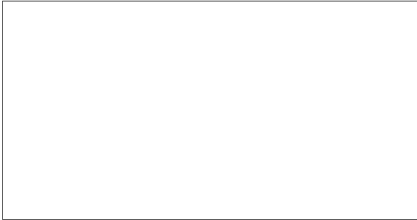




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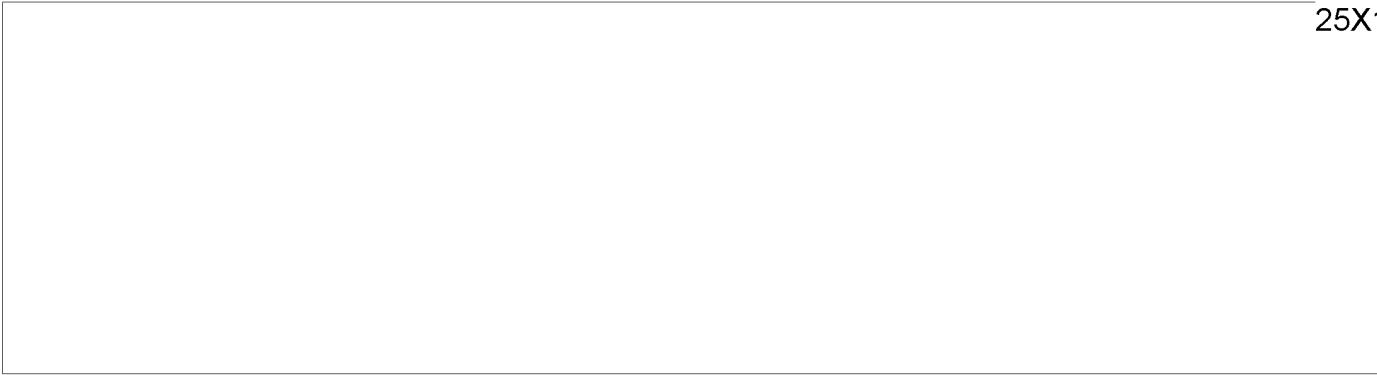
# Near East and South Asia Review



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Supplement  
5 December 1986

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<b>Articles</b>	<b>Afghanistan in September</b> [Redacted]	1	25X1
	[Redacted]		25X1

Soviet and Afghan forces attempted throughout September to secure Kabul from rocket attacks and to counter insurgent successes against aircraft through the use of Stinger surface-to-air missiles. Strong insurgent activity in the east probably led to Kabul's announcement of a plan to relocate up to 300,000 Afghans to the southwest. [Redacted] 25X1

<b>Afghanistan in October</b> [Redacted]	3	25X1
[Redacted]		25X1

Soviet and Afghan combat activity in October centered on supporting the safe withdrawal of six Soviet regiments from Afghanistan. Insurgent rocket strikes on Kabul continued intermittently despite numerous counterinsurgent operations in the environs of the city. [Redacted] 25X1

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*Some articles are preliminary views of a subject or speculative, but the contents normally will be coordinated as appropriate with other offices within CIA. Occasionally an article will represent the views of a single analyst; these items will be designated as noncoordinated views.* [Redacted] 25X1  
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**Articles**

**Afghanistan in September** [Redacted]

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Soviet and Afghan forces attempted throughout September to secure Kabul from rocket attacks. Soviet concerns about security in the capital prompted a month-long operation in Paghman, including brutal assaults against the civilian population there. A "get-tough" policy against civilians was also suggested by the regime's announcement in early September of a plan to relocate some 30,000 Afghan families from the strategic eastern provinces—where they form a support base for the insurgents—to sparsely inhabited provinces in the southwest. [Redacted]

The tenacity of the resistance in the Paghman area—with the consequent implications for security in Kabul—has been troublesome for the regime. US Embassy sources indicate that the Soviets and Afghans, seeking to weaken support for the insurgents, conducted a "brutal" campaign against civilian targets during these operations. [Redacted] 25X1

Soviet concern over aircraft losses was almost certainly heightened by the first insurgent successes—two confirmed aircraft downings—with Stinger surface-to-air missiles. [Redacted] Soviets recently modified their SU-17s to counter the growing missile threat. Insurgent effectiveness with antiaircraft weapons will raise the cost of the war for Moscow and is already having an adverse effect on morale in the Afghan Air Force. [Redacted]

**Other Combat Operations**  
[Redacted] 25X1  
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**Trying To Secure the Kabul Area**

Efforts to secure the Kabul area from insurgent attacks in preparation for the partial Soviet withdrawal dominated Soviet military operations during the month of September. A major Soviet-Afghan offensive was initiated on 4 September in the Paghman area with an artillery bombardment. The next day, SU-25 ground attack aircraft conducted strikes in the foothills north of Paghman, according to the US Embassy in Kabul. Subsequently, Soviet heliborne assaults were conducted in the area. During the second week of September the offensive shifted to the area north of Kabul but returned to Paghman by the third week. Fighting, reported to be heavy, continued through the month's end. [Redacted]

