



Directorate of Intelligence

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Afghanistan Situation Report

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23 September 1986

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NSA M 86-20147JX
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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT 

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CONTENTS

FIGHTING IN PAGHMAN AGAIN 




2 25X1

Soviet and Afghan regime efforts to curb guerrilla activity in Paghman--used by the insurgents to launch attacks against Kabul--are not having much success. Insurgent forces also actively harassed outposts in eastern Afghanistan. 

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SOVIET MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IN KABUL 

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 the Soviets are continuing construction of new barracks in Kabul to house troops currently bivouacked. 


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AFGHAN MANPOWER PROBLEMS 

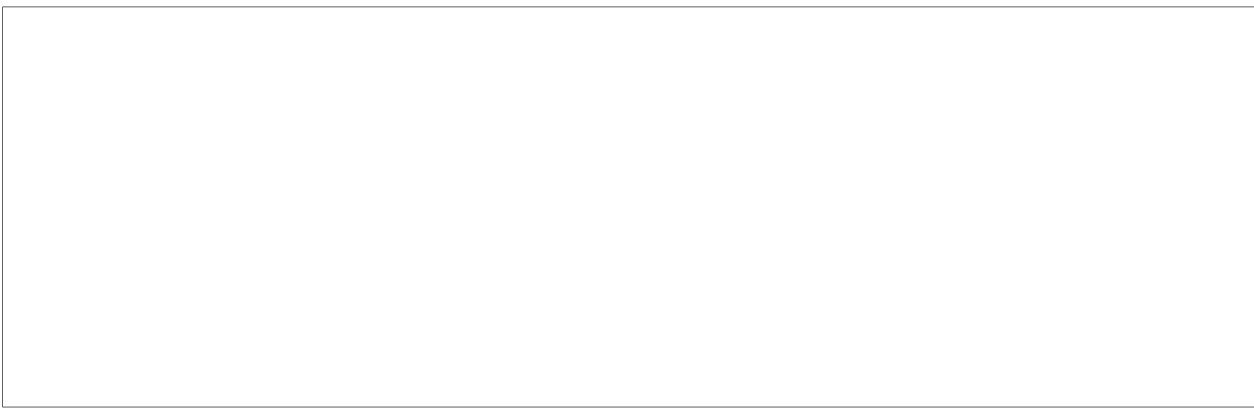
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The manpower problems of an Afghan Army regiment--barely a battalion-size unit in actuality--are symptomatic of armed forces-wide difficulties in obtaining and retaining personnel. 

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IN BRIEF

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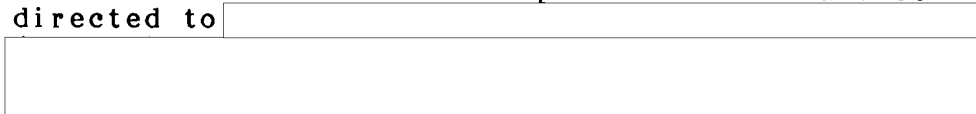


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directed to

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23 September 1986
NESA M 86-20147JX
SOVA M 86-20088JX

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FIGHTING IN PAGHMAN AGAIN



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Soviet and Afghan combat operations in the Paghman area resumed last week, after a brief lull. Attack and transport helicopters flew from Kabul toward Paghman on at least five days. On 19 September a Soviet fire base consisting of 2S5 152-mm self-propelled guns and BM-21 multiple rocket launcher batteries was positioned near Kharga Lake to launch strikes on Paghman, according to sources of the Embassy in Kabul. Operations in Paghman are intended to prevent insurgent rocket attacks on the capital. But over the past week, the US Embassy reported the guerrillas have succeeded in hitting Kabul International Airport with several rockets.



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In the eastern provinces of Nangarhar and Konarha, the insurgents continued harassment of Soviet and Afghan regime outposts.



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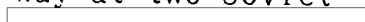


SOVIET MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IN KABUL

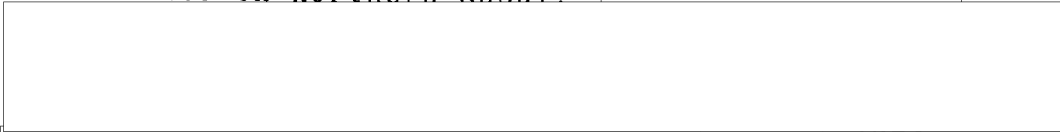


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Extensive construction is under way at two Soviet cantonments in northern Kabul.



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these installations apparently are relocating from tents to the more permanent housing facilities, according to sources. Soviet troops at [redacted] US Embassy [redacted]

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23 September 1986
NESA M 86-20147JX
SOVA M 86-20088JX



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AFGHAN MANPOWER PROBLEMS 

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

IN BRIEF



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Press reports also note that leaders of the Tehrik-i-Istaqlal, a moderate Pakistani opposition party, have been invited to the Soviet Union. Moscow is probably seeking endorsement of its Afghan policy from Islamic and Pakistani opposition leaders. 

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-- A Soviet soldier, who deserted to the Afghan resistance but subsequently returned to the Soviet Union, has been sentenced to 12 years of hard labor and three years of internal exile, according to the US Embassy in Moscow. Soviet officials had assured the soldier that he would not be punished if he went back to the USSR. 


