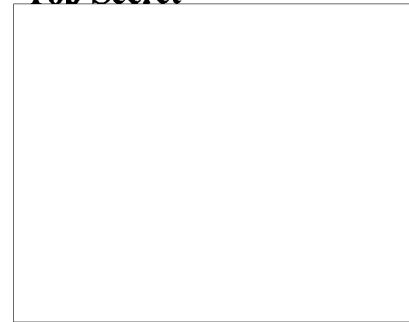


25X1



Directorate of Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~



FILE 81

DATE 8/26/86

DOC NO SOVA M 86-20077JX
NESA M 86-20135JX

OIR 2 79,80

P & PD 0

Afghanistan Situation Report



25X1

26 August 1986

79-81 IMC/CB

~~Top Secret~~

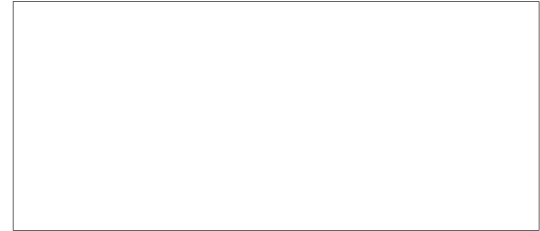
NESA M 86-20135JX
SOVA M 86-20077JX

26 August 1986

Copy 081

25X1

Page Denied



AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT



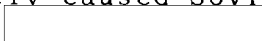
25X1

CONTENTS

FIGHTING IN THE WEST AND NORTH CONTINUES



25X1

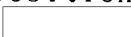
Soviet and Afghan combat operations continued last week against guerrillas entrenched in Herat city, and insurgent attacks in Badakhshan Province apparently caused Soviet counterattacks earlier this month. 

25X1

DUTCH SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE



25X1


The Dutch Government recently doubled its modest aid allotment to Afghans inside Afghanistan, and a Dutch Catholic peace group has expressed interest in mobilizing opposition to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. 

25X1

FOOD PROBLEMS IN THE NORTH



25X1

Food shortages in sections of Afghanistan because of the disruption of agricultural production and a possible dry spell in the north could play into the hands of the regime. 

25X1

IN BRIEF

5

PERSPECTIVE

COMPETING DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVES



25X1


Kabul, under Moscow's tutelage, has embarked on a more aggressive diplomatic campaign to improve its international image in preparation for the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) summit in Zimbabwe and the United Nations General Assembly session (UNGA) this fall. We believe this campaign reflects long-standing Soviet-Afghan sensitivities to world

25X1




25X1



public opinion, but also concerns about stepped-up Afghan resistance diplomacy in recent months. Although the insurgent alliance's tour of the US and Europe this summer fell short of its goals, we believe it raised the diplomatic costs of the war for Moscow. 

25X1

This document was prepared by the Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis and the Office of Soviet Analysis. Questions or comments on the issues raised in the publication should be directed to 

