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# Detente hopes hinge on Afghans' freedom

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The Soviet Union's withdrawal of all its forces from Afghanistan could serve as the "cornerstone" of a new relationship between the superpowers and nations of eastern Asia, the foreign minister of Pakistan said yesterday.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said he believes that the situation in Afghanistan, occupied by the Soviet Union since 1979, holds "an importance out of proportion" to its size and location and that a Soviet withdrawal could bring about a thaw in both East-West and Sino-Soviet relations.

"We think, we hope, that one area in which a start could be made to ... thaw East-West relations and also Sino-Soviet relations could be a movement in Afghanistan," Mr. Yaqub Khan told reporters and editors at a luncheon at The Washington Times.

He noted that the United States, China and all Western European nations have insisted on the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan as a primary condition for normalization of relations.

A move in that direction, he said, would signal that the Soviet Union is "sincere and that normalization can be undertaken in full measure."

He noted that while the possibility that the Soviets might leave Afghanistan in the near future is small, "even if there is a small percentage of chance of a peaceful settlement, it should be tried."

He said Pakistan, which shelters approximately 3 million Afghan refugees, considers the total and complete Soviet pullout from Afghanistan the only solution to the refugee problem and that there is no military solution to the Afghan situation.

He said the guerrillas fighting the combined Soviet and Afghan armies "can't expect to expel" the Soviet forces but "can make it very expensive and make them pay for their invasion."

Mr. Yaqub Khan also said the recent defection to Pakistan of seven Afghan air force crewmen in two Soviet Mi-24 — Hind — attack helicopters demonstrates that the Soviet-backed regime of Babrak

Karmal "does not enjoy the support of the armed forces of Afghanistan."

He called the defection and the dwindling of the Afghan armed forces from 80,000 to 30,000 members over the past two years "elegant testimony that the regime does not enjoy any support" from its military and that "the bulk of the people are struggling against foreign troops and the regime."

He also said the Pakistani government was "astounded" at the arrest on spy charges this week of two Pakistanis employed at the embassy in Kabul, apparently in an attempt to pressure the government to return to Afghanistan the two helicopters and their crews.

He said Pakistan "rejects altogether" Soviet charges the two men were spies and said his government would "not be intimidated" or "pressured by the arrests."

Mr. Yaqub Khan declined to say whether Pakistan would return the helicopters or crews, or whether American military experts would be allowed to inspect the Mi-24s, considered one of the world's most lethal aircraft.

He noted, however, that in the past aircraft used to defect from Afghanistan to Pakistan were returned to the government in Kabul.

The Mi-24 is a large, heavily armored helicopter that has proved to be one of the Soviet Union's most useful weapons in the war against Afghan guerrillas. The helicopter is armed with four laser-guided anti-tank missiles, 150 air-to-ground high explosive rockets, cannons and heavy machine guns.

The two helicopters are the first to fall into the hands of a U.S.-allied nation.

The United States is Pakistan's main supplier of weapons and military aid and has committed \$3.2 billion in military and economic aid to Islamabad over a five-year period.

Earlier this week the administration agreed to expedite the shipment of 100 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles and an unspecified number of surface-to-air Stinger missiles to Pakistan to strengthen its air defenses against increasing Soviet and Afghan air incursions over Pakistani territory.

The foreign minister called India's past criticism of the American-Pakistani military agreements "a double standard," noting that India has extensive arms dealings with the Soviet Union.

He also said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's criticism of American-Pakistani relations during a state visit here last month was an attempt "to drive a wedge between the United State and Pakistan."

"It's surprising that they should make good relations with [the United States] contingent on eroded relations with Pakistan," he said.

Mr. Yaqub Khan is scheduled to meet tomorrow with Secretary of State George P. Shultz but declined to say what matters he expects to discuss with Mr. Shultz.