



Directorate of Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~ FILE

79-81 IMC/CB



DATE 8/14/86
DOC NO NESA M 86-2012CX
SOVA M 86-20067CX
OIR They are on
dissem list
P & PD
FILE 81

25X1

25X1

Afghanistan Situation Report



5 August 1986

~~Top Secret~~ 4

NESA M 86-2012CX
SOVA M 86-20067CX

5 August 1986

Copy

25X1

Page Denied

TOP SECRET



25X1

AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT



25X1

CONTENTS

25X1

NEW SURGE IN FIGHTING



2

25X1

A major Soviet and Afghan operation is under way south of Kabul in Vardak Province, and guerrilla activity increased in [redacted] Nandahar, [redacted]



25X1

ASSESSMENT OF REFUGEE FOOD PROGRAMS IN PAKISTAN



2

25X1

25X1

A joint team from the World Food Program and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees noted some improvement in Pakistani programs for Afghan refugees but recommended against increased support next year. [redacted]

25X1

SOVIET AMMUNITION STORAGE FACILITIES VULNERABLE

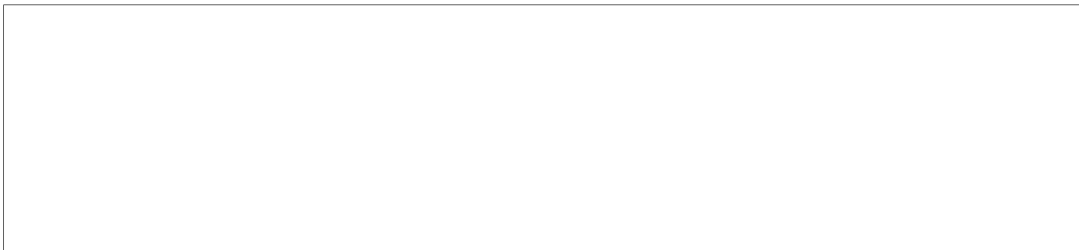


3

25X1

Recent damage to the Soviet ammunition facility at Bagram airfield demonstrates how poor storage and handling procedures can multiply the effects of even a minor accident. [redacted]

25X1



3

25X1

MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS IN KABUL



4

25X1

The Afghan regime intends to construct a new radio station and three new television studios in Kabul to increase its propaganda potential. [redacted]

25X1

IN BRIEF

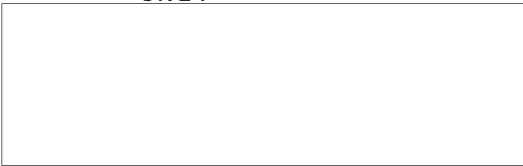
4

25X1



5 August 1986
NESA M 86-20123CX
SOVA M 86-20067CX

TOP SECRET

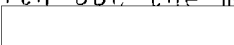


25X1


PERSPECTIVE

25X1

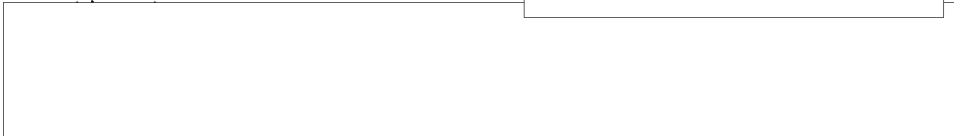
MEDIA HABITS AMONG AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN'S NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE CAMPS  **6**

Interviews with Afghan refugees living in camps in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province in late 1984 indicate that radio programs are the main source of information. Fighting in Afghanistan is the primary news interest. Most refugees listen to Radio Pakistan regularly, with BBC the most widely heard foreign station. 

25X1

This document was prepared by the Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis and the Office of Soviet Analysis. 

25X1



25X1



25X1

TOP SECRET



25X1



800353 (545424) 4-85

25X1



5 August 1986
NESA M 86-20123CX
SONVA M 86-20067CX

TOP SECRET

[Redacted]

25X1

25X1

NEW SURGE IN FIGHTING

[Redacted]

25X1

A major Soviet and Afghan combat operation is under way south of Kabul near Sheykhabad in Vardak Province.

[Redacted]

elements of two Soviet motorized rifle regiments, two airborne regiments, and an artillery regiment departed the Kabul-Bagram area after 21 July for the operations. In addition, elements of the Soviet independent motorized rifle regiment at Ghazni and at least four companies of air assault troops from Gardeyz also may be participating. The US Embassy in Kabul stated that air activity south of Kabul was unusually heavy last week. According to the Embassy, a Soviet and Afghan convoy that was attacked by the guerrillas on 31 July en route to Vardak Province suffered numerous casualties.

