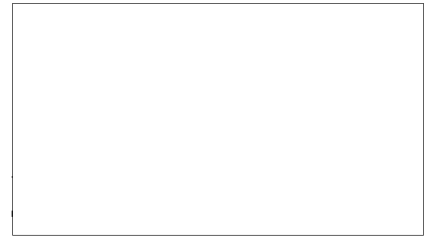




Directorate of Intelligence

DATE 10/10/86 SC ~~Top Secret~~ FILE
DOC NO NESA M 86-20156CX
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Afghanistan Situation Report



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7 October 1986

79-80 IMC/CB

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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT

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CONTENTS

FIGHTING IN PAGHMAN AND NANGARHAR

[Redacted]

2

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Last week Soviet and Afghan forces continued trying to rout insurgent groups from Paghman, where such operations have been under way for well over a month.

[Redacted]

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INSURGENTS SCORE FIRST SUCCESS WITH STINGERS

[Redacted]

2

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In late September Afghan insurgents, using Stinger air defense missiles in combat for the first time, shot down at least two Soviet helicopters near Jalalabad.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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PAKISTANIS UPSET OVER MCCOLLUM SHIPMENTS

[Redacted]

4

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Poorly quality commodities being shipped under the McCollum Program could be cited by the Pakistani Government as a reason to discontinue the assistance. [Redacted]

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MIXING RAISINS AND HEROIN

[Redacted]

5

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[Redacted]

Afghan regime managers at a raisin packing factory are aware that heroin is being hidden in raisin export shipments. It is unclear what role, if any, the Afghan Government has had in this operation. [Redacted]

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IN BRIEF

5

PERSPECTIVE

NAZIAN: VALLEY OF DISAPPOINTMENT FOR THE AFGHAN REGIME

[Redacted]

9

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Despite several attempts this year, predominantly by the Afghan Army, to establish long-lasting control of the strategic Nazian Valley in Nangarhar Province, the regime has been able to make little progress. [Redacted]

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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

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[Redacted]

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FIGHTING IN PAGHMAN AND NANGARHAR

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Soviet and Afghan forces stepped up combat operations last week in Paghman, west of Kabul, in the continuing effort to contain the insurgent threat to the capital. Following a pre-dawn artillery barrage on 3 October, a Soviet heliborne assault--employing at least 32 Mi-8s and Mi-24s--was directed against insurgent positions in the hills near Paghman, according to US Embassy sources. Jet fighters subsequently bombed a small valley south of Paghman city. During the next two days, Afghan regime soldiers restricted northward-bound civilian traffic from Kabul because of fighting nearby

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Soviet and Afghan combat operations are also under way in Nangarhar Province.

[Redacted]

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motorized rifle, airborne, and artillery assets--
departed garrison

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

INSURGENTS SCORE FIRST SUCCESS WITH STINGERS

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] the Afghan resistance shot down at least two MI-8 helicopters near Jalalabad last week using Stinger missiles. Another helicopter was hit but may have been able to land safely. A fourth Stinger failed to hit its target. Military flight activity is continuing from Jalalabad, although some civilian flights were canceled.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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two helicopters crashed near the airport, and that at least one of the helicopters was equipped with an infrared jammer.

[Redacted]

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COMMENT: These are the first Stinger "kills" in Afghanistan. We do not know whether the heliborne

