BBC: Guerillas in Afghanistan have claimed a further success. They say they have taken control of the town of Bamiyan in central Afghanistan and their claim has been partially confirmed by the official Afghan News Agency. From Islamabad George Arney reports:—

Only one guerilla group, the Hazebe-e-Islami of Gulbadin Hakmatyar has so far claimed that Bamiyan has been captured and in his report sent by Hazebe-e-Islami Commander in the area, on Thursday, said that un-specified number of Afghan government troops and Communist Party members have been killed in the attack. According to the report, thousands of weapons and stores of ammunition, food and clothing were abandoned by fleeing Afghan troops. No details were given of guerilla casualties possibly because of slow communication.

Western diplomats said last week that casualties of fierce fighting in Bamiyan were being brought to Kabul, about a hundred mile to the east. Partial confirmation of the guerillas claim comes from the official Afghan News Agency Bakhtar, which said that government forces in Bamiyan have been temporary re-deployed to allow the establishment of a coalition government. Before the advent of Islam, Bamiyan was a centre of Buddhist pilgrimage and two huge statues of Buddhist still dominate the valley. But it is not of a vital strategic importance and it is possible it has been evacuated rather than captured. It is possible the Kabul government may not attempt to re-establish control. (Newsreel-English: 27 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: For the last several days, armed extremist groups are putting pressure on Bamiyan city by using heavy arms.

Following the signing of Geneva Accords and withdrawal of the Soviet limited contingent, a number of opponent groups have established contacts with the government organs recently and have called for setting up coalition administration in Bamiyan. Dialogue in this connection was in progress. But now some of the extremist and war mongering elements through the peaceful life of our people and the understanding reached between the opponent groups and the local administration.

Recently the elders and representatives of Bamiyan concerned with the implementation of the national reconciliation, have approached the responsible government officials and have demanded that their areas should be declared as neutral zone. This issue will come for discussion at a special jirga in the near future. (News-Pushto: 26 August, 1988).

Ghor

Mujahideen sources: On 12 August, Mujahideen conducted rocket attack on Shaharak district. Eleven Afghan troops were killed, and two posts were destroyed.

Uruzgan

Nil report from all sources.

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: 18 July: Mujahideen Attack security posts in Sakardara district.

19 July: Fighting continues in villages around Sakardara.

20 July: Two trucks destroyed on road between Zar Shakh and mined earlier and Qala-e-Hakim earlier.

23-24 July: Mujahideen fire rockets on Kabul airfield. Two aircraft hit.

Mujahideen attack security posts in Mir Bacha Kot district.

26 July: An aeroplane hit by MB-1 attack on Bagram airport.

27 July: A Mujahid killed when 'Russian' ambush a Mujahideen group in Baba Hussain Wali area.

Soviet-made aircraft attack Mujahideen positions around Kabul city. Two of these aircraft were shot down in Chehar Deh area.

28 July: Eight Afghan troops killed and 2 vehicles destroyed during Mujahideen attacks on a military base near Qarga.

A "combined force" of Soviet-Kabul troops arrives in Sarobi, east of Kabul on the Kabul-Jalalabad road.

Mujahideen fire rockets on Kabul airport.

29 July: Mujahideen fire rockets on Kabul airport.

29 July: Mujahideen fire rockets on the Shahrara section of Kabul city, and paghman killing a number of Russian, among them.

On August 1, Mujahideen fired a "new" type of rockets on Kabul from Khak-i-Jabar and Kohi Pashaye area. The new weapon has a range of 20 kilometres. Among the targets was the 8th division of Afghan army. An ammunition depot was also blasted.

Soviet-Kabul forces retaliated by heavy air and ground artillery attacks on Mujahideen positions.

On August 2, Twentyseven RA "personnel" were killed in the Qala-i-Qazi area, about 15 kilometres west of Kabul. Mujahideen also attacked "communist troops" in Bala Bagh and Khawaja Lakan area in Paghman. On the same day, the Soviet Embassy building was partially

damaged by rockets fired by Mujahideen. They also killed 2 and injured 4 other during an attack on a convoy on the Kabul-Parwan road. Rockets were also fired on the Kabul airport.

On August 5, Mujahideen destroyed 30 vehicles of a convoy carrying supplies to Paktia from Kabul.

On August 7, the Mujahideen made a massive attack on Sakardarra district, capturing 3 security posts.

On August 10, Sakardarra fell to the Mujahideen after prolonged siege. Mujahideen entered the district head quarters at 2:30 pm after continuous fighting for 3 days. Mujahideen source said they had seized 8 tanks, 27 rifles and a large quantity of food. More than 50 Afghan troops were killed.

As usual on the fall of a Soviet-Kabul garrison. Soviet-made aircraft bombarded near-by Guldara and Qala-i-Muradig area, killing 12 people and injuring 10 others. Many homes were destroyed in the bombing raids.

A part of the garrison moved to a rocket brigade located at some distance from Sakardarra.

On August 12, Mujahideen shot down a Soviet-made aircraft, somewhere in the 'outskirts of Kabul'. About that time Soviet-made aircraft had been bombarding villages in Musa Khan Kats areas.

On August 13, the "rocket brigade headquarters", near Sakardarra also fell to Mujahideen. Over 100 regime soldiers surrendered.

On August 15, Soviet-made aeroplanes dropped 'chemical bombs' in the suburbs of Shakardara. Among the casualties were ten women and children.

On August 16, Mujahideen captured a security post at Chultan in Paghman district.

On August 17, the famous Mujahideen commander Abdul Haq attacked the Kabul airport and Qargha division with rockets and long-distance guns, hitting atleast 4 helicopters and 8 tanks.

On August 26, Mujahideen fired rockets on targets in the central and northern parts of Kabul city.

VIRA: As a result of their operations in Kabul province, the Mujahideen have liberated Shakardara pass in the province. Later in retaliation, the Soviet fighter planes bombarded heavily the residential areas of the civilian population in Shakardara. As a result of the bombardment ten persons were martyred and fifteen others injured.

Another report from Kabul says that a Russian officer was killed during the rocket attack of the Mujahideen on the Kabul airport while two other officers were injured seriously. (News-Pushto: 17 August, 1988).

Radio Tehran: On the occasion of arrival of the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze in Kabul a car bomb rocked the city, killing four and wounding seventeen people. (6 August, 1988).

The Afghan Muslim freedom fighters have occupied some part of the Kabul-Qandahar Highway. The freedom fighters in their operations in Jawara, Shakardara, Panichat and Kandrab areas of Kabul, Ningarhar, Balkh and Qandahar provinces in early August, killed more than one hundred and twenty communists, and destroyed their fourteen posts, tanks, vehicles and military hardware and captured a large quantity of arms. After these operations fighter planes of Kabul government heavily bombarded the base of Muslim freedom fighters in Balkh province and martyred eighty Mujahideen. (News-Urdu: 12 August, 1988).

