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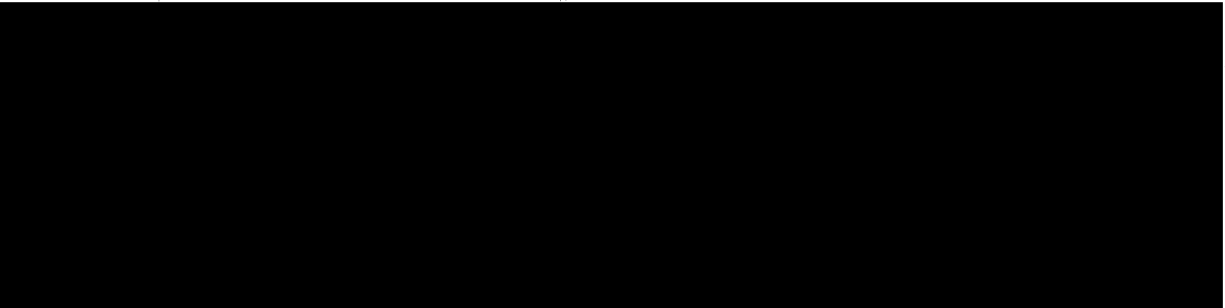
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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Afghanistan/Pakistan/USSR  
SUBJECT Activities of the Bokharans in Afghanistan  
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1. There are over one million Bokharans living in Afghanistan in the north along the Russian frontier. There is a colony of about 900 Bokharans in Peshawar, and a similar colony in Bombay. These Bokharans do not intermarry with the peoples around them, and hence tend to remain a closely knit group. They feel that they must regain their independence.
2. The Bokharans in Afghanistan are quite dissatisfied with their existence there, and feel that when they fled from Russia, they gained their religious freedom in exchange for economic slavery. In a population of a million Bokharans, only seven individuals have been granted external trade permits. Though the Bokharans introduced the karakul sheep and rug weaving industries and remain the chief workers in them, they are not allowed to profit from these industries because of the rigid export controls of the Afghan government. The local Bokharans have no voice in the government, and none of their people hold positions of responsibility.
3. There is easy communication between the Bokharans of Afghanistan and those across the Russo-Afghan frontier. The Russians have publicly announced that all Bokharans resident in Afghanistan may return to Russia without fear of punishment. During the last year, 86 families of Bokharans resident in Afghanistan have escaped back to Russia, and four families managed to flee to Peshawar.
4. Recently, one of the few wealthy Bokharans in Kabul was accused on the most flimsy evidence of a murder committed some nine years ago. Before he could be arrested, he took refuge in the Russian Embassy. Four days later, when he came out of the Embassy, he was apprehended by the Afghan police, but he produced a Russian passport and nationality papers; as a result, the police were allowed to release him, and the whole matter was dropped. Several other Bokharans have recently taken out Russian papers while resident in Kabul.

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