25X1

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

[Redacted]

[Redacted] The US Embassy also reports "siege-like" conditions in Qandahar.

[Redacted]

ASSESSMENT OF REFUGEE FOOD PROGRAMS IN PAKISTAN

[Redacted]

25X1

A joint team from the World Food Program and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees recently issued preliminary findings of its study of Afghan refugee food programs in Pakistan. According to the US Embassy in Islamabad, the team described the nutritional status of the refugees as "adequate." The findings acknowledged that the Pakistani Government is correcting some irregularities, particularly in distribution of food to family heads in Baluchistan, and in phasing out support for refugees in Peshawar who

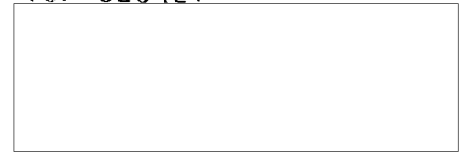
[Redacted]

5 August 1986
NESEA M 86-20123CX
SOVA M 86-20067CX

25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET



are unaffiliated with a camp. The team, however, reasserted its previous claim that official Pakistani figures for registered refugees are too high and said that it would not recommend increased levels of food aid for 1987. [redacted]

25X1

COMMENT: The tone of this year's joint assessment was less confrontational than last year's and probably is designed to encourage Pakistan's continuing reform of the refugee programs. Although the report will benefit Islamabad by easing donors' concerns over mismanagement and corruption, the team's judgment that refugees are adequately nourished in conjunction with the continuing controversy over the actual number of refugees will weaken Islamabad's chances of obtaining increased food donations. [redacted]

25X1

SOVIET AMMUNITION STORAGE FACILITIES VULNERABLE [redacted]

25X1

A series of explosions in July damaged the Soviet ammunition storage facility at Bagram airfield, [redacted]

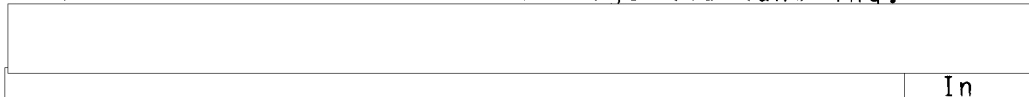
[redacted] An estimated 3,000 metric tons of ammunition were destroyed. Insurgent rocket fire evidently initiated the explosions. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1 25X1

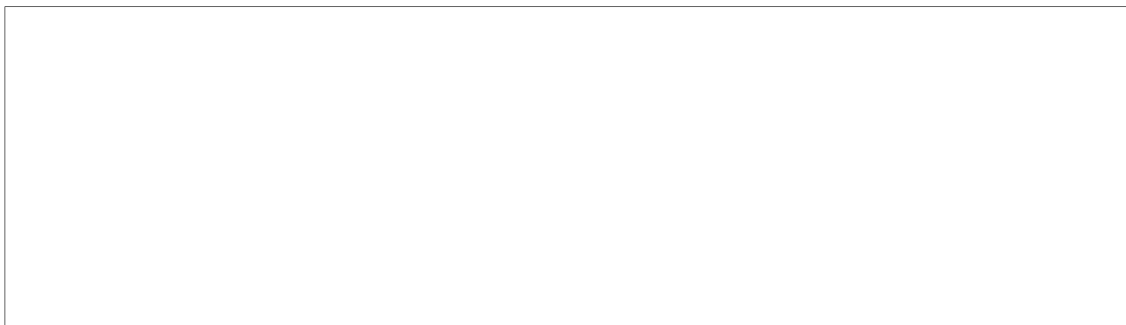
COMMENT: Soviet forces routinely violate safety regulations for ammunition storage and handling. [redacted]



[redacted] In addition, the Soviets store excessive amounts of ammunition in depots. Under such conditions, the effects of a detonation are likely to be greatly magnified, and even a minor accident could threaten destruction of an entire depot. [redacted]