BBC: The Mujahideen rocket attacks on the Afghan capital Kabul have been reduced to a great extent during last week as the Soviet-Afghan troops launched new operations against the guerilla strongholds in the surrounding hills. George Arney reports from Islamabad:—

The Mujahideen rocket attacks are still continuing on the capital Kabul but there has been a decline in these attacks during last week as compared to the past. Western diplomats in Islamabad say that at least twelve rockets were fired on Kabul last week as a result of which nineteen people including civilians were killed. In an incident, inhabitants of an area were asked to leave their houses. The Mujahideen attacks on Kabul are possibly aimed at weakening the defence of Kabul Government. The authorities had seized more than twenty Chinese made rockets last week. These diplomats say that Kabul government is facing great threat from the Mujahideen strongholds in west of Kabul. These diplomats have quoted military personnel of the Kabul government as saying that they have been launching ground-and air attacks in western Kabul and Paghman for the past few days. The report says that the Mujahideen have captured seven out of ten posts of the Kabul government during past few weeks. Diplomats say that the Afghan Mujahideen in an offensive killed or wounded fortyfive Soviet-Kabul troops in Shah-e-Bala area in Paghman on Saturday last. Similarly, air bombardment was also carried out in Shakardara last week.

On the other hand, fighting is also going on in Maidan Shehr area, south-west of Kabul which the Mujahideen had brought under their control for a short time in June last. (News Desk-English: The World Today: 2 August, 1988).

As the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan continued

the Afghan leader, Dr. Najibullah has been speaking about the threat from rebel action and has described the measure taken to defend the capital Kabul.

Speaking to Religious and Community leaders Dr. Najibullah admitted that guerilla activities have disrupted some essential supplies but he denied that Kabul or any other city was facing starvation. He urged the people to counter false rumours and avoid panic.

Dr. Najibullah said ten thousand youths have been conscripted in the past two months in Kabul alone.

All members of the Ruling Party have completed general military training and the defence zones around the city were being formed.

A BBC correspondent in neighbouring Pakistan says that despite recent operations against guerilla positions there are still reports of several thousand guerillas active only fifteen miles from Kabul and they have been tightening their grip on the main highways. (News-English: 10 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul reports that a number of rockets have landed in many areas of Kabul killing two people.

Diplomatic sources in Kabul say that these attacks have been started by the Afghan resistance, from the mountains around Kabul. (News-Pushto: 26 August, 1988).

Afghan guerillas have carried out a heavy rocket attack on the airport of the capital, Kabul. At least twenty rockets are reported to have hit the runway of surrounding buildings.

Soviet helicopter gunships immediately attacked guerilla positions in the surrounding hills. There are no official reports of casualties or damage but the attack is said to be the heaviest on the airport since June. (27 August, 1988).

VOA: The New York Times correspondent writes that Afghan Mujahideen have intensified their attacks on Kabul. Rockets and artillery shells hit the international airport and damaged Soviet and Afghan forces positions there. Western diplomats say that the attack on the airport which also damaged runway of the airport, compelled them to change the direction of the flights. The attack was worst in the history of Afghan resistance. The attack shows that Resistance Movement against Najibullah government has been intensified. American correspondent writes that despite Afghan Mujahideens sudden and serious attack on city's suburbs, diplomats and Afghan officials do not feel immediate threat of fall of the government or the city. During recent months, sporadic attacks of Afghan Mujahideen continued on Kabul. Mujahideen had destroyed at least eight Soviet aircraft in an attack on the airport on 25th June but the attack made in the day

light yesterday was a serious one. After attacks on internal defence lines of the city, at least twenty rockets hit the airport. In the early hours of the night, several rockets passed over the International Intercontinental Hotel and fell near a mosque at a distance of about five hundred yards. Before attack on the airport, fighting between the two sides continued around Kabul for the whole day. In the morning the two sides fired shells and rockets on each other at only ten kilometres away from Kabul. Clouds of smoke were seen when Afghan and Soviet bases were hit by the rockets fired by Afghan Mujahideen from the hills. The government forces in retaliation used machine guns and also fired continuously rockets which presented a scene of an arch of fire over Mujahideens bases. At that time, Soviet and Afghan forces were seen advancing to down hill with Soviet made T-55 tanks towards Mujahideen. According to the report of correspondent a diplomat said that there are twenty-five thousand Soviet troops in Kabul, who have to go back by February. Twenty five thousand more Soviet troops are deployed around other major cities. If withdrawal of the Soviet forces is completed by 15th February, weapons worth several billion dollars will be left for use of Afghan soldiers. They include jet fighter aircraft and helicopter gunships. (Press Review-Urdu: 28 August, 1988).

AIR: Reports from Kabul say there have been renewed attacks on the Afghan capital by the rebels. Four Soviet soldiers were killed and many injured in the attacks.

The Afghans rebels are also said to have attacked two convoys of home-going Soviet troops in Salang pass, a key route for the troops heading home from eastern Afghanistan. (News-English: 13 August, 1988).

Four persons died and fifteen wounded when a landmine blew up a passenger bus in Afghanistan.

According to Kabul Radio a mine planted by the rebels went off when the bus was on its way to Kabul from Laghman province in the north east on Tuesday. (News-English: 25 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: A military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency reports that about one hundred rockets, which were ready to be fired by the extremists on the residential areas of Kabul city, were unearthed and seized by the Armed forces in Khak-e-Jabbar area. As a result of the operation which took place with the cooperation of the local people, a number of extremist elements of Gulbadin band were killed.

Similarly in another operations about seventyfive ground-to-ground missiles were seized by the Armed Forces in Paghman Woleswali. These missiles were also ready for firing against the people of

Kabul city. (News-Pushto: 3 August, 1988).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that an extremist element belonging to the criminal band of Gulbadin planted explosive material near Shahrara market of Kabul this morning. As a result of the blast of the explosive the extremist was killed on the spot. Three persons are reported to have been killed and eighteen others injured as a result of explosion. (News-Pushto: 4 August, 1988).

Moscow TV: A large gang of extremists who were shelling the Afghan capitals has been routed on the outskirts of Kabul. Here is a reportage from our correspondent A. Shkirando:

Shkirando: here, just 20 Km from Kabul, in an isolated mountainous region, was located a bridgehead of a gang belonging to the Islamic party of Afghanistan, which is headed by Golbodin Hekmatyar. We arrived in this area when the operation had virtually been completed.