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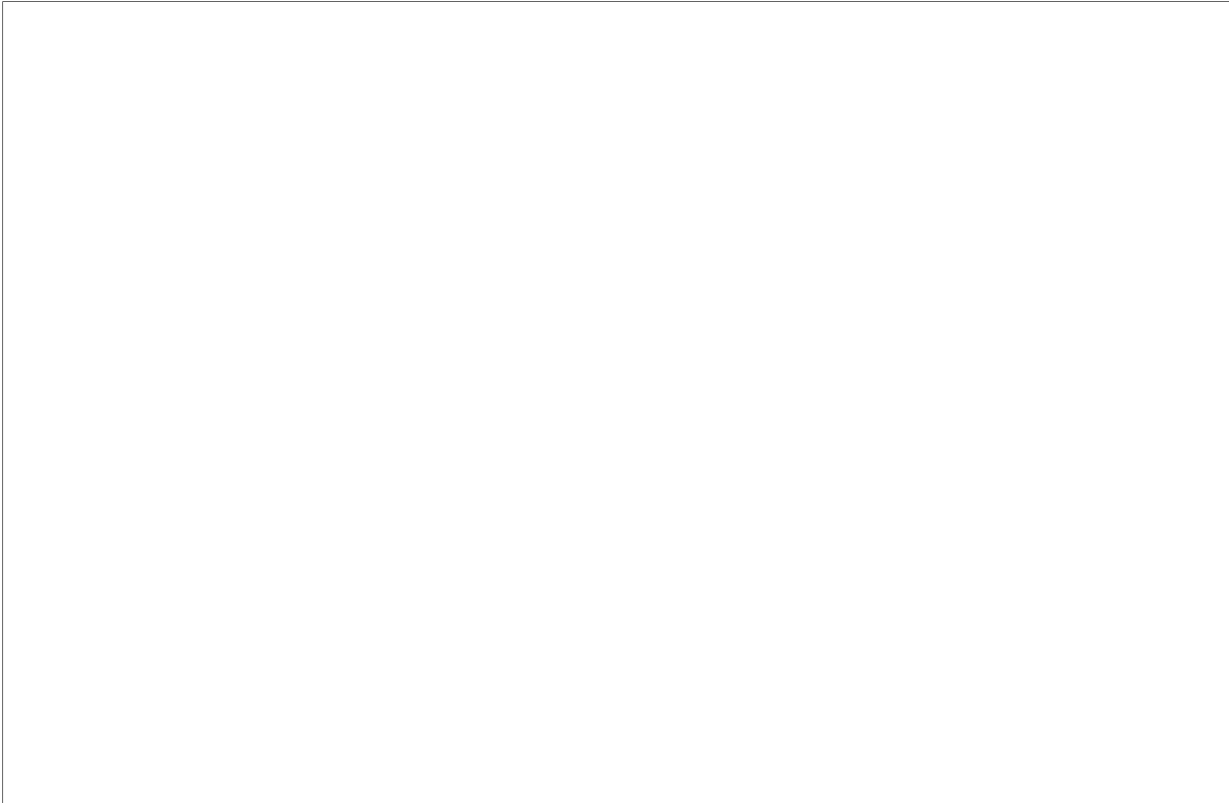


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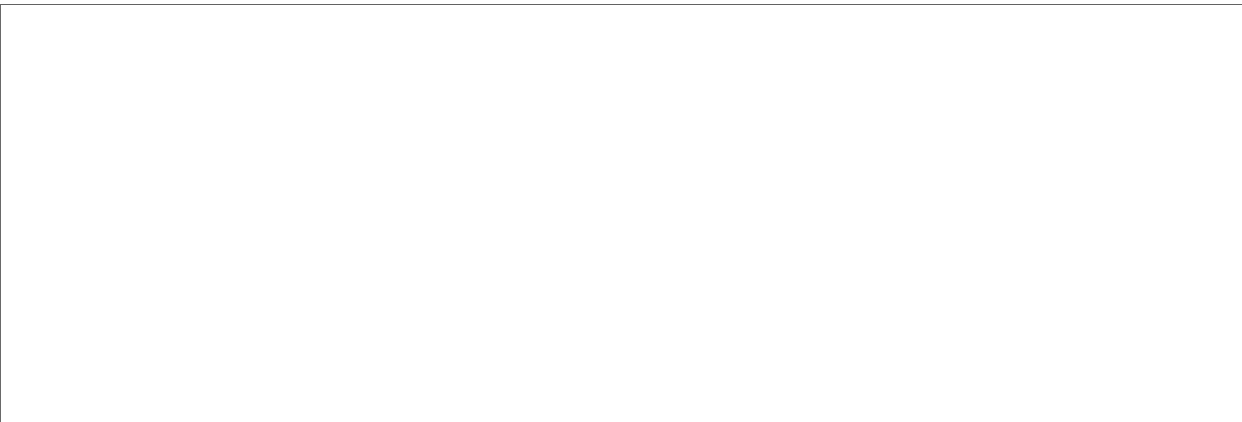
jammers were ineffective or not in use during the attack. The losses will increase concern about the vulnerability of their aircraft, but the Soviets' immediate reaction probably will be to reemphasize safety procedures and standard countermeasures, particularly during takeoffs and landings.