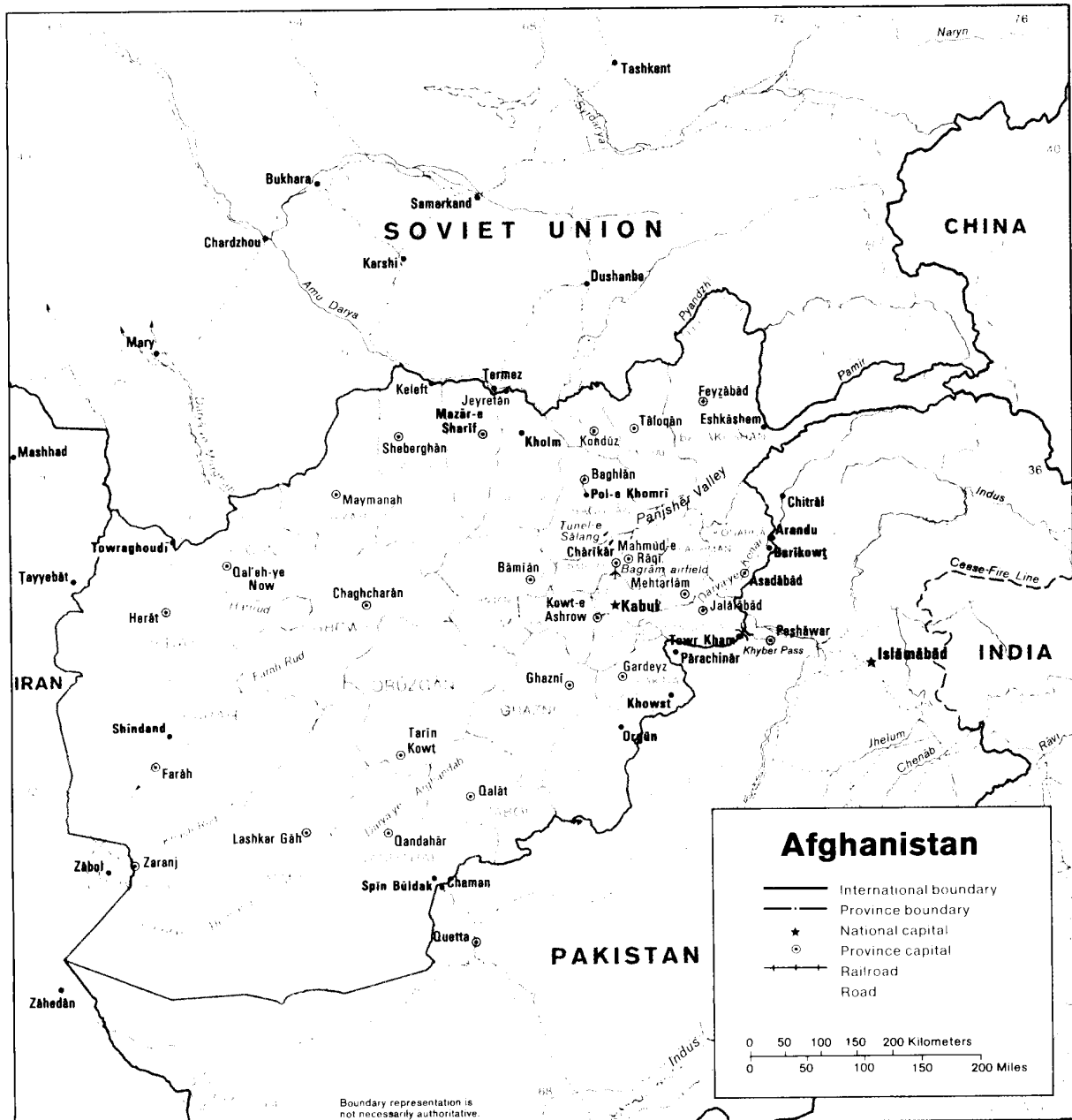
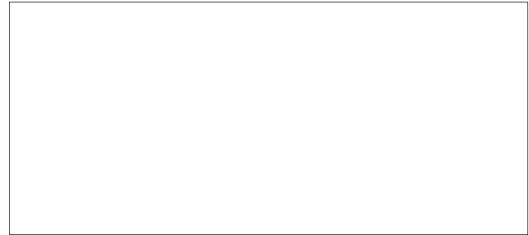
25X1



25X1



25X1



800353 (545424) 4-85





25X1

FIGHTING IN THE WEST AND NORTH CONTINUES



25X1

Soviet and Afghan combat operations in the Herat area continued last week in an effort to curb insurgent attacks.



25X1

[Redacted] a Soviet command post has been deployed to Herat to support combat operations. Elements of a Soviet tank battalion and a motorized rifle battalion from Shindand that left garrison in mid-August-

25X1
25X1

[Redacted] --may be moving against guerrillas south of Herat.

25X1
25X1
25X1



25X1

In Lowgar Province, the Soviets began their third drive this summer to secure the road, according to the US Embassy in Kabul. During the latest engagements, the insurgents apparently captured a Soviet officer, and the Soviets responded with artillery fire and aerial strikes.

[Redacted] elements of an Afghan artillery battalion and at least 200 additional vehicles were being marshalled on the main road south of Kabul on 21 August. Another Afghan artillery battalion from Hesarak was en route to the Lowgar area.

