



Directorate of Intelligence

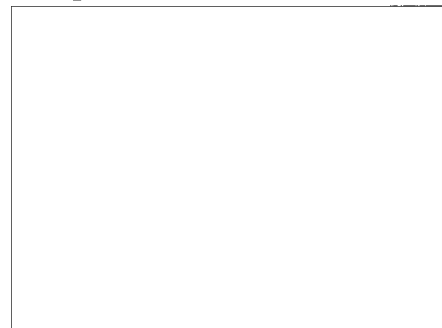
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# Afghanistan Situation Report



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9 September 1986

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**AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT**



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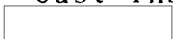
**FIGHTING INTENSIFIES IN PAGHMAN**



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Soviet and Afghan forces initiated an offensive last week against guerrilla forces in Paghman who have sharply increased rocket attacks on Kabul. The Soviets and Afghans concluded a two-week operation in Herat in late August in yet another attempt to oust insurgent forces from the city.



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**GOVERNMENT GARRISON FALLS TO INSURGENTS**



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The recent capture of an Afghan regime garrison Masood's forces shows that efforts to increase pressure on Soviet and Afghan forces in the north are making progress.



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**AFGHAN GEM INDUSTRY BENEFITS INSURGENTS**



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Gemstone mining in Afghanistan is thriving despite fighting in the production areas, and at least two insurgent groups obtain revenue from taxes on the sale of the gems.



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**IN BRIEF**

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**PERSPECTIVE**

**SIBGHATULLAH MOJADEDI: SPOKESMAN OF THE RESISTANCE ALLIANCE**



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Sibghatullah Mojadedi, leader of the traditionalist Jabha-i-Najat-i-Milli Afghanistan, is unlikely to make significant headway in achieving the goals he has set during his three-




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month tenure as spokesman of the resistance alliance that ends 30 September. One of his main goals is to open resistance alliance offices abroad. 

