

18 September 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: NIE 53-59: "The Outlook for Afghanistan"

BACKGROUND

1. This estimate was initiated under our regular program. The previous estimate (NIE 53-56, "Probable Developments in Afghanistan's International Position," dated 10 January 1956) remains valid in all significant respects, but we thought it wise to reassess the situation after three and a half years.

SUMMARY

2. There are no dissents or reservations by the representatives and we do not anticipate any major questions being raised in the USIB. Much of the discussion by the representatives centered on the "thrust" of the estimate: should it be generally optimistic or generally pessimistic? All of the representatives agree that the present tone of the paper is the proper one.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

CHARLES KEENE
Chairman

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