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Brezhnev Meddling Charge Is Rejected by U.S. Aides

Afghanistan Turmoil Seen As Nationalist Reaction

By Henry S. Bradsher
Washington Star Staff Writer

While U.S. officials insisted that the uprisings in Afghanistan are a nationalist reaction to Soviet control, Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev blamed them yesterday on U.S. interference and said once it ends Soviet troops will withdraw.

"Let the United States together with the neighbors of Afghanistan guarantee," Brezhnev said, that all forms of outside interference "are fully terminated . . . and then the need of Soviet military assistance will cease to exist."

Responding to reporters' questions about the speech, the State Department said, "Our position continues to be that all Soviet troops should be withdrawn from Afghanistan and that there should be a neutral, non-aligned government acceptable to the people of Afghanistan in Kabul. We are studying the Brezhnev speech in this light."

Although President Carter and West Europeans have advocated the neutralization of Afghanistan, Soviet sources have rejected any solution that would remove the country from the newly expanded Soviet bloc.

U.S. officials said privately that Brezhnev's idea of guarantees against outside interference was unlikely to form a basis for resolving the crisis. So long as Afghan domestic resistance continues, the Soviet Union will find it convenient to blame foreign meddling, so it will deny the validity of any guarantees.

Some observers compared Brezhnev's suggestion with President Carter's call at his Feb. 14 news conference for "a commitment that might be verified and carried out that the Soviets would not invade another country or use their military forces beyond their borders again to de-

stabilize the peace." Both were impractical in the real world of power politics, these observers said.

Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist Party's general-secretary and his nation's president, was the last speaker in a series of leadership speeches before tomorrow's party-controlled elections to Soviet regional parliaments.

He repeated in a tougher, more strident form the Soviet line that Soviet troops were in Afghanistan only because of foreign interference there and they would leave as soon as it ended.

On Thursday Premier Alexei N. Kosygin had strongly implied that the Kremlin had no expectation of withdrawing from Afghanistan. He accused the United States of demanding that Afghan Communists renounce foreign support, but they "will never give it up," he said.

U.S. officials have said that the faction-ridden Communists in Kabul have been unable to win popular support. They could not remain in power without Soviet troops, and Moscow might decide to overthrow President Babrak Karmal in a search for a better leader, according to the officials.

"The overwhelming fact" about the trouble in Afghanistan, State Department spokesman Thomas B. Reston said yesterday, "is that there is indigenous resistance to the Soviet-imposed government." The Afghan people are "showing how they feel about a foreign occupying army," he added.

Reston refused to comment on reports that the resistance is receiving some weapons from American sources. Although Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., has seemed to confirm that the Senate's Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence had been briefed by the CIA on a U.S. arms supply to the resistance, officials here have said it is primarily dependent on captured arms or those from deserting Afghan soldiers.

Brezhnev accused the United States of a "malicious anti-Soviet clamor . . . (that) probably beats all previous records . . . Washington simply needs a pretext to broaden its expansion in Asia" as well as "for somebody riding the crest of this wave to win the presidential elections in the autumn."

He repeated Kremlin charges that Americans, Chinese and others had directed from Pakistani territory an intervention in Afghanistan "that has created a serious threat to the Afghan revolution and also to the security of our southern border."

The White House knows, Brezhnev said, "that the USSR will withdraw its military contingents from Afghanistan as soon as the reasons that caused their presence there disappear and the Afghan government decides that their presence is no longer necessary."

"The United States loudly demands the withdrawal of Soviet troops but in fact is doing everything to put off this possibility. It is continuing and building up its interference in the affairs of Afghanistan," Brezhnev said.

"I want to state very definitely: We will be ready to commence the withdrawal of our troops as soon as all forms of outside interference directed against the government and people of Afghanistan are fully terminated. Let the United States together with the neighbors of Afghanistan guarantee this, and then the need of Soviet military assistance will cease to exist."

Brezhnev said the Afghan government has said it wants peaceful and friendly relations with neighboring Pakistan and Iran. Both countries have expressed apprehensions about the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

In Peshawar, the Pakistani city near the Khyber Pass, Afghan resistance groups and diplomats were quoted yesterday as saying Soviet troops up to battalion-sized combat units were moving toward the Pakistani border.

Diplomats in the area were quoted by a The New York Times correspondent as saying they believed the deployments might presage an effort to close the mountainous frontier to Afghan refugees or resistance guerrillas, but they doubted that it would succeed.

Observers in Washington noted that the most intensive fighting against the Soviets and their dwindling force of still-loyal Afghan soldiers has been in Afghan provinces bordering on Pakistan. The Soviet troop movements might be intended to deal with guerrillas in these provinces.