25X1

25X1



25X1

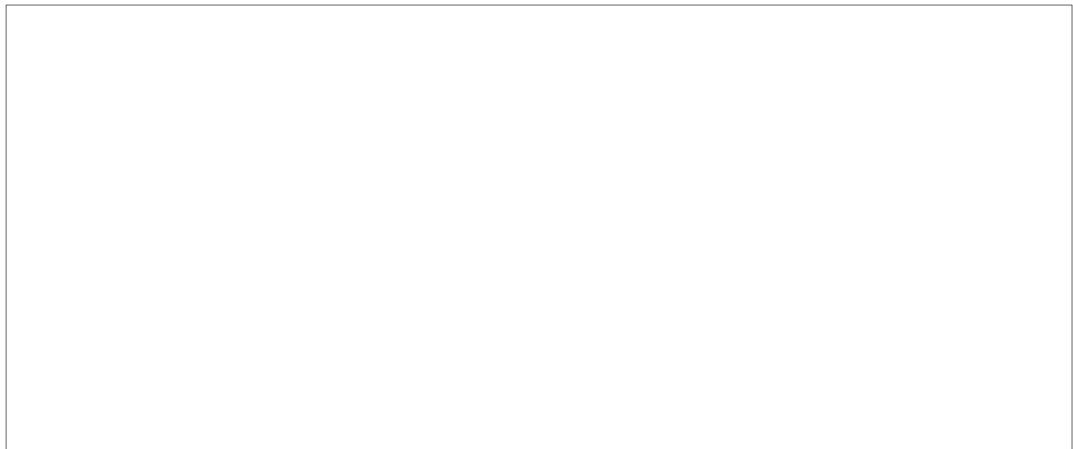
25X1



TOP SECRET



25X1



25X1

MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS IN KABUL



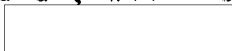
25X1

The Afghan regime finalized contracts on 30 July for the construction of three new television studios and a new radio complex in Kabul, according to official Kabul radio. The new facilities will cost more than 1.7 billion afghanis--approximately \$33.5 million at the official exchange rate--and the Soviet Union and German Democratic Republic will provide credits totaling about \$15 million. The facilities are scheduled to be completed before 1991.



25X1

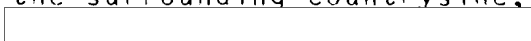
COMMENT: The expansion of communications facilities in Afghanistan will facilitate propaganda broadcasts that the government is using to attempt to broaden its base of support. The regime, for example, tried to enhance acceptance of the change in leadership from Babrak Karmal with a media blitz portraying his successor, Najibullah, as a young, vigorous leader. Given Afghanistan's low literacy rate--less than 15 percent--radio, in particular, will reach a larger audience than printed matter.



25X1

IN BRIEF

-- Continuing fighting near 'Ali Kheyl has devastated the surrounding countryside.



25X1

Most of the agricultural base has been destroyed, forcing the local residents to flee and the insurgents to bring in food from Pakistan. Local resistance forces receive little support from Peshawar, and

25X1



5 August 1986
NESA M 86-20123CX
SOVA M 86-20067CX

25X1

TOP SECRET



increasingly costly purchases of food are often financed with private funds. [redacted]

25X1
25X1

-- Citing unnamed security problems, the Afghan regime has delayed indefinitely the arrival of an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) mission in Kabul, according to the US Embassy in Islamabad. In April the regime said it would permit the ICRC--which was forced to leave Kabul in 1982--to reestablish its medical assistance program there and to monitor treatment of political prisoners. [redacted]

25X1

-- The French humanitarian organization Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is preparing to send three medical teams inside Afghanistan, according to the US Consulate in Peshawar. MSF withdrew about 25 medical personnel inside Afghanistan in late 1985 because of objections by the Jamiat-i-Islami to female medical personnel on the teams. The Jamiat has ostensibly relented in the objection, but MSF officials are still uncertain as to how its coed teams will be received inside Afghanistan. MSF doctors have been an important source of medical care for insurgents and civilians and have helped to provide rudimentary medical training to Afghans. [redacted]

25X1

-- Afghan regime forces are rounding up youths for military service. [redacted]

25X1
25X1

[redacted] some 300 were pressed into service in June. The relatively large number of impressments is likely, however, to be offset somewhat by increased desertions by disgruntled conscripts. [redacted]

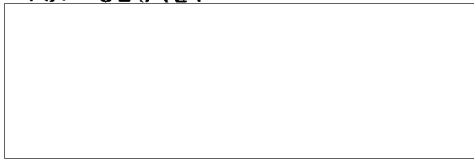
25X1
25X1

25X1



5 August 1986
NESA M 86-20123CX
SOVA M 86-20067CX

TOP SECRET



25X1

PERSPECTIVE

25X1

MEDIA HABITS AMONG AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN'S NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE CAMPS

By the Office of Research, USIA

Interviews with Afghan refugees living in camps in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) show that about half of the refugees want to get news of world events and that radio is their major source for such information. Pashto programs, rather than Dari or Farsi, are the most widely heard radio broadcasts in the camps. Afghan refugees who listen to Voice of America (VOA), BBC, and Deutsche Welle do so mainly to hear accurate news. Although the Soviets attempt to jam VOA broadcasts to this region, most VOA listeners in the NWFP camps usually find reception clear.