Lt. Col. V.A. Vostrotin, hero of the Soviet Union: it has perfectly obvious that the gang included, as well as the ordinary dushmans, servicemen of the Pakistani regular Army, and voluntary advisors. Apart from the usual arms they had surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 25 Km. But it has been completely annihilated tanks to the joint actions of the Afghan Army brigade and our sub-units.

At the present moment—and we can guarantee this—there will be no more shelling of Kabul from this area.

Shkirando: as a result of this operation 77 Egyptian-made surface-to-surface rockets were disarmed, as well as a large quantity of British and Italian-made mines and other armaments. The only witness of the anti-human activities of this band is Nur Ahmed, a member of the people's militia, who was captured by the extremists and miraculously lived.

Nur Ahmed, in vernacular with superimposed Russian translation: all activities connected with the preparation of and shelling of Kabul occurred before my eyes. The head of the gang sent his people to the capital in order to convince the inhabitants that it was Soviet troops who were carrying out the shelling.

Shkirando: and so, an end has been put to the barbarous activities of yet another gang of irreconcilable extremists who have been sowing fear and panic among the inhabitants of the Afghan capital. (In Russian: 4 August, 1988).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: 25 July: Mujahideen attack military convoy near Salang Tunnels. Four tankers and another vehicle hit.

28 July: Three Kabul Army officers, along with 112 other ranks

belonging to the provincial headquarters at Charikar cross over to Mujahideen lines. They brought two jeeps, a truck and sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition.

30 July: Mujahideen attack two security posts manned by Russians on the outskirts of Bagram Airport. A number of Russians were killed. Other fled to the airport.

On August 1, Mujahideen fired rockets on Bagram airfield. Three aircraft and 4 armoured personnel carriers were hit.

On August 12, Mujahideen attacked security posts near Baghlan (in Parwan province).

On August 13, Mujahideen attacked security posts in Gulbahar Textile Mill area.

On August 15, Mujahideen attacked Kabul troops in Jabal-us-Siraj.

On August 21, Mujahideen continued attacks on security post in Gulbahar Textile Mill area. Three tanks destroyed.

On August 26, Mujahideen hijacked a bus carrying civil and military officers and men to the Bagram airport. Twentyfive of them including a pilot, were carried off to the liberated territory.

Radio Kabul: Another ten member armed group, led by Engineer Abdul Haq, joined the people rule in Parwan province yesterday. According to a Bakhtar report, the leader and members of this group pledge to fully cooperate with the government in the maintenance of peace in the country. (News-Pushto: 3 August, 1988).

An armed group of ten men headed by Mohammad Ehsan which was actively involved in destructive activities in the areas belonging to Parwan province responded to the call of national reconciliation and came over to the side of the peoples government. (News-English: 21 August, 1988).

Kapisa

Mujahideen sources: Refugees — mostly internal refugees from Kabul—are returning to the liberated parts of Panjsheer valley. They are clearing the paths, agriculture fields and orchards of mines and repairing irrigation channels. There are three type of Mines, namely the Trip Mines, the Pressure Mines and Wave Mines. The Wave Mines are supposed to have been sown by spetsne special commando troops and are the most difficult to handle. Many Mujahideen and non-combatants have been killed and disabled by these mines.

On August 13, Mujahideen captured 2 Kabul Army security posts in the Najrab area of Kapisia province. Eleven of the fleeing soldiers were taken. The security posts were blasted.

Radio Kabul: An armed group of fifteen members which was

involved in devastating aggression in Kapisa province welcomed the national reconciliation policy and the Geneva Agreement and came to the side of the people's power and joined the defence units of province for safeguarding peace in the area. (1 August, 1988).

As a result clashes in Tagab Woleswali of Kapisa province between the armed hostile groups recently two persons were killed and twelve others injured. (5 August, 1988).

TASS: Kabul, August 5: Bloody clashes between belligerent Afghan armed opposition groups are continuing.

According to a Bakhtar agency report, fifteen extremists carrying property plundered from the population hit mines planted on a mountain path in Najrab district of Kapisa province by rebels from a rival group. (5 August, 1988).

Laghman

Mujahideen sources: 24-25 July: Mujahideen fire rockets on military posts near Surkhakan.

30 July: Mujahideen attack a convoy near Chahbagh. Two vehicles hit and fourteen troops believed killed.

On August 4, Mujahideen attacked the subdivisional headquarters of Surkh Kan with rockets. A security post was destroyed.

On August 8-9, Mujahideen attacked a military camp near Mehterlam. Twenty Afghan troops were killed. Another 85 surrendered and volunteered to join the Mujahideen ranks.

Kabul Times: Four persons, including women and children, were killed and eight injured when Meterlam city was sheeled by surface-to-surface rockets by the criminal extremists on Tuesday night at around 9 p.m. (KT: 11 August, 1988).

Radio Kabul: During the clashes between the hostile groups of Gulbadin band and Jamiat-a-Islami band in Alinagar area, 14 persons were killed and several others injured. The clashes which started on Sumbala 8th, are still continuing. (News-Pushto: 31 August, 1988).

Radio Moscow: The terrorists committed a fresh crime in Deh-Mazuz village in Laghman province. Three children hit the mines planted by the terrorists.

Representatives of the security forces, who arrived at the scene, uncoverable and defused several more U.S. made plastic mines. (9 August, 1988).

Afghan security forces intercepted a caravan of weapons and ammunition enroute from Pakistan to Laghman province, near Bihar Shanandkhel. Residents of the village informed the military command about the caravan. Ten rebels responsible for carrying weapons were

killed in fighting on the occasion. (25 August, 1988).

Logar

Mujahideen sources: 25 July: Fourteen persons suspected to be agents of KHAD (Afghan Secret Police) were tried by an Islamic Court in the Liberated Territory for spying on the Kabul-Gardez road. Seven were found guilty and awarded the capital sentence. Two proved innocent and were released. The cases of the remaining 5 are pending.

30 July: A Soviet force estimated at several thousands persons arrived in Pul-i-Alam in hundreds of trucks, armoured personnel carriers and tanks. They were supported by fighter-bombers and helicopter gunships. Their purpose was to reopen the highway between Kabul and Qandhar and Gardez.

In order to break impediments erected on the road by the Mujahideen, Soviet-made aircraft heavily bombarded their positions and the villages from where they were supposed to be operating. Twenty to twenty five jets and helicopter was conducting this bombardment and it resulted in the killing of many Mujahideen and non-combatants and destruction of housing. The Soviets also lost some trucks and men.