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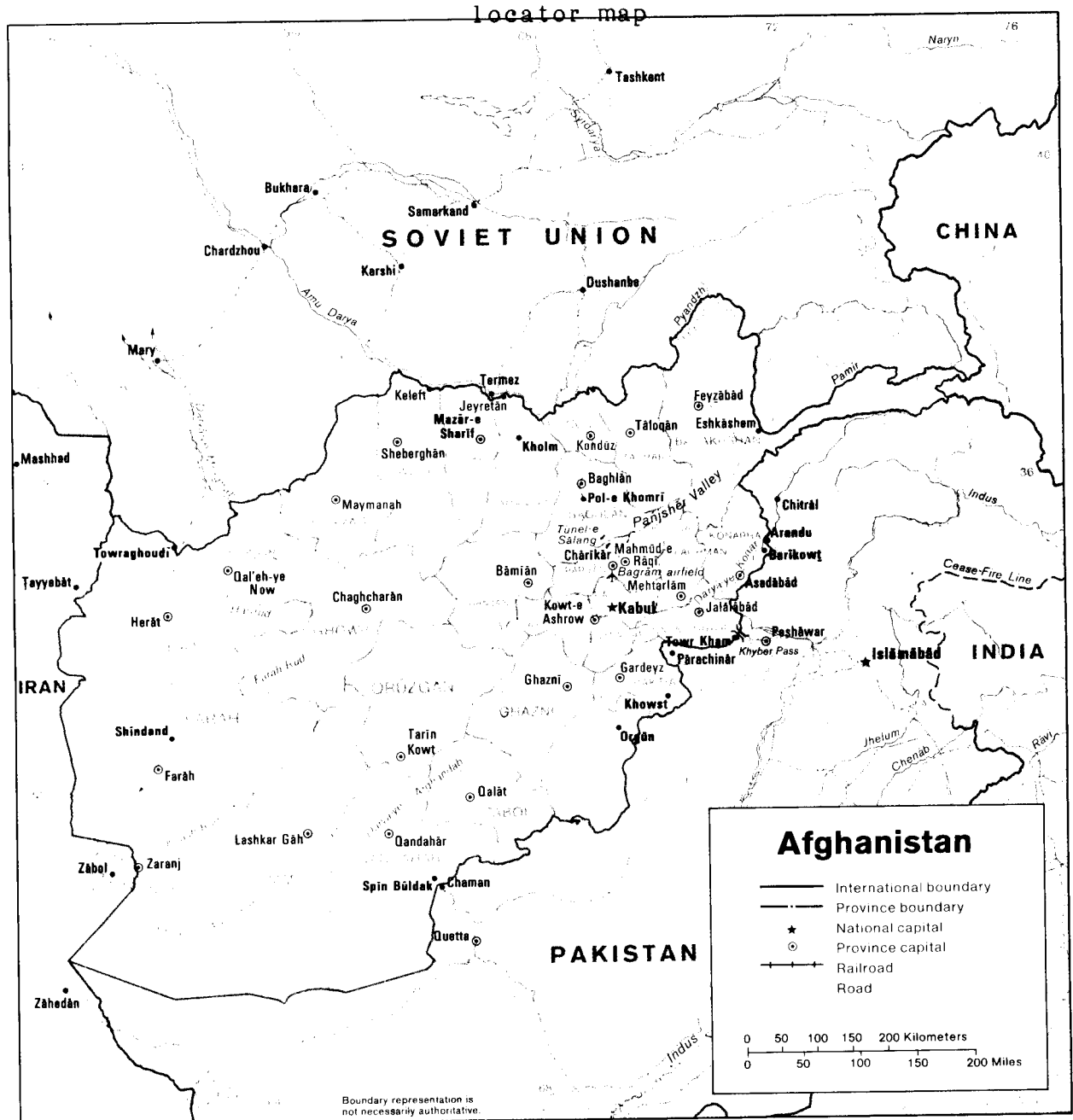
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**FIGHTING INTENSIFIES IN PAGHMAN** 

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A major Soviet and Afghan offensive--involving air, artillery, and ground assaults--is under way in the Paghman area, according to the US Embassy in Kabul. The operation began last Thursday with an intense artillery and multiple rocket launcher bombardment. Termed by Embassy sources as one of the largest this summer in the capital region, the operation is an attempt to subdue resistance forces that have been launching frequent rocket attacks on Kabul, probably including the strike on the Afghan surface-to-air missile support facility. Insurgent units from Vardak Province reportedly have joined with Paghman-based resistance forces in the fighting, according to US Embassy sources. 


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The combined Soviet and Afghan combat operation in the Herat area, in progress since mid-August, concluded late last month. 

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at least 600 Soviet combat and combat support vehicles at Herat preparing to return to Shindand at the conclusion of the offensive. These included a minimum of six batteries of field artillery and multiple rocket launchers. Although the regime claims to have killed a large number of insurgents and destroyed vast amounts of weapons and ammunition cached in the hillsides around Herat in the most recent operation, US Embassy sources report that insurgent forces retook the old city portion of Herat for the third time this summer. 


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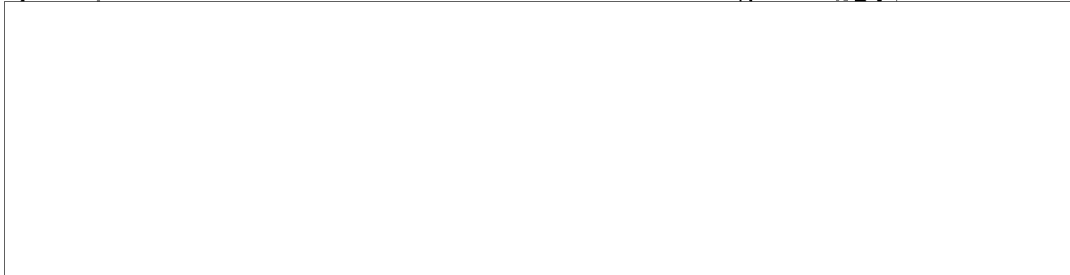
**GOVERNMENT GARRISON FALLS TO INSURGENTS** 

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The recent capture of a government garrison by resistance leader Masood's forces demonstrates that the insurgency's strength in the north is growing. 

