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USIB-D-16, 2/21
23 September 1959

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Validity Study of NIE 53-56

Probable Developments in Afghanistan's International Position

Published 10 January 1956

The attached validity study of NIE 53-56 was noted by the Intelligence Board on 22 September 1959 (USIB-M-58, item 5'c).



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Executive Secretary

Attachment

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Although NIE 53-56 is three and a half years old, all of its important estimates remain valid. Many of them are incorporated in slightly different form in NIE 53-59; e. g. :

Daud is not likely to be ousted in the foreseeable future.

Daud and the Afghan ruling oligarchy almost certainly desire to avoid Soviet domination and will probably continue to seek countervailing Western material aid and political support.

The ability of the Afghans to escape from a Soviet effort to tighten its hold on Afghanistan will depend on the timeliness of Western offers of countervailing support or Western willingness to bail them out if their independence is threatened.

The USSR is likely to be content for some time to maintain close relations with and assist a "benevolently" neutral Afghanistan rather than to accomplish a clear-cut takeover either by recognizable subversion or actual force.

Afghan relations with Pakistan will remain strained.

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