25X1

25X1

DUTCH SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE



25X1

The Dutch Government recently doubled its modest aid allotment to Afghans inside Afghanistan to 1 million guilders annually--approximately \$430,000. Relief efforts were expanded to include educational and



25X1

26 August 1986
NESA M 86-20135JX
SOVA M 86-20077JX

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/11/23 : CIA-RDP86T01017R000303000001-4

25X1

25X1

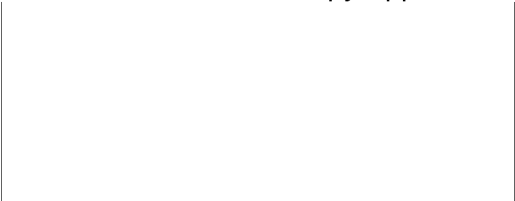
Page Denied

25X1

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/11/23 : CIA-RDP86T01017R000303000001-4

25X1



medical service programs as well as donations of food and medical commodities, and the Dutch Development Cooperation Minister expressed interest in the McCollum patient airlift program. In addition, the leader of a leading Dutch Catholic peace group promised, after a recent trip to Afghanistan and Pakistan, to organize opposition to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, according to the US Embassy at the Hague. [redacted]

25X1

Comment: Official Dutch humanitarian aid to the Afghan resistance has been modest and low-key--in part because of limited public interest in the issue. The aid programs have also been complicated in the past by rivalries between the two main private organizations involved--"Committee for a Free Afghanistan" and "Help Afghanistan", according to the US Embassy at the Hague. Criticism of the Soviets' occupation of Afghanistan by the Dutch Peace Movement--which has "impeccable leftist credentials," according to the US Embassy at the Hague--could potentially have a positive impact on Dutch public awareness of and support for the Afghan resistance. [redacted]

25X1

FOOD PROBLEMS IN THE NORTH [redacted]

25X1

25X1

Heavy fighting has disrupted agricultural activity in the vicinity of Mazar-e Sharif and in the areas surrounding Konduz [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] Konduz and northern Balkh Provinces, and possibly other areas in northern Afghanistan, also may be experiencing drought conditions. Food shortages are resulting in rising prices. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

Comment: A reduction in food supplies caused by fighting and drought could play into Kabul's hands by enabling the regime to use food to win popular support. It may also further strain insurgent logistics by forcing resistance groups to devote a larger portion of caravan loads to food. Northern agriculture is particularly dependent on adequate amounts of precipitation because much of it is non-irrigated. [redacted]

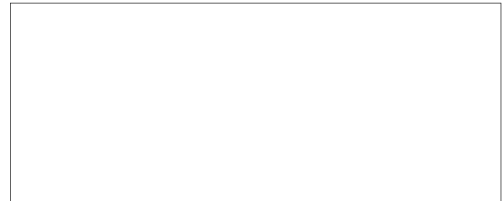
25X1




26 August 1986
NESAM 86-20135JX
SOVA M 86-20077JX

25X1

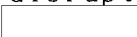
25X1




IN BRIEF

-- Pakistan's Director of Afghanistan Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arif Ayub, downplayed Islamabad's interest in private talks with the Soviets on broadening the Kabul regime. He said no back-channel talks have occurred since the Geneva negotiations ended on 8 August. Sources of the US Embassy say Pakistan will use the visit of a Soviet South Asian expert in early September to probe Soviet intentions, however. 

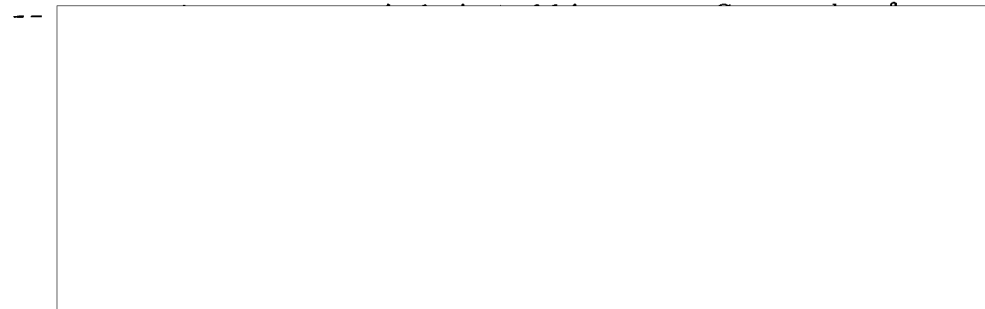
25X1

-- Kabul announced establishment of an Afghan-Indian Friendship Soviet in a radio broadcast on 21 August. Afghan General Secretary Najibullah said he considered the society an important step in expanding bilateral relations. Although New Delhi has yet to confirm its participation, it probably will agree to society activity in Kabul, but not in India. New Delhi's sizable Afghan refugee community almost certainly would seek to disrupt such activities if undertaken in India. 

