


19 January 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: PRG Meeting on Afghanistan, 15 January 1988

1. Mike Armacost provided a review of his trip to Pakistan. It was very much along the same lines reported in the NODIS.
2. I provided an intelligence brief on the military situation on the ground in Afghanistan, the PDPA morale and control, and there was considerable discussion of the diplomatic strategy for dealing with Pakistan and the UN.
3. Rich Armitage asked what CIA's views were on the Soviet withdrawal and I gave him the following answer:

"The Soviets clearly want to get out of Afghanistan. We are uncertain whether they are willing to leave without any guarantee about what remains or if they still intend to leave only if they can establish a regime that has some DRA participation and one that will last a decent interval. The intelligence judgment is that the Soviets are still trying for the second solution. There is much to be gained from the Soviets if they can get out of Afghanistan -- relations with the Islamic world, West Europe, and China probably could improve but abandoning a communist government might leave Gorbachev very vulnerable to domestic critics."


Richard J. Kerr
Deputy Director for Intelligence

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