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ON PAGE A-2THE BALTIMORE SUN  
15 November 1982

## KGB called reluctant on Afghanistan

New York (Reuter)—A high-ranking Soviet KGB defector says the late Leonid I. Brezhnev overruled KGB advice not to turn Afghanistan into a Soviet satellite and that Afghan President Babrak Karmal is a longtime KGB agent, *Time* magazine said yesterday.

*Time* identified the defector from the KGB, the Soviet Union's secret police and intelligence agency, as Vladimir Kuzichkin, 35, a former KGB major who defected to the British from his post in Tehran, Iran, last June.

Mr. Kuzichkin said his superior said Mr. Brezhnev got the Soviet Union into a war "they cannot win and cannot abandon," *Time* said.

Mr. Kuzichkin, according to *Time*, quoted his superior as saying, "Afghanistan is our Vietnam."

The KGB tried to explain to Mr. Brezhnev that a communist takeover in Afghanistan would present problems, Mr. Kuzichkin told the weekly newsmagazine.

Afghan President Mohammed Daoud Khan was toppled in 1978 by a communist coup.

"We pointed out that despite all his slaughter the tribes had accepted Daoud as a legitimate ruler," *Time* quoted Mr. Kuzichkin as saying.

"An openly communist regime would arouse their hostility, that would then be directed against the Soviet Union. It was clearly of the utmost importance that Afghanistan should have the right leader," Mr. Kuzichkin was quoted as saying.

Mr. Kuzichkin also said the Kremlin staged the murder of President Karmal's predecessor, Hafizullah Amin, after he had been backed for the presidency by Mr. Brezhnev against KGB advice, *Time* said.

Though Mr. Karmal had been "a KGB agent for many years," Mr. Kuzichkin said "the Politburo decided to back [Noor Mohammed] Taraki [as Mr. Daoud's successor] because Mr. Brezhnev said he knew Taraki personally. He was sure Taraki would do a good job!" according to *Time*.

Once in power, Mr. Kuzichkin said, Mr. Taraki turned against the Soviet Union and then Mr. Brezhnev turned to Mr. Amin, Mr. Taraki's deputy.

Mr. Brezhnev secretly agreed to have Mr. Amin arrange for Mr. Taraki to step down. "Taraki stepped straight from the presidency to his grave," Mr. Kuzichkin was quoted as saying.

Mr. Amin, though, did not suit the Kremlin and was killed by Soviet agents dressed as Afghan soldiers, Mr. Kuzichkin told *Time*.

Mr. Karmal was then brought to Moscow and agreed to become the next Afghan president, Mr. Kuzichkin told *Time*.