25X1

-- The provincial party secretaries for Kabul and Jowzjan Provinces were relieved of their posts last week for alleged "weaknesses in party work," according to Afghan media reports. The dismissals occurred at a Politburo meeting that also revealed serious deficiencies in economic planning and the distribution of goods. 

25X1



25X1

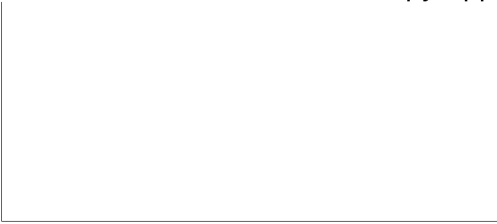
-- Pakistani Foreign Ministry Additional Secretary Shaikh met in Washington with US officials on 26-27 August to discuss Afghanistan and other South Asian regional issues. The meetings are


25X1



26 August 1986
NESA M 86-20135JX
SOVA M 86-20077JX

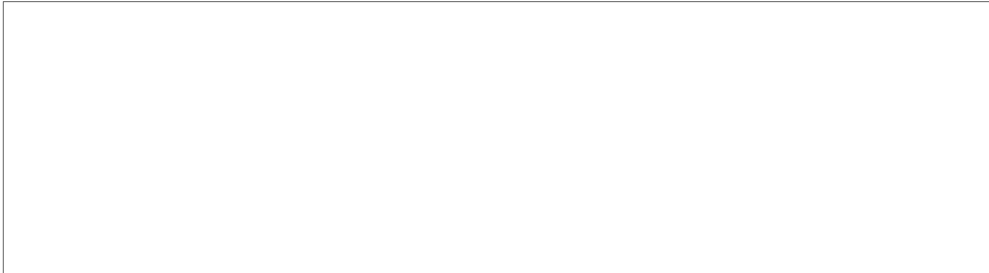
25X1




preliminary to US-Soviet experts' talks on
Afghanistan, scheduled for 2-3 September in
Moscow. 

25X1

25X1

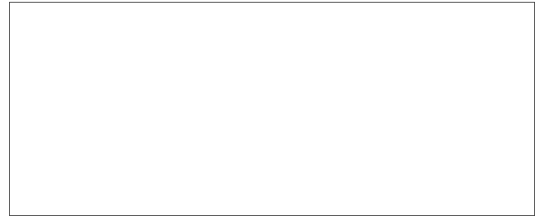


-- According to the US Embassy in Islamabad, some
500 to 600 insurgents were observed near Chitral
in mid-August waiting for weapons and
transportation. Guerrilla leader Rabbani
recently estimated that logistic problems had
backed up "thousands" of resistance fighters at
the northern Pakistani staging area for
insurgents in Badakhshan Province and the
Panjsher Valley. 

25X1



25X1



PERSPECTIVE


AFGHANISTAN: COMPETING DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVES



25X1


by  **NESA**

25X1


Kabul, under Moscow's tutelage, has embarked on a more aggressive diplomatic campaign to improve its international image at the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) summit in Zimbabwe in September, and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session next month. We believe this campaign reflects long-standing Soviet-Afghan sensitivities to world public opinion, but also concerns about stepped-up Afghan resistance diplomacy in recent months. Although the insurgent alliance's tour of the US and Europe fell short of its goals, we believe it did succeed in raising the diplomatic costs of the war for Moscow. 

25X1

Kabul Promises Diplomatic Campaign

In his July address to the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, General Secretary Najibullah urged that "propaganda and counterpropaganda" be further activated. Saying that "this task has special importance on the eve of the conference of the heads of states and governments of the nonaligned countries in Harare and with regard to the next session of the UN General Assembly," Najibullah asserted that Afghan ministries and respective departments had been instructed to "broadcast facts about the revolution and establish and develop relations between Afghanistan and the developing...countries" as soon as possible. 