On August 4, Soviet-made aircraft heavily bombarded Mujahideen positions between Mohammad Agha in Logar province and Gardez in Paktia province for the purpose of reopening the strategic Kabul-Gardez road. A number of Mujahideen, including commander Zakirullah were killed and Soviet-Kabul transport was able to push through. However, Mohammad Agha town itself still had a strong Mujahideen presence. Severe damage was done to the housing and crops by Soviet bombardment.

On August 29, a Mujahideen report said they had captured the subdistrict centre of Charkh. After short but sharp action garrison surrendered to the Mujahideen. Here they seized an ammunition depot and large quantities of wheat and clothing.

Radio Kabul: As a result of the mopping operation which took place with the cooperation of the residents of Logar province, Zakria, the ring leader of an extremist group belonging to Gulbadin band together with seventy members of the band was killed and large quantities of arms and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report an extremist group which was disrupting the peaceful life of the people of Mohammad Agha district of Logar province has recently been quashed by the security forces of the country. In this operation one commander belonging to Gulbadin

band together with two Pakistani advisers and seven members of the band were killed. (13 August, 1988).

Wardak

Mujahideen sources: On August 6, the Mujahideen captured Brigadier Muhammad Yousof, popularly known as Shahwali, a member of the Revolutionary Council and two KHAD senior officer during an ambush at Qala-e-Kashmiri in Maidan. In this ambush the Mujahideen also seized four guns and one wireless set.

Radio Kabul: As a result of bloody clashes which took place between the extremist groups of the Gulbadin in Narkh Alaquadari of Wardak province recently, eight persons were killed. (25 August, 1988).

Kabul Times: Mohammad Ilyas, Khan Jan, Abdul Malok and Mohammad Naim, ringleaders of Gulbaddin band were killed and a number of extremists injured in a clash with the peace loving residents of Wardak province who resolved to expel the armed extremist groups from their areas. One man and a 13-year-old child from among the residents were also killed in the clash. (KT: August 1988).

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below were the major Kabul Radio themes in August 1988, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Attacks on the late President Zia's Personality:
 - (a) During his life (1-8-1988 to 17-8-1988).
Habitual liar, power hungry General, manipulates Islam for personal and US interests, hates RA.
 - (b) After his death (18-8-1988 to 30-8-1988).
The oppressed people received the news of his death with great pleasure, fate of bloody dictator is also bloody, his regime was notorious for ambiguous programmes, drug trafficking.
2. Allegations against Pakistan of violating Geneva Accords by supplying arms, and imparting training to extremists and sending Pakistani troops to fight against the heroic armed forces of Afghanistan.
3. Soviet Union and Afghanistan are abiding by the Geneva Accords, in spite of continuous violations by Pakistan.
4. Refugees wish to return to Afghanistan, but they are being prevented by Pakistani and Iranian authorities.

5. Highlighting the National Reconciliation Policy of the Kabul regime. ('Masses are determined to make a success of National Reconciliation Programme').

Radio Moscow

Given below were the major Moscow media themes in August, 1988, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Accusing Pakistan that it is creating difficulties for the implementation of Geneva Accords.
2. Moscow and Kabul are fulfilling commitments made in Geneva. ('Respecting the letter and spirit of the Accord').
3. Alleged Pakistan and the U.S. have stepped up interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.
4. There was not any Afghan-Soviet involvement in Zia's plane crash.
5. Afghan forces are capable of protecting Afghanistan's territorial integrity.

APPENDIX - 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN AUGUST 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Soviet Casualties	:	685 killed and	235 wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	1431 killed and	561 wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	393 killed and	61 wounded
Defections	:	2554 Kabul troops defected and	1945 captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	198 killed and	237 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	318 killed and	135 wounded

Material Losses

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses:

Aircraft	18	LMGs	136	Security Posts	229
Helicopters	21	HMGs	64	Munition Depot	15
Tanks	151	Klashnikovs	1220	Buildings	11
APCs	61	Rocket		Barrack	1
HMVs	214	Launchers	16	Food depot	5
Trucks	100	Doshaka	18	Bridges	2
Jeeps	20	Rifles	94	Fuel	100 Tones
Oil Tankers	42	Handgrenedes	70	Cloth depot	4
Wireless Sets	20	Weapons of diffe-		Heavy weapons	67
Mortars	56	rent kinds	6993	Heavy quality of	
Cannons	6	Bullets of different		arms and ammu-	
Zigoyak	6	kinds		nition	20 times
Tractors	7	Howitzers	8		reported
Scooters	2	Matress	50		

Mujahideen Material Losses:

Kalashnikovs 2

APPENDIX - 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN AUGUST 1988
SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Losses sustained by "Counter-revolutionaries"

Killed	858
Wounded	803
Captured	103
Returnees:	
(i) Civilian Refugees	4535
(ii) Armed Men Surrendering	511

Mujahideen Material Losses:

S-A missiles	4
S-S missiles	1270
Reactive Units	12
Dshkh gun	24 + 13 boxes of shells
Rocket Launchers	321 + 49 shells
Klashnikovs	79
Explosives	405 kg.
Munition depots	5
Rounds of Ammunition	Several thousands
HMGs	11 + 6 boxes of shells
LMGs	77 + 13 boxes of shells
Bases/Hideouts	14
Mortars	11 + 477 shall and 6 boxes
Trenches	16
Boxes of Cartridges	80
Quantities of Arms and Ammunition	8
Recoilless guns	14
Mines (misc.)	365
Assorted weapons	A large number.
Wireless	19
Cartons of liquor	250

Losses inflicted by counter-revolutionary element:

Human Losses:

Killed	89	Wounded	169
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Material Losses:

Vehicles 6, Helicopters 2, Mosques 2, Houses 32

Beside other unspecified material losses.

APPENDIX - 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN AUGUST 1988
(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capital	Engagements	
			Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	3	Zaranj	—	—
Hilmand	6	Lashkargarh	1	—
Qandahar	65	Qandahar	10	9
Zabul	13	Kalat Gilzai	1	1
Ghazni	16	Ghazni	2	1
Paktika	6	Sharna	—	1
Paktiya	22	Gardez	4	1
Ningarhar	23	Jalalabad	4	1
Kunar	20	Chagha Sarai	4	1
Nooristan	—	Nooristan	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	—	Faizabad	—	—
Takhar	17	Taloqan	2	—
Kunduz	12	Kunduz	5	1
Samangan	6	Samangan	1	—
Balkh	3	Mazar Sharif	1	—
Jozjan	2	Shebergan	—	—
Sar-e-pul	3	Sar-e-pul	—	1
Faryab	2	Maimana	—	—
Badghis	—	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	9	Herat	1	5
Farah	2	Farah	—	1
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	12	Bamiyan	7	3
Ghor	3	Chaghcharan	—	1
Uruzgan	—	Tarin Kot	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	116	Kabul	14	6
Parwan	10	Charikar	—	—
Kapisa	1	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	5	Mehtarlam	—	1
Logar	26	Pule Alam	—	—
Wardak	11	Kotelesro	3	—
TOTAL	439		63	37

