

NIE - AFGHANISTAN

Principal Conclusions

1. AFGHAN ROYAL FAMILY CAN PROBABLY MEET ANY CHALLENGE TO ITS AUTHORITY IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
2. AFGHAN SHORTAGE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE MAY BECOME CRITICAL IN NEXT THREE YEARS. IF FOREIGN EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES SURMOUNTED, AFGHAN WOULD HAVE REASONABLY GOOD PROSPECTS FOR MODEST DEVELOPMENT.
3. ^{IS} AFGHANISTAN/SIGNIFICANTLY STRATEGIC BUFFER STATE, SEPARATING USSR FROM NON-COMMUNIST WORLD BUT DOMINATED BY NEITHER.
4. HOWEVER, AFGHANISTAN IS HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO SOVIET PRESSURES.

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5. SOV ATTENTIONS TO AFGHAN PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC INCREASED IN LAST YEAR. THIS PART OF GENERAL EFFORT TO COUNTER WESTERN SAID ELSEWHERE IN AREA. SOV ATTENTIONS LIKELY TO INCREASE, ESPECIALLY IF AFGHAN PARTICIPATES IN WESTERN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT OR ACCEPTS SUB STANTIAL WESTERN MILITARY AID.

6. GROWTH OF SOV INFLUENCE WOULD REDUCE AFGHAN FREEDOM OF ACTION, BUT USSR WILL PROB NOT GAIN CONTROL OF COUNTRY WITHIN NEXT FEW YEARS. SMALL AFGHAN PRO-COMM ELEMENT TOO WEAK TO OVERTHROW REGIME. USSR COULD TAKE OVER AFGHAN, BUT OVERT AGGRESSION WOULD ENTAIL AN TI-SOV REACTIONS ELSEWHERE IN AREA WHICH USSR WOULD AVOID.

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7. AFGHAN WILL SEEK WESTERN ECONOMIC AID TO COUNTERBALANCE THAT RECEIVED FROM USSR. HOWEVER, UNLIKELY THAT AFGHANS WOULD JOIN WESTERN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT.
8. AFGHAN WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO ACCEPT SOV AID AND MAY MISJUDGE ITS ABILITY TO CURB ACCOMPANYING SOV SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. MAY ALSO OVERESTIMATE WESTERN ABILITY AND WILL TO ASSIST THEM IN EVENT OF MILITARY OR DIP CRISIS.
9. IMPROVEMENT IN PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS, DOMINATED BY AFGHAN--INSTIGATED PUSH-TUNISTAN CONTROVERSY, UNLIKELY.

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PROSPECTS FOR AFGHAN-PAKISTAN CONFEDERATION FROM NIE-AFGHANISTAN

ACTUALLY SOME TALK IN AFGHAN AND PAKISTANI OFFICIAL CIRCLES OF SOME FORM OF CONFEDERATION

(THIS PLAN URGED ON PAKISTAN BY AGHA KHAN)

HOWEVER, RESPONSIBLE KARACHI AND KABUL AUTHORITIES UNLIKELY TO AGREE ON MERGER BECAUSE OF BASIC INTERNAL COMPLICATIONS AND SOVIET AND INDIAN OPPOSITION

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