An engagement between Soviet and insurgent forces in early September near Jalalabad resulted in heavy casualties on both sides. [Redacted] 25X1  
[Redacted] a Soviet force from [Redacted] 25X1  
Jalalabad was engaged by the insurgents 30 kilometers southeast of the town in fighting that lasted over a week. According to the US Embassy in Kabul, on 9 September a flight of 20 MI-8 and MI-24 helicopters departed Kabul heading east toward Jalalabad. [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted]

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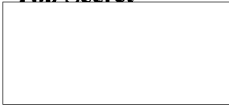
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**Impact of Greater Insurgent Antiaircraft Capability**

The increasing effectiveness of the insurgents in using surface-to-air missiles, especially Stingers, has forced changes in Soviet and Afghan air tactics. The first insurgent successes with the Stinger missile occurred on 25 September when the insurgents shot down two helicopters and damaged a third near Jalalabad,



the losses caused by these missiles have lowered the morale of Afghan fighter pilots. Some have asked for transfers to transport units or ground assignments and have complained that the Afghan military is not doing enough to counter the insurgent threat.

In response to the increased threat to air operations, the Soviets probably began to employ standard countermeasures to keep losses down, including modified flight profiles, using at least four aircraft on attack missions, and increased application of onboard countermissile systems such as infrared jammers and flares. If air losses continue to rise, the Soviets are likely to increase efforts to intimidate Pakistan by stepping up air violations—already at record levels—and increasing shallow cross-border strikes by Afghan and possibly Soviet aircraft. In addition, they may resort to more sabotage and subversion along the border.

The Soviets have already modified the SU-17 in a continuing effort to upgrade its capability to counter the threat of man-portable missiles such as the SA-7 and the Stinger. On 26 September, Soviet SU-17 fighter bombers, with modified chaff/flare dispensers, were identified for the first time in Afghanistan,

These chaff/flare dispensers have been used on MIG-23s in Afghanistan for over a year.

**Revetments for Afghan Aircraft**

The increasing threat to Afghan aircraft—from insurgent rocket attacks or internal sabotage—almost certainly prompted the construction of earthen revetments at Afghanistan's major airfields.



These revetments provide protection for Afghan aircraft against blast damage from rockets and sabotage, such as the incident at Shindand in June 1985.

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**Preparations for the Withdrawal of Soviet Troops**

During September the Soviets continued preparations for the announced withdrawal of Soviet troops.

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two additional tank battalions (40 tanks) from the USSR arrived at the 24th Guards Tank Regiment, Shindand, between 8 and 13 September.

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**Regime Plans Population Relocation**

Strong insurgent activity in the eastern section of the country, sustained by the support of the local population, probably led to Kabul's announcement in early September of a plan to relocate 30,000 Afghan families—some 300,000 people—from Konar, Laghman, and Paktia Provinces to the less populated western provinces of Nimruz, Helmand, and Farah. The government clearly sees a military advantage in depopulating the area but claims that the program is a result of overpopulation.

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harsh Soviet and regime retaliation against civilians aiding the insurgents has forced many Afghans to flee to Pakistan.

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The relocation program has not been implemented. It would probably have to be carried out by force because of strong tribal attachments to traditional landholdings. The use of coercion would led to more refugee flight.

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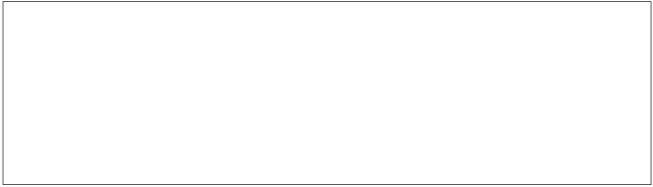
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**Afghanistan in October**



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Soviet and Afghan combat activity in October centered on supporting the safe withdrawal of six Soviet regiments from Afghanistan. Insurgent rocket strikes on Kabul continued intermittently despite numerous counterinsurgent operations in the environs of the city. In response to resistance activity and to preempt insurgent resupply efforts, Soviet and Afghan forces conducted operations in Paktia, Nangarhar, and Konarha Provinces. A combined Soviet-Afghan offensive was also under way near Qandahar by month's end.



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**Continued Insurgent Activity Around Kabul**

Resistance forces continued to strike targets in Kabul. Insurgent rocket attacks hit Soviet installations in northern Kabul several times during the month, according to US Embassy sources. Increased security concerns resulted in unusual flight patterns, reduced air traffic, and periodic shutdowns at the airport. The insurgents shot down a Soviet SU-25 ground attack aircraft in the Kabul area early in the month.