APPENDIX - 4

**MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND
SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN AUGUST 1988
(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)**

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Soviet-Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	1	2	—	—	3
Qandahar	23	31	10	1	65
Hilmand	3	2	—	1	6
Zabul	7	3	3	3	13
Ghazni	5	5	6	—	16
Paktika	2	1	3	—	6
Paktiya	6	11	2	3	22
Ningarhar	3	20	—	—	23
Kunar	8	11	—	1	20
Nooristan	—	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR					
Takhar	—	16	1	—	17
Kunduz	5	6	—	1	12
Baghlan	9	16	—	—	25
Samangan	2	4	—	—	6
Balkh	—	2	1	—	3
Jozjan	2	—	—	—	2
Sar-e-pul	—	3	—	—	3
Faryab	2	—	—	—	2
Bordering Iran					
Herat	4	4	1	—	9
Farah	—	2	—	—	2
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	3	6	3	—	12
Ghor	—	2	—	1	3
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	30	55	13	18	116
Parwan	2	8	—	—	10
Kapisa	—	1	—	—	1
Laghman	1	4	—	—	5
Logar	8	5	8	5	26
Wardak	1	3	7	—	11
TOTAL:	127	223	58	31	439

APPENDIX - 5

**PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS
AND RETURNEES IN AUGUST 1988
(SOVIET-KABUL SOURCES)***

Provinces	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Counter-revolutionaries Action	Returnees numbers	Members of Armed groups surrendered
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	1	—	—
Hilmand	—	5	—	—
Qandahar	7	5	300	—
Zabul	—	—	—	—
Ghazni	5	8	—	25
Paktika	2	—	—	—
Paktiya	8	5	—	—
Ningarhar	22	4	1353	50
Kunar	9	1	—	—
Nooristan	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	4	1	—	—
Takhar	—	—	—	—
Kunduz	7	10	—	—
Baghlan	2	1	—	10
Samangan	1	—	1+7	—
Balkh	—	—	—	100
Jozjan	—	—	—	100
Sar-e-pul	—	—	—	—
Faryab	—	—	—	163
Badghis	—	—	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	2	2	495	—
Farah	1	—	127	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	—	—	—
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	10	17	2243	—
Parwan	3	—	9	20
Kapisa	—	—	—	15
Laghman	3	3	1	28
Logar	6	1	—	—
Wardak	1	—	—	—
TOTAL:	94	64	4535	511

*(Kabul Times, Bakhtar News Agencies, Kabul and Moscow radios etc.)