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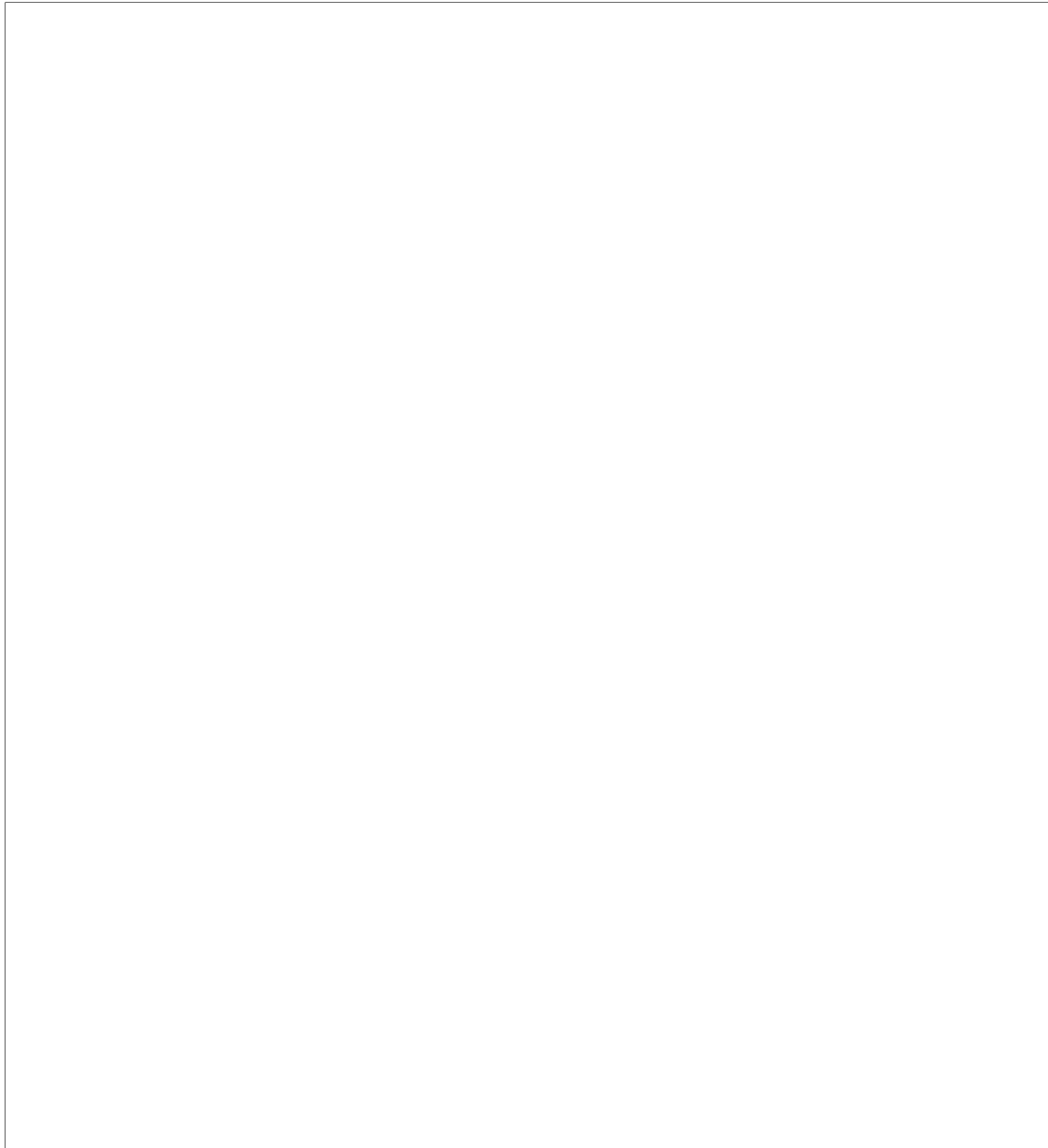
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PAKISTANIS UPSET OVER MCCOLLUM SHIPMENTS