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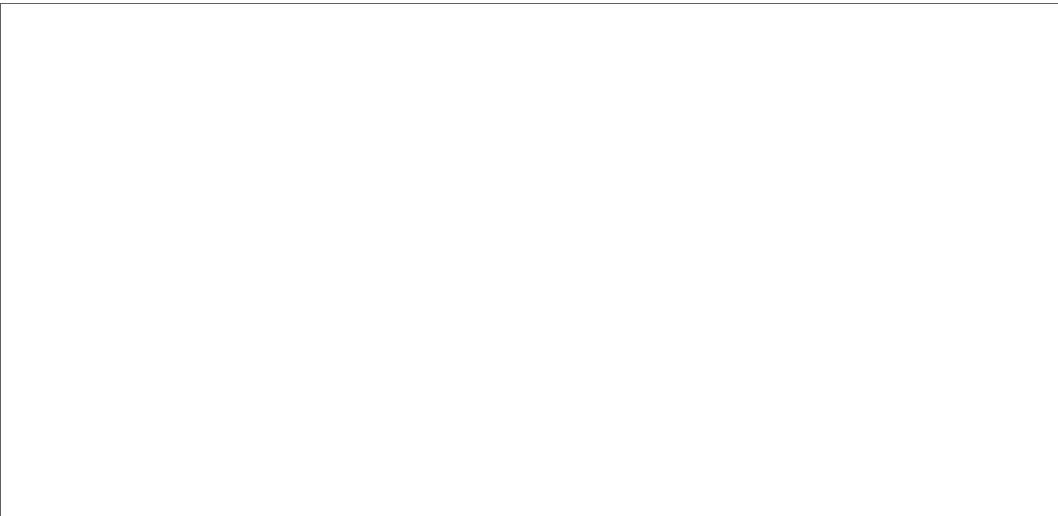
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Soviet and Afghan operations in the northern provinces have had little impact on Masood's military capabilities or strategy. Masood's forces' increasing strength may make it difficult for Moscow to select a motorized rifle regiment from the north as one of the six regiments slated by Soviet leader Gorbachev's for withdrawal at yearend. [redacted]

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**AFGHAN GEM INDUSTRY BENEFITS INSURGENTS** [redacted]

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Most of the gemstone mines in Afghanistan are located in resistance-controlled areas. Since the beginning of the war, the trade in these gems--primarily lapis lazuli, emeralds, tourmaline, kunzite, and rubies--has shifted from Kabul to Pakistan. Uncut stones are smuggled into Pakistan for marketing in Peshawar and, when exported, bear a certificate of origin from Pakistan, according to the US Consulate in Peshawar. [redacted]

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**COMMENT:** Despite widespread fighting in areas of main production, gemstone mining is thriving. [redacted] production is at a higher level than before the war. Taxes on the sale of gems are an important source of finance for some insurgent groups, accounting for as much as one-third of their total income, according to press reports. Gemstone mining particularly benefits the Jamiat-i-Islami and the Hizbi Islami (Gulbuddin). [redacted]

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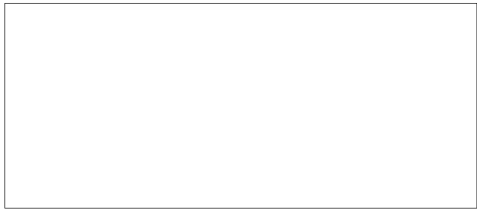
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**IN BRIEF**

-- UNICEF apparently is making plans to operate its child immunization program in Afghanistan only through the Afghan Government, according to the US Embassy in Islamabad. UNICEF previously inferred that it would work with resistance groups in implementing the program in areas not controlled by the regime. UN projects carried out in the provinces under the auspices of the Afghan Government would redound to the benefit of the Kabul regime. 


