

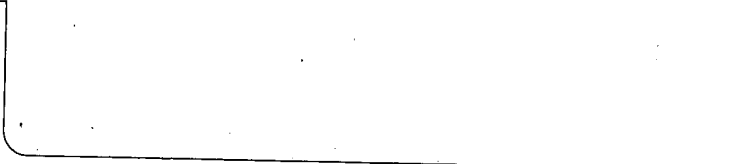
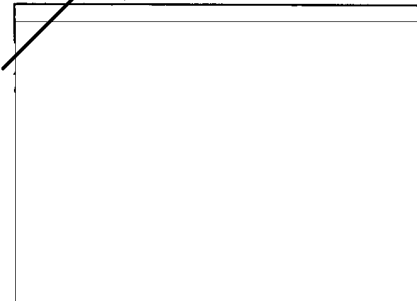
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Afghanistan Situation Report



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25 March 1986

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25 March 1986

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Jamiat-i-Islami leader Burhannudin Rabbani hopes to travel widely during his term as resistance spokesman. Better advance planning will be needed to make the trip successful. [Redacted] 25X1

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Mohammed Sarwar Nuristani is attempting to form a pro-regime militia in northeastern Afghanistan. Its operations would jeopardize important insurgent supply routes from Pakistan. [Redacted] 25X1

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Since the April revolution in 1978, the Soviet Union has dominated Afghanistan's imports and exports. Western nations engage in little trade with Kabul. [Redacted] 25X1

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This document is prepared weekly 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 [Redacted]

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RABBANI'S WORLDWIDE TOUR

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The US Embassy in Islamabad says that Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Jamiat-i-Islami, hopes to travel extensively during his three-month tour as insurgent alliance spokesman beginning 1 April.

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the insurgent leader's proposed itinerary includes the US, China, and Western Europe. Jamiat's representative in France has complained, however, that several governments have rejected preliminary requests for high-level meetings. US Embassy sources report that Rabbani and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar visited Karachi for two days and gave an effective presentation of their views.

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Comment: Rabbani's ambitious plans underscore the importance the alliance attaches to drawing international attention to its cause. The insurgents' lack of experience in arranging such trips could limit the impact of the visits. Poor advance work in Karachi apparently accounts for the low-key treatment the visit received in the local press.

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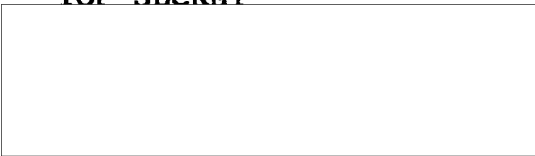
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PRO-REGIME MILITIA SEEKS TO BLOCK JAMIAT SUPPLY ROUTE



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Mohammed Sarwar Nuristani is intensifying efforts to organize and train a 500-man militia in western Nuristan that will attempt to close insurgent supply routes from Pakistan

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Sarwar--a Parchami, ex-Afghan Army officer--also plans to construct a number of helipads at key locations in Nuristan, although

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one of the main objectives of the recent Soviet offensive in the tributary Hazara Valley was to establish an overland link to Sarwar's isolated area of influence. The Afghan regime has provided Sarwar with money and weapons

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Comment: A pro-regime militia with good logistic support in western Nuristan would create substantial problems for the insurgents. The area is near Panjsher Valley commander Masood's main supply route from Chitral and other insurgents' routes to Badakhshan, Takhar, and Baghlan Provinces. A second front could be opened against the Panjsher Valley resistance and force Masood to postpone plans to expand his operations. Amir Afzal--a local rival of Sarwar and head of the self-proclaimed government of Nuristan--now permits safe passage for the insurgents, but his weak militia probably would have difficulty protecting the routes from Sarwar's forces

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SOVIETS DOMINATE AFGHAN TRADE



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Trade between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union amounted to roughly \$1 billion in fiscal 1985 (ending 20 March 1985), according to a report by the Soviet news agency Tass. Soviet imports from Afghanistan--mainly natural gas--were reported to total \$369 million, down 8 percent from FY 1984. Exports, which are primarily manufactured goods and foodstuffs, totaled \$623 million, up 30 percent from FY 1984

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Comment: Since the April revolution of 1978, the Soviet Union has dominated Kabul's trade. Commerce with most Western countries has been cut off, and the Soviet Union now accounts for about 60 percent of Afghanistan's imports and exports. Prior to 1978, the Soviet Union's share was roughly 30 percent of Afghanistan's imports and exports.

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-- Kabul will dispense with fines for overdue land taxes, provided the back taxes are paid within the next year, according to Afghan regime press reports. Although the measure is an attempt to win over land owners, its effect will be limited because of the small number of land owners subject to Kabul's control.

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-- , the Soviets will build new airfields at Gardeyz, Asadabad, and possibly Bagram and Jalalabad. Because operational airfields at those locations have recently undergone major improvements, new construction probably will only consist of additional renovations.

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-- A new radio station operated by the Afghan regime began broadcasting from Kabul on 21 March 1986, according to the Bakhtar news agency. Fourteen stations throughout Afghanistan are now broadcasting a combined total of 83 hours per day, and the regime wants to double air time in the next five years.

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-- Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert, who is making plans to visit Pakistan, has indicated he wants to avoid contact with Afghan resistance leaders during his trip,

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Switzerland does not approve of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan but Aubert probably wishes to maintain an appearance of neutrality

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