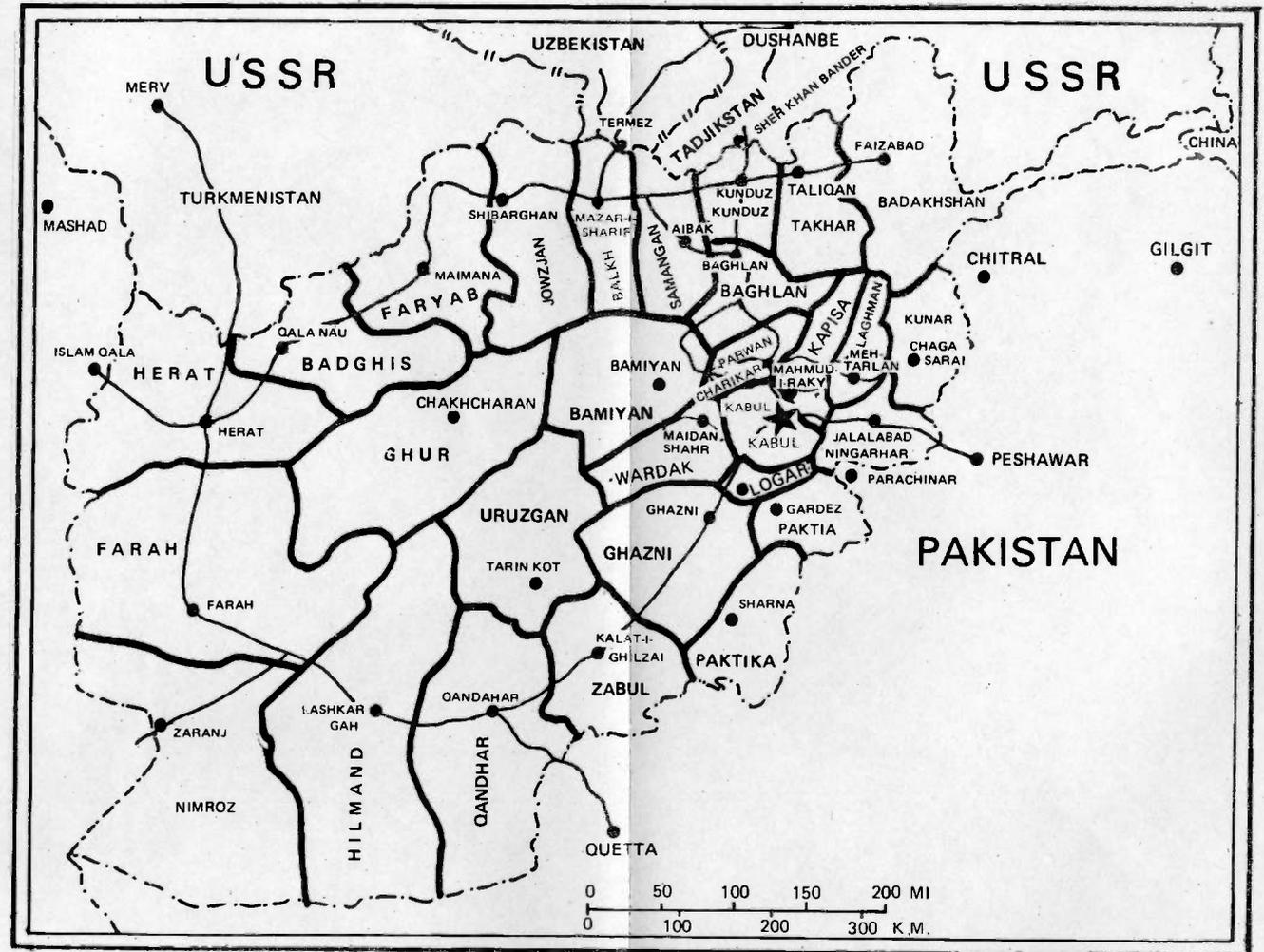
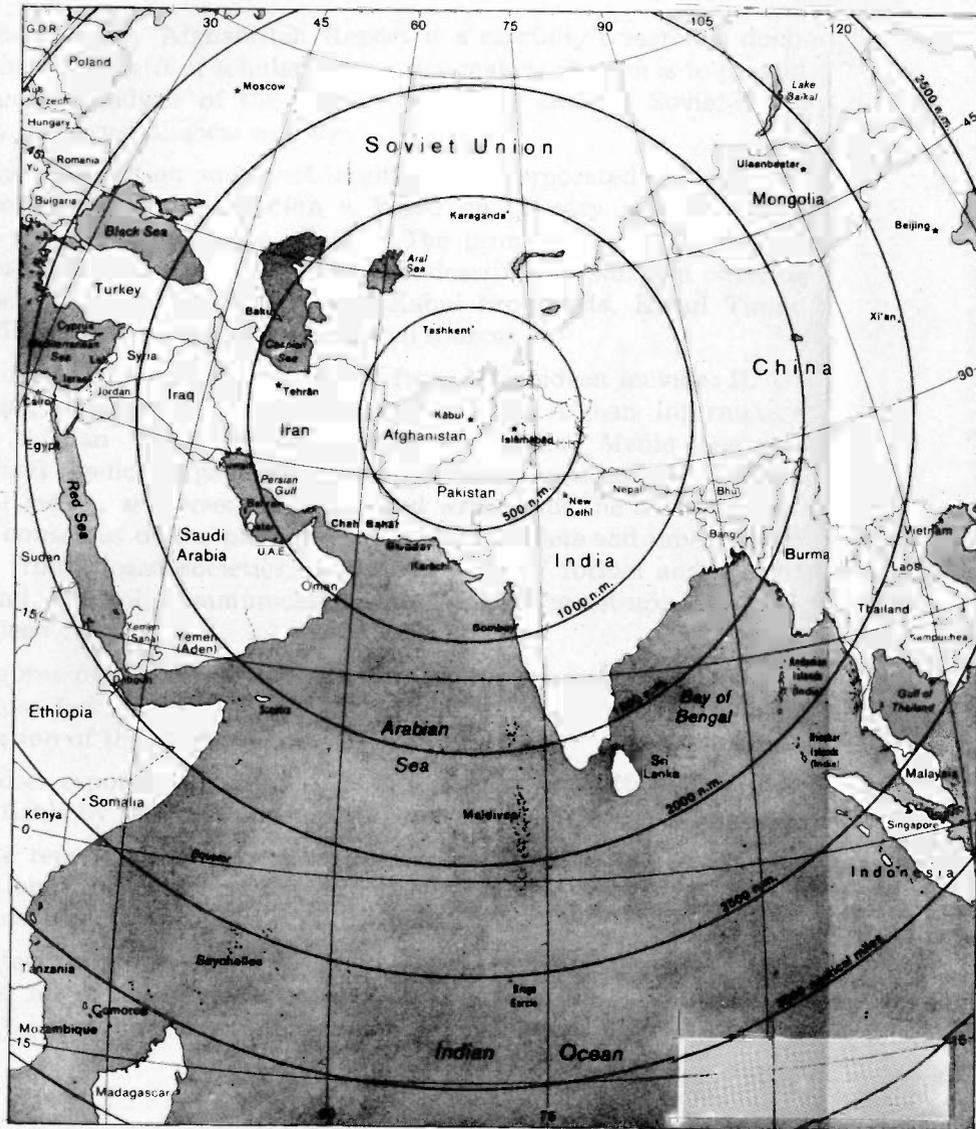
APPENDIX — 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES
IN AUGUST 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses destroyed/ Damaged	Heads of Live- stocks	Date (1988)
		K	W			
ZABUL	Shah Joi	12	12	—	—	30/7
TAKHAR	Yangi Qila	15	—	30	—	19/8
KUNDUZ	Imam Sahib	150	—	—	—	23/8
GHOR	Chagh Charan	—	—	—	—	1/8
KABUL	Paghman	—	—	—	—	12/7
—	—	10	12	—	—	19/7
—	—	6	9	—	—	19/7
—	Darazgor	1	3	—	—	19/7
—	Pir Bulawd	6	9	80	200	19/7
—	Darulaman	22	—	—	—	18/7
—	Kharooti	8	18	—	—	18/7
—	Qala-e-Hakim	8	—	—	—	24/7
—	Kabul Vicinity	14	20	18	—	2/8
—	Shakardara	—	—	—	—	15/8
—	Guldara	12	10	10	—	10/8
—	Musa Khan	2	3	5	—	12/8
—	Shakardara	10	—	—	—	15/8
LOGAR	Pul-e-Alam	8	—	10	50	30/7
—	Mohammad Agha	—	—	—	—	4/8
WARDAK	Mehrab Pul	14	7	—	—	17/7
—	Sanglakh	10	4	15	—	24/7
—	Jalrez	18	15	266	116	
Total:		326	122	434	366	

23 Incidents including
14 in Kabul alone.

APPENDIX - 7 A



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during August 1988 in 27 Provinces. Provinces from where no war report received are: Nooristan, Badakhshan, Badghis and Uruzgan.

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during August 1988 in 19 provinces. Provinces from where no war report received are: Nimroz, Zabul, Nooristan, Takhar, Sar-e-pul, Balkh, Jozjan, Faryab, Bamiyan, Ghor, Uruzgan and Kapisa.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Kabul Times, and FBIS material covering Soviet-Kabul sources.

Primary sources for news report from Mujahideen include: IUAM Handouts, A1 Bunyan News Service, from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, HIA despatches the Afghan Media Resource Centre and Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Provincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR).

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during August 1-31, 1988. Appendices 1-7 also incorporate July 1988 incidents reported in August 1988.

II.— POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Session of National Council Held

The second session of the National Council (Parliament) of the RA began in Kabul on August 27. Speaking at the opening session of the National Council, President Najibullah said "in the present situation the most important task before you is the restoration and maintenance of peace in the country." He said, that "in the areas where bloodshed continues, factories could not function properly. People could not continue their routine business as long as sounds of blasts and firing are heard. Continuing of war brings nothing but miseries and hardships to our people. In view of this, the foremost duty which lies before us is to go ahead with the NR programme so as to end bloodshed in the country and create unity among the political forces within and outside the country". (Radio Kabul: 27 August, 1988).

Council of Ministers Meets

The Council of Ministers met on August 9, in Kabul presided over by Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq, Prime Minister. The session decided that the bereaved family of a deceased state employee may be allowed to use his or her coupons for six more months after the death. The construction of a 300 bed gynaecology and obstetrics hospital in Kabul with the assistance of India and acquisition of lands in Pul-e-Charkhi for building factories of private entrepreneurs were approved in the session. (Kabul Times: 10 August, 1988).