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-- The Government of Pakistan recently approved health and education projects for Afghans inside Afghanistan, according to the US Consulate in Peshawar. The projects, due to start in late September, will be under the jurisdiction of the Afghan Alliance Health and Education Committees. The Education Committee hopes the programs will help counteract the influence of the conservative Wahhabi sect on Afghan education programs. 

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-- Canada has recently decided to begin a modest, cross-border, humanitarian assistance program for Afghans, according to the US Embassy in Islamabad. It has allocated \$50,000 for the program this fiscal year and plans to double the funding next year. 

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-- The Kabul Government plans to relocate 30,000 families from the eastern border areas of Afghanistan to the sparsely settled western provinces, according to the US Embassy in Kabul. A top regime official claims that over-population and surplus labor motivated the decision. He maintains the regime will not use force in the resettlement. The proposal is part of Kabul's effort to depopulate key regions in order to undercut the insurgents' base of support and shut down their supply routes from Pakistan. Forcible relocation would probably prompt many of those affected to flee to Pakistan. 

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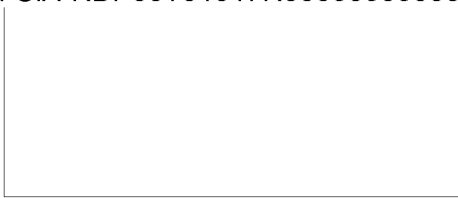
-- Because of the incidence of hepatitis among



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interested in purchasing Belgian-made hepatitis B vaccines.



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Soviet efforts to develop hepatitis vaccines commercially have failed.

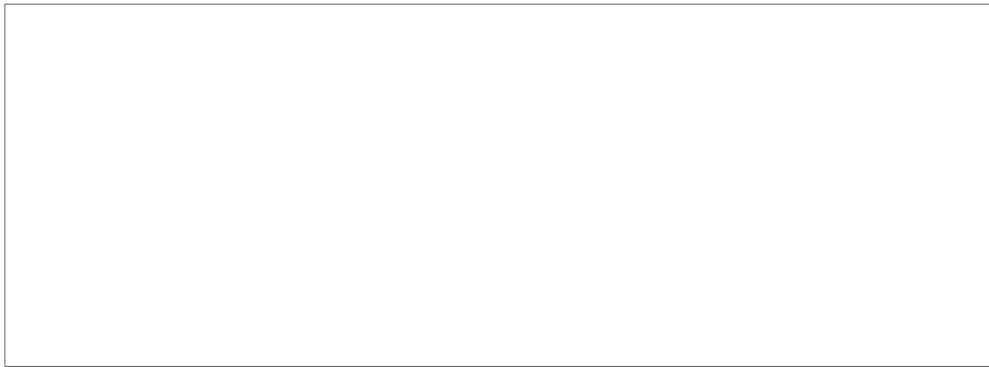


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-- [redacted] explosions in August at an Afghan surface-to-air missile support facility in western Kabul destroyed twenty-two ammunition and equipment storage buildings and damaged several other buildings. This is the second known explosion at an ammunition storage facility in the past two months. A series of explosions at a Soviet ammunition dump at Bagram airfield in mid-July destroyed an estimated 3,000 metric tons of ammunition. The guerrillas have claimed responsibility for both attacks.



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-- The final communique of the Eighth Nonaligned Movement (NAM) summit in Harare called for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. According to press reports, the declaration underscored the need to put into effect the "New Delhi proposal" on Afghanistan--adopted at a NAM conference in 1981--that urged a political settlement on the basis of the withdrawal of foreign forces.