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-- A senior Soviet official last week said that the limited Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan would take place "literally next month," according to Soviet media accounts. The withdrawal, which Gorbachev promised would occur



23 September 1986
NESA M 86-20147JX
SOVA M 86-20088JX

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[REDACTED]

by yearend, most likely is timed for maximum impact during the UN General Assembly's discussions on Afghanistan. [REDACTED]

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-- According to Kabul's official press, Afghanistan's National Fatherland Front will convene its second congress during October and November. The congress is intended to bolster Kabul's image as a broadly based regime. [REDACTED]

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-- An Afghan regime newspaper recently published a sharp retort to a BBC broadcast critical of the government's land reform and population relocation program. The regime has been trying to put a gloss on its land and population programs. [REDACTED]

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-- According to press reports, the conservative European Democratic Union issued a declaration on 20 September calling for the Soviet Union to pull out unconditionally its forces from Afghanistan. The Nonaligned Movement earlier this month called for withdrawal of foreign--not specifically Soviet--forces. [REDACTED]

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-- The US Embassy in Kabul reports that Afghan regime media have frequently cited UN agencies in recent propaganda stories. Although the UN and other international agencies have a largely symbolic presence in Kabul, the regime wants to publicize the tacit recognition their presence implies. [REDACTED]

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-- [REDACTED] a new reviewing stand being built near the Soviet tank regiment garrison at Shindand. This armored unit is slated to return to the USSR by the end of 1986. Elements of the regiment being mustered at Shindand include two new tank battalions that may have come from the USSR. [REDACTED]

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23 September 1986
 NESA M 86-20147JX
 SOVA M 86-20088JX

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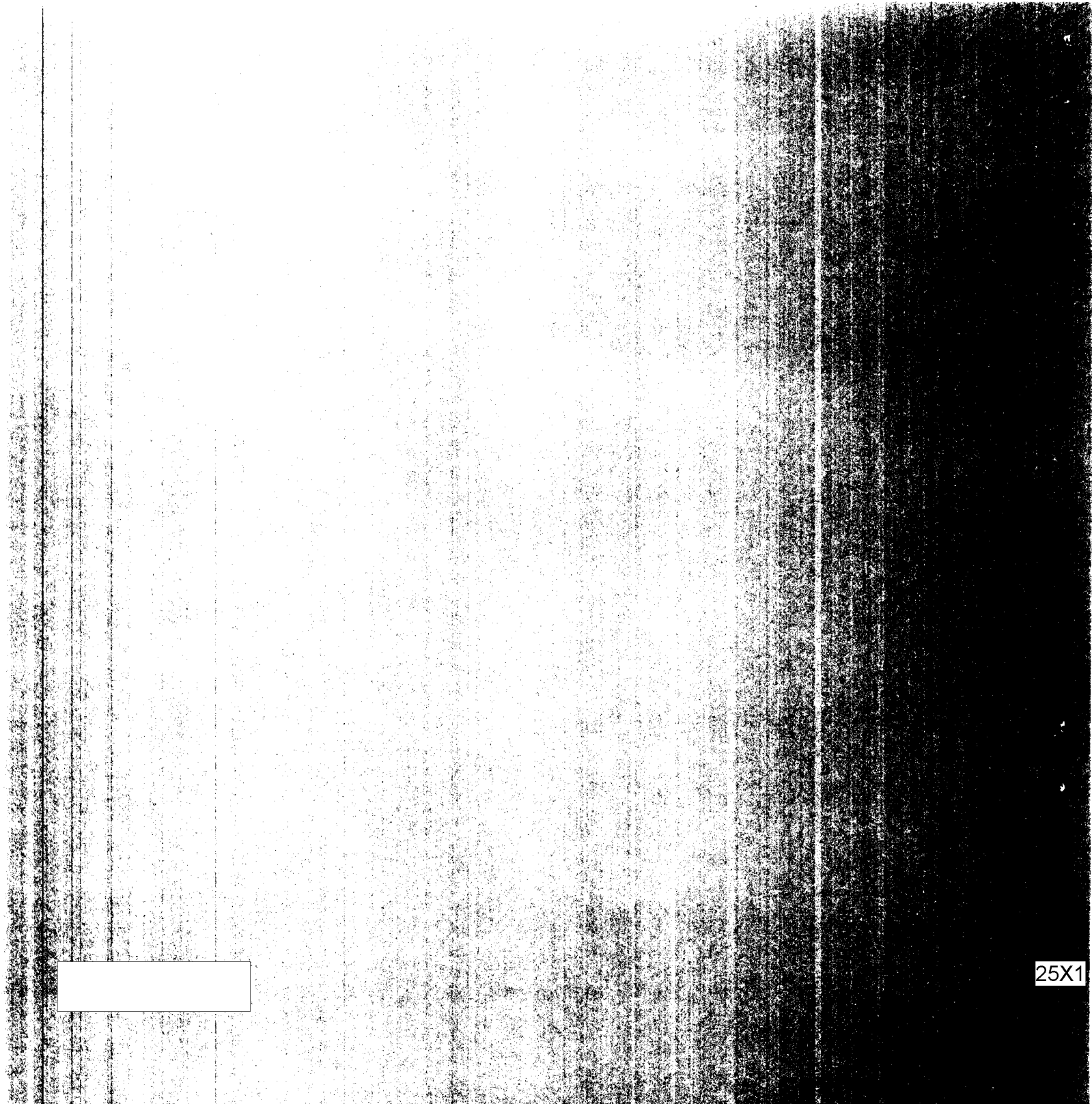
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