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Central Intelligence Agency

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Washington, D.C. 20505

**DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE**

12 July 1985

Soviet Military Pressure on Pakistan

The number of Soviet and Afghan airstrikes in Pakistan have increased significantly since Moscow's warning to Islamabad last summer to end its support for the Afghan resistance:

- The airstrikes have been confined to Pakistan's border regions.
- Nearly all of the attacks have been directly related to Soviet and Afghan Army attempts to relieve insurgent pressure on Afghan border outposts or to interdict guerrilla supply lines from Pakistan to Afghanistan. [redacted]

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Airspace violations over Pakistan's frontier regions continue at a high rate, but there have been fewer cross-border bombing attacks since the Soviets completed major operations adjacent to the Pakistan border in mid-June. [redacted]

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Soviet Options for Increasing Pressure

We believe any intensification of Soviet military pressure on Pakistan would be gradual and probing. Soviet perceptions of weakening Pakistani resolve or uncertain US commitment to Pakistan's security might cause them to further increase pressure on Pakistan. [redacted]

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The Soviets are more likely to increase military pressure by intensifying cross-border airstrikes, rather than with heliborne or ground incursions:

This paper was prepared by [redacted] Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Chief, South Asia Division, NESAs, on [redacted]

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- The Soviets have the capability to further escalate cross-border airstrikes without strengthening their air force in Afghanistan. [ ]

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In addition to attacking insurgent supply lines, the Soviets might choose to target resistance arms depots and training camps inside Pakistan. The Soviets and Afghans would be less likely to systematically bomb Afghan refugee camps or Pakistani military targets because of the likely international outrage and greater risk of a major military confrontation with Pakistan that could involve the United States. [ ]

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#### Likely Effect on the Resistance

Intensified cross-border airstrikes might force the insurgents to use alternative, less-desirable supply routes into Afghanistan and to relocate training camps and depots, but would have little overall impact on the war in Afghanistan:

- Insurgent arms depots close to the border are used by individual groups for the transit of arms into Afghanistan and do not contain large amounts of weapons.
- Centralized storage depots for the Afghan resistance--where the bulk of insurgent arms and ammunition are stockpiled--are much farther from the border. [ ]

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#### Effect on Pakistan

Cross-border airstrikes have reinforced Islamabad's resolve to sustain its present policy on Afghanistan:

- Zia warned in late May that he would reconsider Pakistan's military restraint if the bombings continue.
- Contrary to expectations, the demand for direct talks with Kabul to settle the Afghanistan conflict was not widely voiced in the National Assembly, where most delegates support Zia's policy.
- Pakistani border troops have been given tactical antiaircraft missiles to defend against air incursions.
- The Pakistan Air Force and Army units opposite Afghanistan must still obtain high-level approval before they can respond to air incursions in the border region. [ ]

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SUBJECT: Soviet Military Pressure on Pakistan

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### Cross-Border Air Attacks, August 1984-June 1985

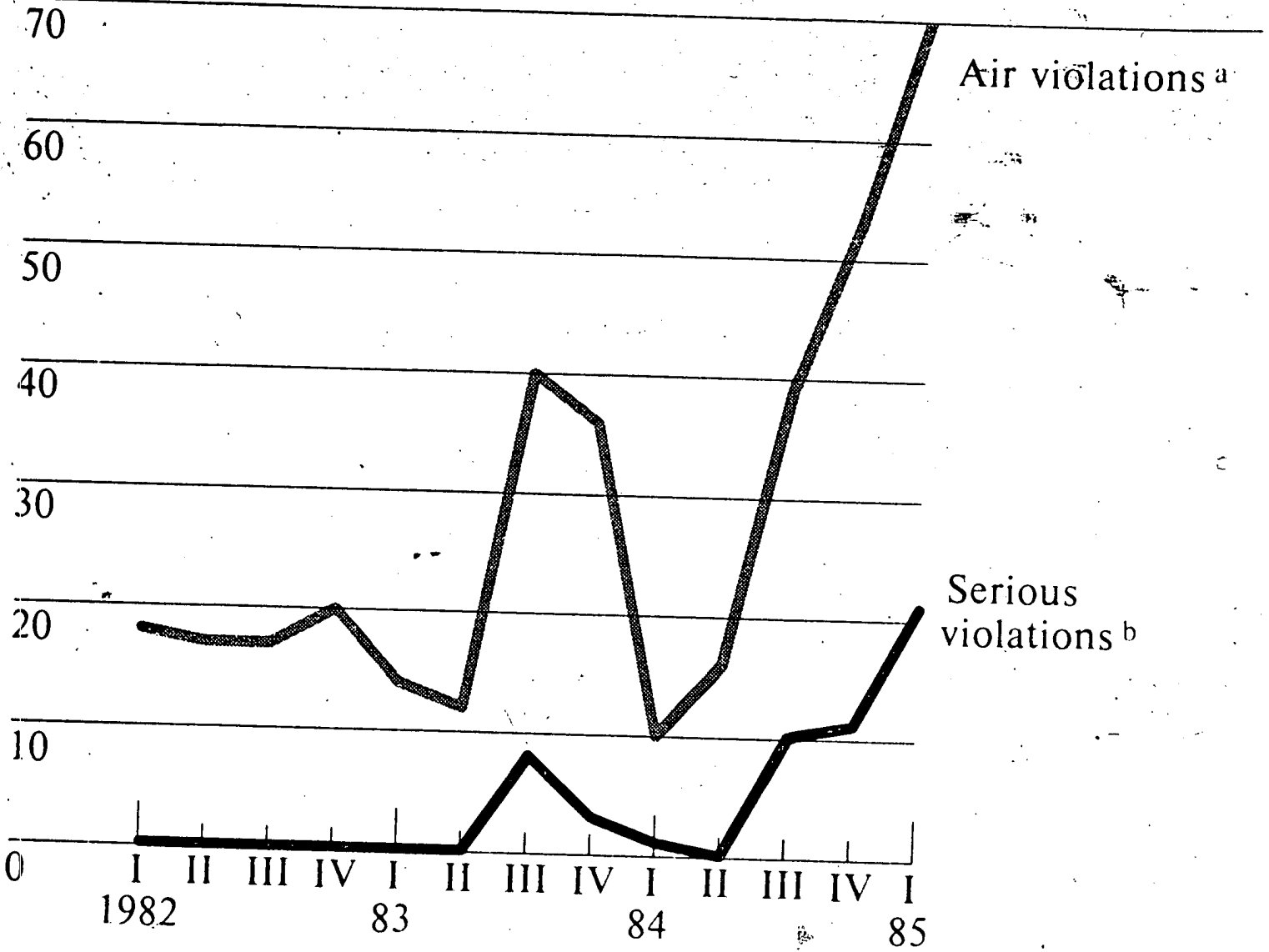


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# Pakistan: Soviet Air Violations, 1982-85



<sup>a</sup> Air violations refer to overflights of Pakistani territory and/or attacks that did not result in casualties.

<sup>b</sup> Serious violations refer specifically to attacks that produce casualties.

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