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**Soviet Sham Withdrawal Completed**

During October, the Soviets withdrew the recently reinforced tank regiment, two newly formed truck- and BTR-60/70-equipped motorized rifle regiments, and three air defense regiments from Afghanistan. For the purposes of the withdrawal ceremonies—staged for numerous foreign journalists—both motorized rifle regiments underwent a hasty metamorphosis in mid-October. Two battalions of BTR-60/70 armored personnel carriers from units normally stationed in Afghanistan replaced the two truck-equipped motorized rifle battalions in each regiment at Shindand and Konduz. But those BTR-60/70s did not depart the country. The two motorized “regiments” that the Soviets had formed expressly to be pulled out both reverted to a configuration of two truck-equipped battalions for the return to the Soviet Union,



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Soviet and Afghan regime forces continued counterinsurgent operations north, west, and south of the capital to push guerrilla forces away from the city and to secure lines of communication. Operations in the Shomali Plain north of Kabul were characterized by the US Embassy as especially brutal. Crops and livestock were destroyed, and residents were kept from fleeing into Kabul.

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the fighting between insurgent forces and Soviet and Afghan troops in Khowt-e Ashrow, west of Kabul, resulted in a complete breakdown of civil authority by early October.

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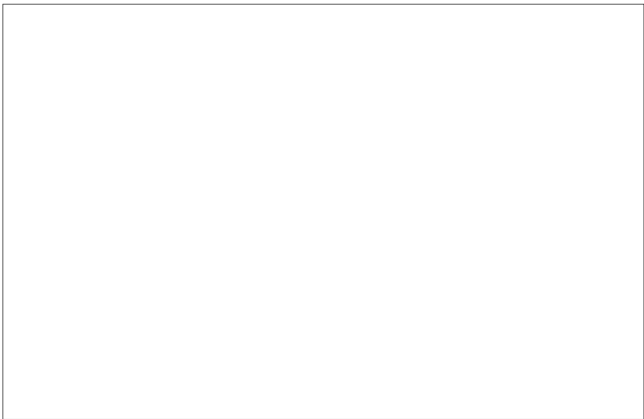
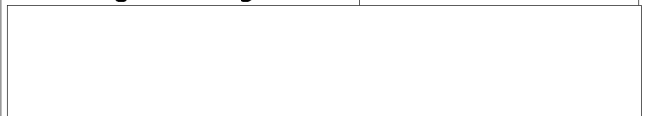


**Counterinsurgency Operations in the East**

Soviet and Afghan forces were active in the eastern border regions of Afghanistan.

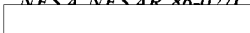
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the civilian population around Kabul may well prompt more widespread use of harsh tactics by Soviet and Afghan forces. Heavy fighting is also likely to continue along the Pakistani border as Soviet and Afghan forces attempt to impede the guerrillas' last major supply caravans before the onset of winter.

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Soviet and Afghan forces also conducted combat operations in Nangarhar Province in response to insurgent activity and to preempt insurgent stockpiling of supplies for the winter. Elements of the Soviet 66th Independent Motorized Rifle Brigade at Jalalabad departed garrison in early October,



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US Embassy sources assert that heavy regime casualties resulted from the fighting around Jalalabad.

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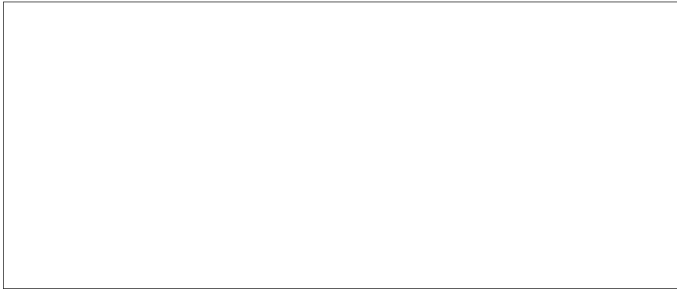
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**Fighting Intensified in Qandahar**

Soviet and Afghan forces launched a major offensive southeast of Qandahar city late in the month, probably to inhibit insurgent attacks in the beleaguered city. Earlier in the month Soviet and regime forces failed to establish four new security posts north of the city in the Arghandab Valley in the face of stiff resistance opposition,

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The insurgents shot down one Soviet and four Afghan aircraft in the area during October. US Embassy sources say that the continuing combat has created difficult living conditions in the city, with virtually no electricity or telephone services and city water available only two hours per day.

Noncombatants can leave their homes for only a few hours during the day.

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**Outlook**

Enhancement of the security of the capital is likely to remain a high priority for the Soviets and the Afghan regime. The strength of support for the insurgents by

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