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# Afghan battle scenes on TV begin to prepare Soviets for long war

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MOSCOW — With unprecedented broadcasts of gruesome battle footage, the Soviet Union has begun preparing its people for a long war in Afghanistan.

In recent weeks, after six years of showing Red Army soldiers mostly building roads or schools, television programs have displayed Soviet soldiers fighting.

The programs also have made clear that the "internationalist duty" of a "limited contingent" of Soviet troops spells death to many in that Asian country.

For Americans, who witnessed the carnage of Vietnam in their living rooms night after night, there is nothing particularly remarkable in the television footage that has aired here in special programs.

But to the more than 280 million Soviets, who have been kept in the dark about the ferocity of Afghan fighting, the programs have been sensational.

"They are digging deeper, maybe for another 10 years," one diplomat, who monitors the Afghanistan situation from here, said of Soviet intentions.

Other analysts said the battle footage was aired to prepare the public for high casualties in the extensive land and helicopter-borne operations Soviet troops are conducting against Afghan guerrillas.

Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan in December 1969 when a Marxist faction ousted a previous pro-Moscow government.

Since then, more than 500,000 Soviet troops have rotated through Afghanistan, where the permanent Red Army strength is estimated at 115,000. That force has a dual mission of propping up the Kabul government and fighting the Islamic guerrillas who want to destroy the Kabul government.

No reliable estimates exist about Soviet casualties in Afghanistan. But the death toll from fighting and disease is believed to be relatively high.

Last week, as Soviets mounted large-scale operations against guer-

rilla bases in Afghanistan, newspaper articles described the six-year-old war as a historic turning point comparable to the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s.

In Spain, the Soviets made a mistake by not committing enough forces to defeat the Franco forces, wrote Alexander Prokhanov in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*.

"Think what an advantage the Soviet Union would have had if it had established a stronghold in Spain. The first war years [of World War II] would not not have been so bitter and fewer Soviets would have been killed."

In Afghanistan, too, the Soviet Union is surrounded by enemies, "who are trying to create a convenient bridgehead for future attacks," he wrote.

V. Matveyev, a political analyst for *Izvestia*, continued that theme by contending that "militarist quarters in the United States" had designs for Afghanistan as a "replacement" for bases in Iran after the shah was overthrown.

"Afghanistan attracted the attention of imperialism because of the access it afforded to the southern flank of the U.S.S.R. Its border with our country stretches for a distance of 2,400 kilometers (1,500 miles)," Mr. Matveyev wrote.

The view from Moscow is that the guerrilla war in Afghanistan is orchestrated by the CIA, with the aid of Pakistan.

"Since 1978 to the present time, more than a hundred training centers have been set up on the territory of Pakistan with direct U.S. participation, where counter-revolutionary bandits are taught to handle various weapons and are prepared for infiltration into Afghanistan," *Izvestia* wrote, adding:

"Without these camps and bases on Pakistani territory, the anti-Afghan intervention would have long run out of breath."

Moscow's attitude toward Pakistan has hardened in recent times, and talks under United Nations supervision between Pakistan and Afghanistan apparently produced little progress in Geneva last week.

At the same time the Soviet

Union has recently also renewed its attacks on Iran.

"Tehran is intensifying a slanderous anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet campaign," *Izvestia* said.

The newspaper accused Iran's leadership of trying to export Islamic fundamentalism in "the futile illusion that attempts at overthrowing the people's power in Afghanistan will succeed."

The toughening Soviet attitude does not come as a surprise, says Said B. Majrooh, who heads the Afghan Information Center in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Ever since Mikhail S. Gorbachev came to power, the Soviet actions in Afghanistan have become tougher, the professor wrote recently. He listed these developments:

□ On the religious front, a new Ministry for Islamic Affairs has been created to defuse opposition to the Kabul government.

□ Elections to local jirgahs, or people's councils, are being held for the first time in the country's history.