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The Government of Pakistan recently complained that only 25 percent of the commodities received through the McCollum Program are useful, according to the US Embassy in Islamabad. Pakistani officials said most of the items on the flight of 18 September were worn-out,




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damaged, or packaged in a way that precluded useful application. 



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COMMENT: Islamabad, which reluctantly agreed to the program, could cite the deficient shipments as an excuse for reducing or withdrawing its support for the program and other US-initiated cross-border assistance efforts. 

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MIXING RAISINS AND HEROIN 

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 heroin is being concealed in cartons of raisins packed at two Afghan Government plants in Kabul, with the knowledge of plant administrators. The heroin-cum-raisin shipments have been sent since the spring to the Netherlands via Moscow and the Soviet port of Riga. In May, Dutch authorities seized 220 kilograms of heroin hidden in a shipment of raisins that had originated in Afghanistan and crossed through the Soviet Union. 

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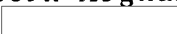
COMMENT: It is unclear what role, if any, the Afghan Government has had in this operation. The Kabul regime is known to promote domestic narcotics production and may have also been involved in narcotics trafficking to Pakistan and Iran. In any case, Afghan traffickers probably believe that routing via the USSR would reduce suspicions by West European customs officials that illicit drugs would be included in the shipments. 

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IN BRIEF

-- The first pylons of a 56-kilometer power transmission line from the Soviet border to Konduz have been built, according to press reports. The Soviet Union--which began supplying electricity to Afghanistan in June 1985 after completion of a line to Mazar-e Sharif--plans to extend service to other areas in northern Afghanistan and eventually to Kabul. 

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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-- Last month Oman gave the Government of Pakistan \$100,000 for the support of Afghan refugees, according to press reports. This is Oman's first official contribution to Afghan refugee relief. [Redacted]

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-- US defense attaches recently visited a cemetery at Dushanbe which had tombstones for Soviet military war dead clearly indicating that the men had died from service in Afghanistan. Most of the seventy tombstones had inscriptions indicating the deceased were from airborne units. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

-- [Redacted] U-shaped aircraft revetments are being built at Qandahar, Bagram, and Shindand airfields. The revetments will improve protection of Afghan combat aircraft against blast damage. [Redacted]

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-- Madagascar's President Ratsiraka reportedly endorsed the Soviet position on the Afghan issue during a recent visit to Moscow. His pro-Soviet stance almost certainly was motivated by a wish to obtain more financial assistance from the USSR. Madagascar traditionally votes against the UN resolution on Afghanistan. [Redacted]

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-- A five-person group from Dutch church-affiliated peace groups--the Inter-Church Peace Council and Pax Christi--was invited to visit Moscow last month by the Soviet Peace Council. The Dutch

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activists challenged the Soviets on Afghanistan
and human rights. 

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PERSPECTIVE


NAZIAN: VALLEY OF DISAPPOINTMENT FOR THE AFGHAN REGIME



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As part of a general drive to increase its control of the strategic eastern border provinces, the Afghan regime tried, without much success during the first half of early 1986 to block resistance forces from using the Nazian Valley. Besides hindering resistance infiltration and resupply operations, the Government wanted to have a secure base to facilitate its support for Afridi tribesmen linked to the Pakistani dissident, Wali Khan Kukikhel. 

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A Strategic Valley

The Nazian Valley in eastern Nangarhar Province is important for insurgent forces in the area, most of which belong to the Hizbi Islami (Khalis) party. Several major supply routes from Pakistan intersect at the town of Nazian. The trails cross the Safed Koh mountain range south of Nazian through five passes that are open only during the summer and fall. 