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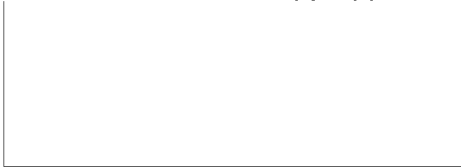


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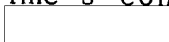
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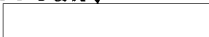
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-- General Secretary Najibullah has replaced President Babrak Karmal as the supreme commander of the armed forces, according to US Embassy and press reporting. The move further secures Najibullah's position against challengers. It also reflects the regime's concerns about the Army's performance. 

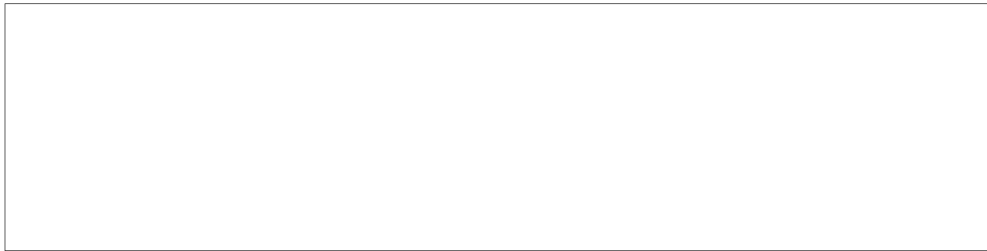
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-- Afghan Prime Minister Keshtmand visited Ethiopia, Libya, Bulgaria, and the USSR on his return trip to Kabul from the Nonaligned Movement summit in Harare, according to press reports. While in Zimbabwe, Keshtmand also conferred with Iraqi, Syrian, North Korean, Angolan, and South Yemeni officials. 

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-- Abdul Wali Khan, veteran Pakistani regional leader and head of the newly formed Awami National Party, met with President Babrak Karmal in Kabul on 6 September, according to press reports. Wali Khan was in Moscow last month and has publicly endorsed Soviet leader Gorbachev's plans for withdrawing six Soviet regiments from Afghanistan. Long a vocal critic of Pakistan's Afghan policy, he probably hopes that his pro-



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Soviet and Afghan regime stance will yield financial and material support for his new leftist party. 

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**PERSPECTIVE**

**SIBGHATULLAH MOJADEDI: SPOKESMAN OF THE RESISTANCE ALLIANCE**

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Sibghatullah Mojadedi, the leader of the traditionalist Jabha-i-Najat-i-Milli Afghanistan (the Afghanistan National Liberation Front or ANLF), began a three-month term as spokesman of the Afghan resistance alliance in July. Mojadedi advocates insurgent unity and the convening of a Loya Jirga (grand tribal council) to form a resistance government-in-exile. While spokesman, he would like to establish alliance offices abroad--especially in New York and Jeddah--and streamline the alliance bureaucracy. Mojadedi's accomplishments, however, will probably be limited by



his forces' minor role in the fighting,



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**A Mullah, Not a Soldier**

According to Western scholars, Mojadedi, who is 60 years old, is a leading Islamic philosopher and scholar. He holds a graduate degree in Islamic law from the prestigious Al-Azhar University in Cairo. During the 1950s, he taught theology at two secondary schools in Kabul and was a professor of Islamic jurisprudence at Kabul University. From 1974 until 1978, Mojadedi headed the Islamic Center of Scandinavia in Copenhagen.

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Mojadedi studied the Naqshbandi order of Sufism, which his family has headed for over a century. The nearly 3 million Afghan sect members regard Mojadedi as the leader of a revered dynasty. (Some sources claim that Mojadedi is a direct descendant of Umar, the second caliph). In addition, his father and great uncle, both religious scholars, were honored for their efforts in fighting the British in 1919. As a result, the family added prestige and, through a royal reward, great wealth to its religious credentials.