25X1

This description of the media habits of Afghans in the NWFP camps is based on interviews in late 1984 with 613 Afghan refugees aged 15 or older. The survey was conducted by an independent commercial firm and sponsored jointly by the US Information Agency and the BBC. Survey results have been weighted to represent the adult Afghan refugee camp population in the NWFP. Findings can not be generalized to all Afghan refugees or to the Afghan population.

25X1

Description of the Afghan Refugees in NWFP Camps

Almost all of the refugees in the NWFP camps--87 percent--left Afghanistan after the 1979 invasion. Of these, two-thirds left by the end of 1980. About 80 percent of adult Afghans in the NWFP refugee camps have no formal education and about 70 percent are illiterate. All adult refugees there understand Pashto, and 98 percent speak Pashto rather than Dari or Farsi at home. About one-third of them understand Dari or Farsi.

25X1

General Interest in News and Radio Listening

Almost half the adult Afghan refugees in the NWFP camps are "very" interested in obtaining news about world events, and one-fourth are "quite" interested, according to the survey. Only 20 percent have little or no interest. Most refugees with some education are very interested in getting news of world events.

25X1

5 August 1986
NESA M 86-20123CX
SOVA M 86-20067CX

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1

Because most Afghans in these camps are illiterate, radio and word-of-mouth are the major sources of news. Sixty-four percent of NWFP camps refugees most often turn to radio for world news, and 63 percent depend on it for news about Afghanistan. They also count on word-of-mouth to hear news (20 percent for world news, 27 percent for news of Afghanistan). In view of the low literacy rate, newspapers are used by only 1 to 2 percent. Refugees with some education rely almost exclusively on radio, while those with no education rely heavily on hearsay for their news. [redacted]

25X1

Three-fourths of the Afghan refugees in the camps have access to a radio set. Fifty-nine percent either own or have access to a set which receives both short and medium wave transmissions. Almost all educated refugees (19 percent of the sample) have access to radio. [redacted]

25X1

About two-thirds of adult refugees listen to radio once a week or more. Almost twice as many men as women, and educated as uneducated, are regular radio listeners. Fifty-five percent of Afghan refugees most often listen to radio at home. [redacted]

25X1

Most adult camp refugees listen to Pakistan's national radio station, Radio Pakistan, which broadcasts in all the local languages. It is heard regularly by 61 percent of Afghan camp residents surveyed; almost all of those listen in Pashto and about one-fifth of them also listen in Dari or Farsi. [redacted]

25X1

Foreign Radio Listening

The BBC has the largest audience in the NWFP Afghan refugee camps, with 54 percent of the adults listening to it once a week or more. Almost all of those tune in regularly to the daily 45-minute BBC Pashto broadcast. About half of the BBC's audience also listens to Farsi broadcasts. [redacted]

25X1

Tehran's Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran has a total regular audience of 34 percent of the refugees; it broadcasts two hours of Pashto programs daily. Radio Afghanistan from Kabul reaches 28 percent of the refugees in Pashto. [redacted]

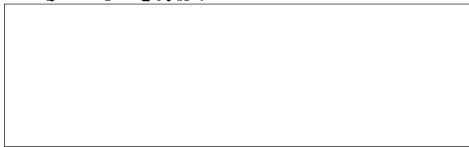
25X1

VOA is fourth among foreign stations broadcasting to

25X1

5 August 1986
 NESA M 86-20123CX
 SOVA M 86-20067CX

TOP SECRET



25X1

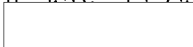
the region, with a total regular audience of 23 percent among Afghan refugees in the NWFP camps. Almost all of the VOA audience in the camps listens to Pashto broadcasts, which are on the air for two hours daily.



25X1

Program Preferences of Listeners to Western Stations

Most Western-radio listeners, when asked why they turn to foreign stations for the news, say they seek accurate news, especially on the situation in Afghanistan. Some listeners also want detailed world news or to compare foreign and local accounts of the news. Almost all listeners to every language service (over 80 percent of the VOA, BBC, or Deutsche Welle audience) are very interested in news of the fighting, with news of Pakistan, Iran, and the Muslim world of next greatest interest, followed by other news of Afghanistan and the USSR. News of Western countries rated last on the list of news topics that refugees were given.



25X1

Listener Evaluations of Western Broadcasts

Afghans in NWFP camps who listen to Western radio evaluate the stations positively. Half or more of VOA, BBC, and Deutsche Welle listeners consider the station's local and regional news coverage excellent, and very few consider the news coverage only fair or poor. In addition, almost all are satisfied with the station's credibility.



25X1

VOA signal monitoring indicates some intense jamming of broadcasts to this region that may cause reception to be fair or poor. Specifically, it has been reported that reception of VOA Farsi to the region is good, Pashto is fair, and Dari is poor.



25X1



25X1

Top Secret

Top Secret