Edward Shevardnadze Visit Kabul

The Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze arrived in Kabul for a four days working visit on August 4, 1988. He met with a broad-cross section of Afghan leaders during his stay in Kabul.

August 5

The Afghan President Najibullah met with the Visiting Soviet Foreign Minister. They discuss the present situation in and around Afghanistan. The Afghan Prime Minister Dr. Hassan Sharq met with Edward Shevardnadze and discussed matters of mutual interest with particular emphasis on the promotion of bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil also met Shevardnadze on the same day. Two sides discussed the implementation of the Geneva accords between Afghanistan and Pakistan and International situation. They also discussed matters pertaining to the forth coming UNGA Session.

August 6

Edward Shevardnadze met with the following leaders separately. Saleh Mohammad Zeary and Sultan Ali Keshtmand members of the Politburo and Secretaries of the PDPA CC, Mahbobullah Koshani First Secretary of the CC, Eshaq Kawa member of Politburo of CC of the TROA (Toilers Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan), Hamadullah Gran First Secretary, Dehzad member of Politburo of CC TROA. He also met with the Vice Presidents, Lt. General Mohammad Rafi, Dr. Abdul Sorabi and Abdul Hamid Mohtat, President of Senate, Dr. Mahmoud Habibi and the Speaker of Ulusi Jirgah (National Assembly) Dr. Khalil Ahmed Awabi. The Interior Minister Sayed Mohammad Gulabzoy and Chief of the Army Staff of Afghanistan Lt. Gen. Shah Nawaz Tani, Governors of Herat and Nangarhar, provinces and Garrison Commanders of Nangarhar, Herat and Paktia also met the Soviet Foreign Minister the same day. A number of private entrepreneurs held a meeting with Edward Shevardnadze and Valdimir Kamentsov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

August 7

The final round of talks between Najibullah and Edward Shevardnadze was held in which the outcome of the working visit of Soviet Foreign Minister was reviewed. (Radio Kabul: August 5, 6, 7, Kabul Times: August 6 and VOA August 8, 1988).

Najib Examines and Explains Kabul's Security

President Najibullah on August 10, visited the security posts in the security belt of Kabul city in Qargha region. He gave necessary instructions for the further consolidation of the security belt of Kabul city to the concerned authorities. President Najibullah, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the RA was accompanied by Col. Gen. Shahnawaz Tanai Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces. The commander of the eighth division explained the permanent bases as well as combat and security activities of the various units of the above division and the security posts in the security belt of Kabul city in the region. Najibullah then visited different posts of the artillery regiment in the security belt of Qarah region, billits of soldiers and the prepared-

ness of their combat activities. President Najibullah gave instructions to the officers of the eight division to pay keen attention in providing better living conditions and consolidation of strongholds and security posts in the security belt of Kabul city. The commander of the eight division promised to pay keen attention of further improving the living conditions of soldiers towards establishing peace, strengthening the combat morale of the units of the regiment in their struggle against the extremists. (Kabul Times: 11 August, 1988).

Brief summary of the speech of President Najibullah delivered at the meeting on August 8, 1988 with ulema, clergymen and representatives of Kabul city and province.

"We are gathered here today to discuss the consolidation of defence of Kabul city which is the political and administrative centre of the state. The great economic scientific and cultural potential of our society are concentrated in Kabul.

Kabul represents the honour of the people of Afghanistan. Kabul is the national pride of the people of Afghanistan. The people of our country, our enemies and friends and the world public watch the situation in Kabul. Peace and tranquility in the city is of vital significance for stability of the situation in the whole of Afghanistan.

Our heroic armed forces have never retreated and will never retreat. The enemy could not occupy the centres of provinces and districts, not withstanding all propaganda of the seven party alliance.

Dear friends, I call upon you to expose the baseless and provocative concoctions of the enemy. Remove anxiety. The enemy attempts to create difficulties and obstacles in transporting foodstuffs, industrial products and fuel. I don't want to hide from you that the shortage of goods is felt not only in rural areas but also in Kabul.

But hunger and starvation do not threaten the city or province of our country. This should be clear to all. The enemy cannot use the situation for its own benefit. There regarding economic blockade of Kabul is baseless. Special measures have been taken with regard to the consolidation of defence and security of Kabul city. A special zone has been set up 40 km away from Kabul. Several establishments are defended by self-defence groups. All members of the PDPA has been set up. The Special Guard is another unit newly set up.

We give more importance to self-defence groups of state institutions in the defence of the city and Kabul province.

The main and vital duty of the self-defence groups is ensuring of discipline and alertness and irreconciliability with the enemies plot. Carrying out these tasks are directly related to partolling in rural areas.

We should revive the past glory in localities and neighbourhood

organizations of the National Front. Such localities number one hundred only in Kabul. The local activists should know who are coming new to their localities and why they are coming. They should be vigilant so that houses are not rented by suspicious persons.

An alert Patrol means solution of most of the problems concerning social order. Security of houses and detecting arms stockpiles. In this regard, certain measures would be taken regarding the payment of additional salaries to local people, people's deputy should be made answerable first if any unexpected thing happens. The executive committees and party committees should include among their deputies also, should regularly meet them and solve the issue jointly with them.

Such duties also concern the village chiefs, sub-district and district administrators. Are there any others than local elders to know better the decisions of thousands when they will fire on Kabul city? If this happens, the officials of those neighbourhoods should answer. We count on your assistance in timely exposing and preventing the incidents.

It is necessary to speed up work with your cooperation with the inhabitants of the special zone which includes the areas of Shakardara, Paghman, Lalandar, Khak-i-Jabar, Kohi Safi and Deh Sabz.

The inhabitants of these areas should be made fully convinced that the government would not leave them alone in the face of opposition's attacks. In that case, the people would not support the extremists and would give them smashing blows.

Things should be arranged in such a way that the people can and are willing to report to the posts of the army and the Tsarandoy the extremists' designs.

Voluntary mobilization in the armed forces is going on the Kabul city and province. Only in Kabul, 10,000 youth were mobilized during the recent two months, I have spoken about the new privileges for the army servicemen. This is the sacred obligations of each Afghan. (Kabul Times: August 10, 1988).

Prime Minister Sharq Meets Foreign Journalists

The Afghan Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq has said that nobody can win the war in Afghanistan. In an interview with the New York Times, he said it is necessary to bring rebel organizations into government. Mr. Sharq called upon Pakistan and the U.S. to support a national coalition government in Kabul which will include moderates, guerilla representatives and leaders of the present ruling party. Mr Sharq said with General Zia's death the possibilities of negotiations and reconciliation have increased. He said there can be an

improvement in the situation if those who give weapons to the rebels advise them to sit across the negotiating table. (AIR: 30 August, 1988).