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**Small and Ineffective Forces**

The ANLF is probably the smallest and least effective of the Peshawar-based resistance groups. Although



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Mojadedi's family claims to lead up to 40,000 armed men operating from bases in Kabul city and in Lowgar, Nangarhar, Qandahar or Konarha Provinces, we believe that the ANLF has relatively few supporters scattered in the immediate area of the Pakistani border. [redacted] report that the ANLF has often claimed credit for other groups' military successes. [redacted]

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Most of the ANLF's troubles in the field can be traced to poor administration [redacted] in its headquarters in Peshawar. Logistic snarls keep many supplies from reaching the battlefield. [redacted]

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[redacted] Mojadedi's family, which holds most of the decisionmaking power within the organization, has been accused of questionable financial dealings and selling weapons for personal profit, although Mojadedi has not been personally implicated in any wrongdoing.

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**Just About Anything But Communism**

Mojadedi has a long history of anti-Communist and anti-Soviet activities. In 1959 he was arrested for allegedly plotting to assassinate Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, who was on an official visit to Kabul. He subsequently served a four-year prison term--three years of which he spent in solitary confinement. From his release until 1974, when he fled the country for Denmark, he actively organized street demonstrations against Communism, while serving as a translator at the Saudi Arabian Embassy. In 1972 he formed the secret Jamiat al-Ulami Mohammadi as an Islamic counterweight to growing Communist influence in Kabul. While in self-imposed exile, Mojadedi traveled around the Middle East trying to mobilize opposition to the leftist regime of Mohammad Daoud. [redacted]

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Although Mojadedi has never hesitated to use Islam as a political tool, he opposes the establishment in Afghanistan of an Islamic republic modeled after Iran. According to US officials in Peshawar, he has labeled Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of a Hizbi Islami faction, and Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, the head of the



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[REDACTED]

Ittihad-i-Islami Barai Azadi Afghanistan (the Islamic Union for the Liberation of Afghanistan), as fanatics for their support of a Khomeini-style government. He personally favors a nonaligned democracy based on Islamic and traditional Afghan values and advocates convening a Loya Jirga--a traditional form of self rule based on popular representation--to establish the future government of Afghanistan. [REDACTED]

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Mojadedi is ambivalent about a future role for former King Zahir Shah, to whom he is distantly related through his second wife. In 1984, Mojadedi told US officials that the King's past mistakes had led to the present political chaos and that the monarchy was an anachronism. Mojadedi has since said that the King is still popular among his former subjects and could serve as a rallying point for the rivalry-plagued resistance. [REDACTED]

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#### **The Spokesman: Promoting Unity**

Mojadedi stresses the need for unity within the resistance. Since the beginning of the war, he has participated in every alliance created by the moderate factions, and from 1982 until 1985 served as chairman of the three-party moderate alliance (Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin). Although Mojadedi insists that without solidarity the cause may be lost, we believe that he realizes an alliance is also in his best interests. In view of the ANLF's poor military and financial condition, the unity group provides Mojadedi with more exposure and power than he would otherwise have and gives him increased access to funding and logistic aid. [REDACTED]

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But working with the alliance's fundamentalists, particularly Gulbuddin and Sayyaf, has not been easy for Mojadedi. In addition to their differences over the form of a post-Communist government in Afghanistan, they are at odds over the nature of the present coalition. Mojadedi maintains that Gulbuddin and Sayyaf have little regard for unity and are a hindrance by refusing to cooperate with it. He blames their [REDACTED] intransigence upon their allegedly close ties with Khomeini and Libyan leader Qadhafi. Mojadedi is especially hostile toward Gulbuddin, whom he branded as the "world's biggest terrorist" and accused of assassinating fellow resistance commanders. [REDACTED]

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**Pro-US Attitude**

Mojadedi looks favorably upon the US. He wants the US to provide more humanitarian and military aid to the resistance in general, and the ANLF specifically, and to increase diplomatic pressure upon the Soviet Union to pull out of Afghanistan. After his trip to Washington, D.C. in June 1986, Mojadedi commented that he appreciated meeting President Reagan and was impressed with his knowledge of the resistance effort. He also has said that as spokesman he intends to maintain close contact with the US.