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This section of Nangarhar Province is also close to an area of Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province occupied by the Afridi tribe. The leader of one fractious clan of the tribe--Wali Khan Kukikhel--has longstanding ties to the Kabul Government. 

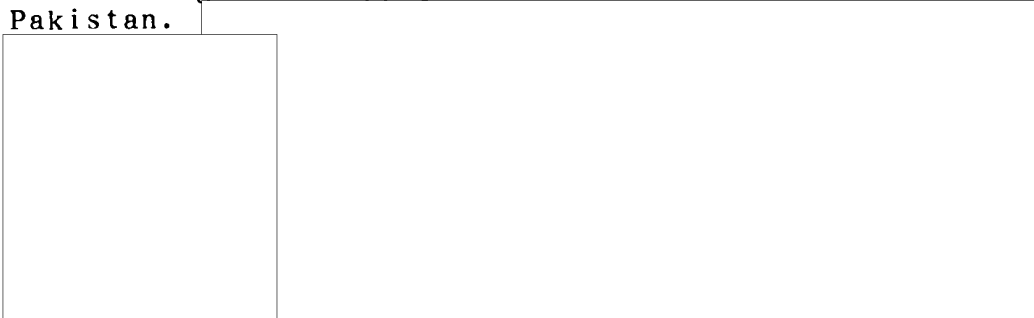
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Objective: Secure the Valley

In early 1986 Soviet and Afghan regime forces intensified military pressure on guerrilla forces in Nangarhar Province, as part of an overall effort to stem insurgent resupply and infiltration from Pakistan.

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[Redacted]

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On 30 January, Afghan and Soviet forces began a new offensive in the valley to capture guerrilla weaponry, secure a route for pro-Kabul Pakistani tribesmen, and continue interdiction of resistance convoys, [Redacted]

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[Redacted] The task force comprised elements of two Afghan infantry divisions with additional artillery support and one Soviet motorized rifle brigade. The outnumbered insurgents responded to the offensive by launching diversionary attacks on Afghan Army posts in the border area, where regime forces were spread thin.

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

With the aid of new reinforcements, however, the Afghan regime forces were able to counterattack and seize control of the valley by 21 February, [Redacted]

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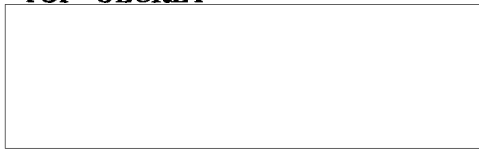
While the regime had a preponderance of force in the valley, insurgent forces drew back. Starting in late

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March, however, when the regime was forced to use some of the forces deployed in Nazian to respond to insurgent activity in Paktia and Vardak Provinces, the insurgents took advantage of the pullout to escalate attacks. Over the next two months, the guerrillas increased their strength in the valley sufficiently to seize five border posts, according to the US Embassy in Islamabad. Resistance forces were also able to interdict several regime convoys and capture some ammunition stocks. 

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Prospects

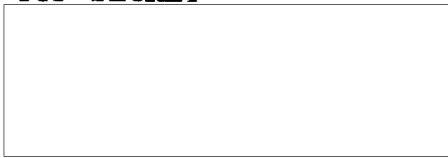
The Afghan regime probably will not resume major operations in the Nazian Valley in the near future. The surge of guerrilla activity throughout Afghanistan during the summer has strained the Army's capabilities




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to respond to a widespread threat, and resistance pressure in other sections of Nangarhar and Paktia Provinces has put regime forces there on the defensive. To undertake another major offensive in the Nazian Valley, the poorly trained and understrength Afghan military will need substantial assistance from Soviet forces. Even then, a large-scale offensive would probably only provide fleeting control of the valley. 

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Events in the Nazian Valley underscore the Soviet and Afghan Government's inability to pacify permanently important border areas. Insurgent activity can be stifled only in the few instances where the regime can afford to station large units. 

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