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PROGRAM 20/20

STATION WJLA TV
ABC Network

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10:00 PM

CITY Washington DC

SUBJECT U.S. Involvement in Afghanistan

HUGH DOWNS: A few moments ago, in her report about Soviet television, Ann Garrels described the controlled picture given the Russians of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. You'll recall that surprising Russian move against the remote Asian mountain country. December 1979. An invasionary force of Russian troops rolls across the Soviet border into Afghanistan. Today they are 85,000 strong, well-trained and equipped with the latest weaponry, tanks, helicopter gunships, MIG jet fighters. The Soviets are opposed by a guerrilla force of Afghan tribesmen fighting for their homeland, fighting with whatever weapons they can get their hands on.

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER: This, in my opinion, is the most serious threat to world peace since the Second World War.

DOWNS: Responding to the Afghan invasion, President Carter publicly called for a grain embargo against the Soviet Union, a boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow, and trade restrictions on Soviet goods.

Afghanistan is in the forefront of the news again this week. Monday the U.S. announced a \$3 billion program of economic and military aid to Pakistan aimed at countering the Soviet threat in Afghanistan and elsewhere in Southwest Asia. And Tuesday in Peking, Secretary of State Haig disclosed that China and the U.S. will support anti-Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

Well, just after the invasion there were several newspaper reports that the CIA would attempt aid the Afghan resistance. And then, for 18 months, nothing more specific was heard about that. Well, Carl Bernstein, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on Watergate, has been able to find out what has hap-