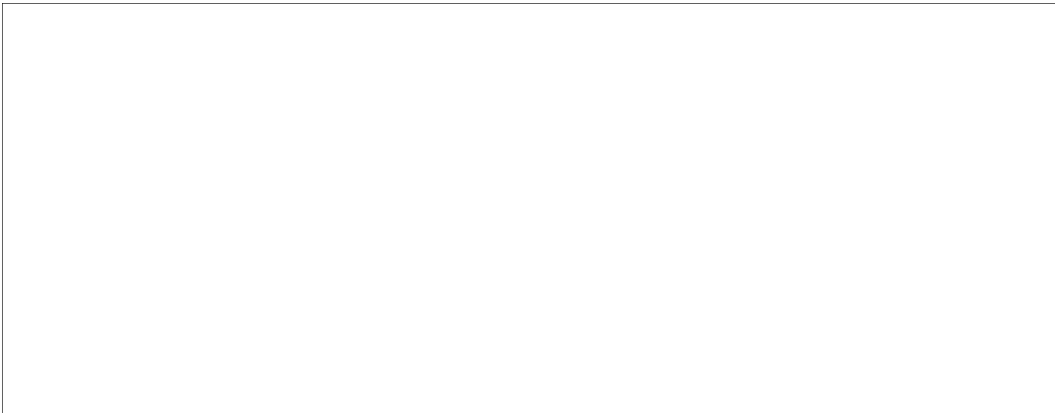
25X1

As part of this diplomatic initiative, a delegation led by Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Sarwar Yurish traveled in July to Zimbabwe--the NAM chairman for the next three years--to establish diplomatic relations. Yurish obtained Prime Minister Mugabe's agreement in principle--a development Kabul media immediately announced with great fanfare. According to the US Embassy in Islamabad, however, Zimbabwean officials told the Pakistanis that they have no intention of opening an embassy in Kabul, will not allow Kabul to open one in Zimbabwe soon, and will delay diplomatic relations until a political solution to the Afghan conflict is reached. The Zimbabweans promised no change in support for the proposed NAM summit or UNGA language on Afghanistan. 

25X1



25X1



25X1



25X1

Moscow has been worried that Afghanistan would be one of the main topics discussed at the summit. According to the US Embassy in Islamabad, the Soviets told the Pakistanis that Moscow wants a "calm deliberation" of Afghanistan in Harare.

25X1



25X1

25X1

We believe Soviet Secretary General Gorbachev's announcement in July that Moscow is prepared by yearend to remove six regiments from Afghanistan is partly designed to support Kabul's diplomatic initiative by deflecting international attention from the stalled UN-sponsored peace talks. Gorbachev may also be hoping that Moscow's overtures toward China will raise concern in Islamabad about China's long-term steadfastness on the Afghan issue.

25X1

According to the US Mission to the UN, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen--Moscow's client--proposed, in a surprise move in June, that the UNGA's Asian Group endorse Afghanistan's candidacy for one of the vice-presidencies of the 41st UNGA. The US Mission to the UN believes its candidacy has virtually no chance of success, however.

25X1

The Resistance's Grand Tour

The Soviet-Afghan diplomatic offensive may be an overreaction to the more active diplomacy of the Afghan



26 August 1986
NESA M 86-20135JX
SOVA M 86-20077JX

25X1

25X1

resistance alliance this year, although it is also in keeping with the regime's heightened image-building efforts over the last year or so. In early June, members of the alliance began a tour to gain international recognition for the organization, enhance its legitimacy, and increase the diplomatic costs of the war for the Soviets. Although the visit failed to gain the alliance official US diplomatic recognition, the resistance leaders' well-publicized meeting with President Reagan was immediately condemned by Soviet and Afghan media, which accused the US of supporting "hired killers." [redacted]

25X1

The Soviets may also have been disturbed by the high-level reception Burhannudin Rabbani--then alliance spokesman--received in Saudi Arabia, where he met with King Fahd and in France, where he met with French Prime Minister Chirac and Foreign Minister Raimond.

25X1

[redacted] the Saudis [redacted] feted the delegation at their Embassy in Washington and publicly acknowledged Riyadh's contribution to the resistance war chest. In France, Rabbani received the highest official reception accorded any Afghan resistance leader to date and also pledges of increased humanitarian aid. The French gestures probably were particularly galling to Moscow because they came just before French President Mitterrand was to meet Soviet leader Gorbachev. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

Prospects

The Afghan regime's efforts will have little chance of significantly eroding support for the resolutions on Afghanistan at the UN and the NAM summit, in our view. The language of these resolutions is in fact anodyne, falling short of condemning the Soviets by name and calling only for an end to foreign interference in Afghanistan and for peaceful resolution of the dispute. Nevertheless, we believe the regime will look for opportunities to keep the resistance and its external supporters on the defensive. Such surprise moves as seeking a UNGA vice-presidency are likely to be repeated. [redacted]

25X1

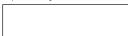
The Soviet-Afghan response to the resistance's increased politicking is, in our view, disproportionate to the alliance's real gains internationally, but is, in itself, an indication that the resistance can--and

25X1

26 August 1986
 NESAM 86-20135JX
 SOVA M 86-20077JX



25X1

did--raise the diplomatic costs of the war for the Soviets. Still, the resistance remains hamstrung by internal divisions over its international diplomacy and Pakistani disinterest in pushing stronger language for the resolutions. 