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**As Spokesman: A Look into the Crystal Ball**

Mojadedi, no stranger to the limelight, will probably stress public relations during his tenure as spokesman. He is fluent in English and Arabic and speaks some German and Urdu. He is an experienced public speaker and on occasion has delivered powerful and moving speeches. A personable man, he enjoys giving press interviews; he even appeared in 1982 on the US evangelical television program "The 700 Club".



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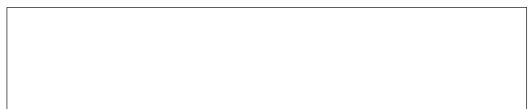
Mojadedi's goals of opening offices abroad, consolidating the work of alliance committees, and promoting an assembly to create a government-in-exile will probably be unfulfilled. According to the US Embassy in Islamabad, Sayyaf and Gulbuddin are opposed to opening an alliance office in Jeddah. They also disagree with Mojadedi and the traditionalists over the method of selecting representatives for the Loya Jirga and relations with the US. More importantly, Mojadedi lacks the political power and savvy to influence the other alliance leaders. Therefore, Mojadedi will probably move slowly toward his objectives



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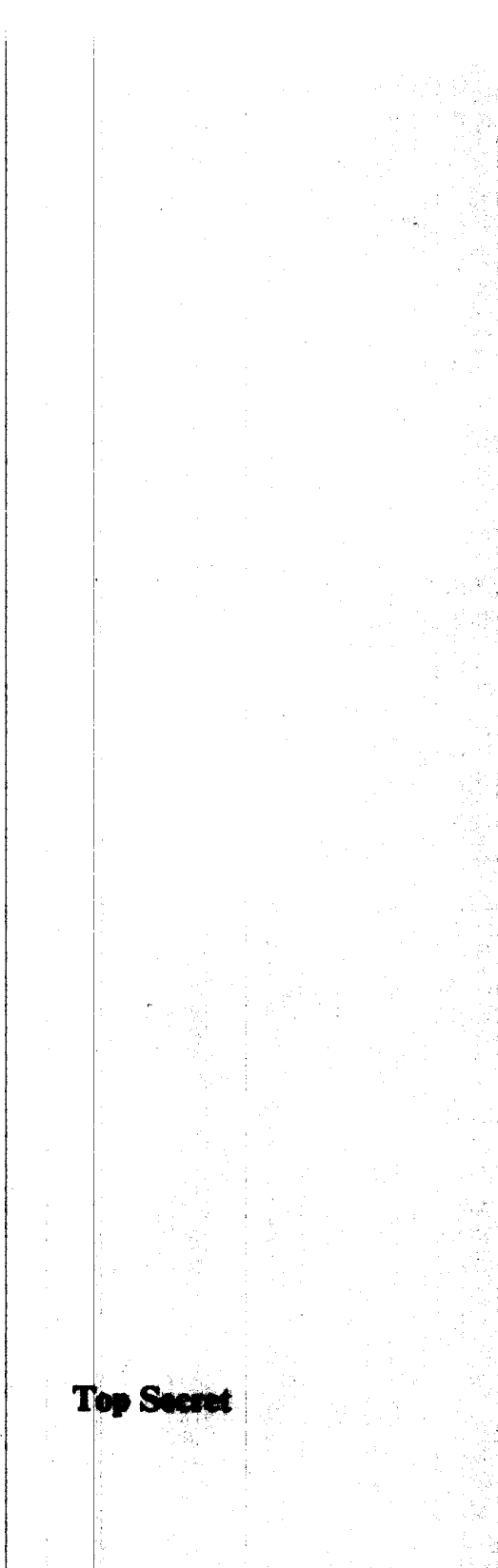


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