Afghan Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Sharq, held a meeting with the Foreign Journalists in Kabul and briefed them about the progress of Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. Replying to a question about situation in the provinces from where the Soviet contingents have withdrawn, the Prime Minister said that these provinces are still under the central government's control despite attempts from the armed opposition bands. To start talks for establishing peace in Afghanistan, if it is felt necessary then government posts will be given to representatives of opposition parties. None of us including Afghan President do not want to remain in power for personnel interest." He as Prime Minister of Afghanistan will make all out efforts to make the NR policy a success. (Radio Moscow: 7 August, 1988).

Wakil Admits Afghan Government's Mistakes

The Afghan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil says that Afghan government has committed some mistakes due to which war has accelerated and prolonged. Talking to newsmen in the Norwegian capital Oslo Mr. Wakil said mistake was that political power was confined only to the government ranks. He added that several reforms were implemented in haste without determining the situation obtaining in the country. (BBC: 25 August, 1988).

Departure of Diplomats from Afghanistan Criticised

The Afghan Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Sharq has criticized the decision of the Western embassies in Afghanistan to send back the unnecessary staff from Kabul. Dr. Sharq said that in his view the decision to evacuate the families of the Western embassies staff has in fact been made under the influence of anti-Afghan propaganda from Pakistan. He said that this decision should have been taken by the diplomatic community itself. Nearly 200 rockets were fired in Kabul before this decision. However, Dr. Sharq said that if Pakistan continues to violate the Geneva agreement then the return of the entire Soviet forces will be in jeopardy. Dr. Sharq said that this is not a warning to Pakistan but an appeal to it to stop its interference about which 60 complaints have been lodged with the United Nations observer group, monitoring the return of Soviet troops. (BBC: 31 August, 1988).

Afghanistan on the Top for Terrorism

A report has just been published by the American State Department on international state sponsored terrorism last year and it blamed

Afghanistan as the nation which has been responsible for most terrorist incidents. The State Department says it has evidence that the Afghanistan's Intelligence Organization which has close links with the Soviet KGB was responsible for more than a hundred and twenty (120) terrorist incidents against Pakistan, largely bombings which killed 234 people and wounded 1200 others. (BBC: 23 August, 1988).

Nooristan a New Province Established

President Najibullah on August 8, attended a jirgah of Nooristani people, held in Dilkusha Palace to hail the formation of a new province Nooristan. Speaking at the jirgah, President Najibullah said: Establishment of Nooristan province is of great political and economic significance. This attest clearly to the implementation of national policy, that the state responds to the interests of nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups of the country. The new province is a new success of NR policy. This is the second province established after the proclamation of the peace policy. (Kabul Times: 9 August, 1988).

New Appointments

On the proposal of the Council of Ministers, Lt. Gen. Shah Nawaz Tanai has been appointed as Defence Minister and Major General, Mohammad Asif as Chief of Army Staff. (Radio Kabul: 17 August, 1988).

President Najibullah has by decree 248 issued under article 79 of the Constitution appointed Mr. Assadullah Hassani son of Sayed Ghulam Ahmad Pacha, a member of the Senate. (Kabul Times: 17 August, 1988).

Constitutional Council Formed

The Constitutional Council has been formed in accordance with the provisions of article 146 of the constitution and Presidential decree No. 290, dated May 28, 1988 to determine that the laws, other legal documents and international treaties conform to the constitution. The council informs that if any law maintenance agency or other state organs or individual consider any legal document contrary to the constitution, they may inform the constitution council of the matter. (Kabul Times: 2 August, 1988).

Afghan Resistance

Addressing a press conference in Peshawar on August 15, Gulbadin Hikmatyar claimed that the Soviet Union intends to remove and bring some other person in place of Dr. Najibullah. Hikmatyar said

according to this information, the Soviet Foreign Minister during his recent visit to Kabul exchanged views on possibilities of removing Dr. Najibullah. He said the 'Khalq' faction of the party has proposed the names of Mohammad Gulabzoi and Dr. Shah Wali as a new President. Soviet and Afghan officials, according to Hikmatyar, had proposed the name of General Abdul Qadir while former Afghan monarch, Zahir Shah had proposed the name of former Prime Minister Mohammad Yousaf for the Presidentship. Hikmatyar also said that due to constant pressure of guerillas, Moscow had to withdraw its troops from northern provinces — Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar and Badakhshan ahead of schedule. He said the Soviet troops have been concentrating in six big bases and along the pipe line going to Moscow. He also predicted that the Soviet Union will perhaps pull out its entire troops from Afghanistan before the period agreed upon at Geneva. (BBC: 16 August, 1988).

Mujahideen commanders from North held a press conference in Islamabad where they say that after the Soviet troops pull out from Afghanistan the collective military strength of the Communist regime in Kabul would consist of one lakh and seventy thousand men while, on the other hand, the strength of the Mujahideen battling the Communist regime, will be near about two and a half lakh. At present, Mujahideen are divided into small groups, however, a proposal is presently under consideration to form a coordinated Islamic Army with the merger of all the small units of Mujahideen. This was stated by four members of the Northern Council of Mujahideen. Headed by Dr. Syed Hussain of Takhar Province, a twenty member Mujahideen delegation is currently in Pakistan.

The delegation members asserted that the majority of the Communist troops comprises of those who were enlisted forcibly and that they have little military training and experience. Thus, they were highly demoralized and would no more be able to face the Mujahideen after the Soviet troops withdrawal. Even today, the militia and military Jawans are fleeing in big numbers from the area vacated by the Soviet troops.

Dr. Syed Hussain claimed that each of the two and a half lakh Mujahideen has immense courage because of their deep devotion to his cause. He said that majority amongst the Mujahideen has an upper hand on the Communist troops in view of their ten years of military experience. A prominent Mujahideen Commander Ahmad Shah Masud, hailing from Panjsher Valley, is the Chief of this North Eastern Council of Afghanistan. A majority of the Council members including its Chief, Ahmad Shah Masud belongs to Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani's Jamiat-e-Islami. However, some other belonging to the Seven Party

Afghan Resistance Movement Alliance are also included in the Council. Dr. Syed Hussain maintained that he has come to Pakistan on the instruction of commander, Ahmad Shah with a view to have consultations with the Pakistan based Afghan Mujahideen leaders on matters like the provision of economic assistance to the liberated areas inside Afghanistan and the formation of an Islamic Army.

ACRONYMS

AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
RA	=	Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KT	=	The Kabul Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NF	=	National Front.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

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