25X1

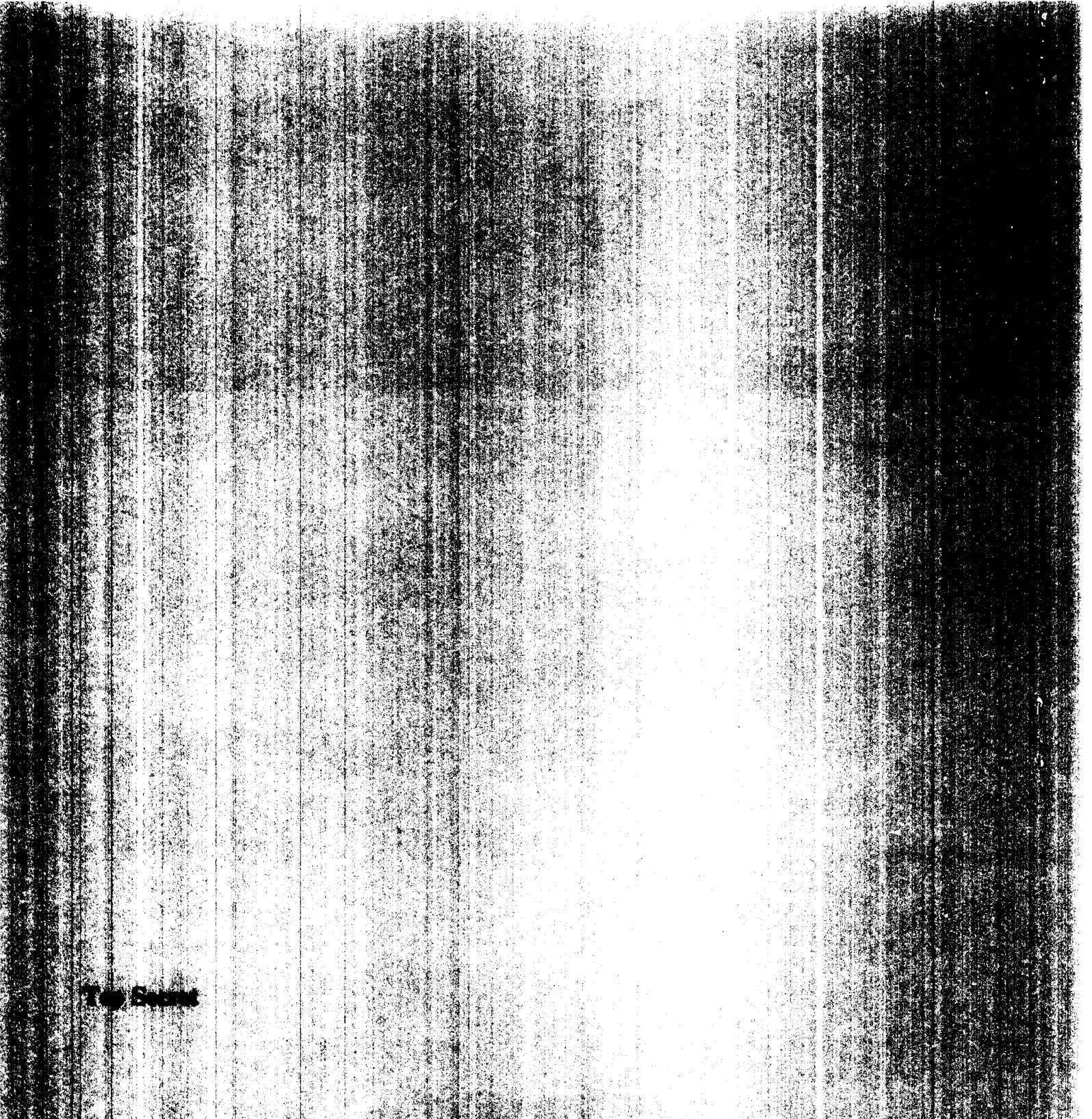


26 August 1986
NESA M 86-20135JX
SOVA M 86-20077JX

25X1

Top Secret

25X1



Top Secret