

~~S E C R E T~~SOVIET INTEREST IN INVOLVING THE U.S. IN EFFORTS TO FIND A  
POLITICAL SOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN

The Soviets, both directly to our Embassy in Moscow and via U.N. officials talking with Armacost, have sought to involve the U.S. in efforts to forge a political solution in Afghanistan that would ease the Soviets' withdrawal. Embassy Moscow has urged "careful consideration" of such a proposal. We see no reason to involve the U.S. in such an effort. The Geneva Accords were supposed to be a "fig leaf" to cover the Soviets' withdrawal. We associated ourselves with the Accords, at substantial political and operational cost and despite strong evidence that the Soviets would leave Afghanistan with or without the accords. Further American involvement is unnecessary. Such U.S. involvement would be particularly costly to us were it seen to be part of an effort to bring about a Kabul government which was, in the words of Embassy Moscow, a representation of "the will of the International Community." The Mujahedin are particularly sensitive to any suggestion that outsiders will dictate the form of government in post-war Afghanistan. They could be counted upon to resist the "will of the International Community" with as much vigor as they have resisted the Soviets.

U.S. PRESENCE IN KABUL

State's Near East Bureau, Diplomatic Security Service and admin officers are strongly inclined to close Embassy Kabul. At their request, we provided them with an assessment that the security situation and, especially, the likelihood that the Mission could provide for essentials such as fuel and food will deteriorate in the coming weeks. We noted that the Mission's means of egress (commercial air traffic through Kabul Airport) would be cut off either prior to or in conjunction with serious security problems. We and others have also noted the political benefits that would be derived from signalling our total lack of confidence in the puppet regime by closing our Mission.

25X1

State's Soviet Desk is pushing to keep the Mission open on the grounds that the Soviets would interpret our departure as a hostile granting of a "green light" to the Resistance to fire "indiscriminately" on the city. The State Soviet specialists are concerned that such a Soviet reaction would impact negatively on the overall U.S./Soviet relationship. (DDI/SOVA does not share this view.)

~~S E C R E T~~

**Page Denied**