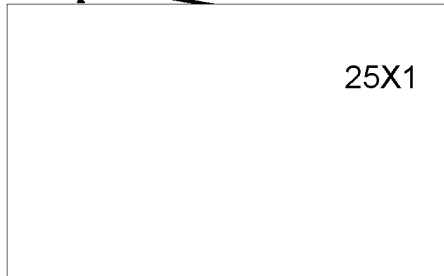




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Afghanistan Situation Report



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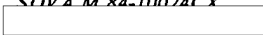
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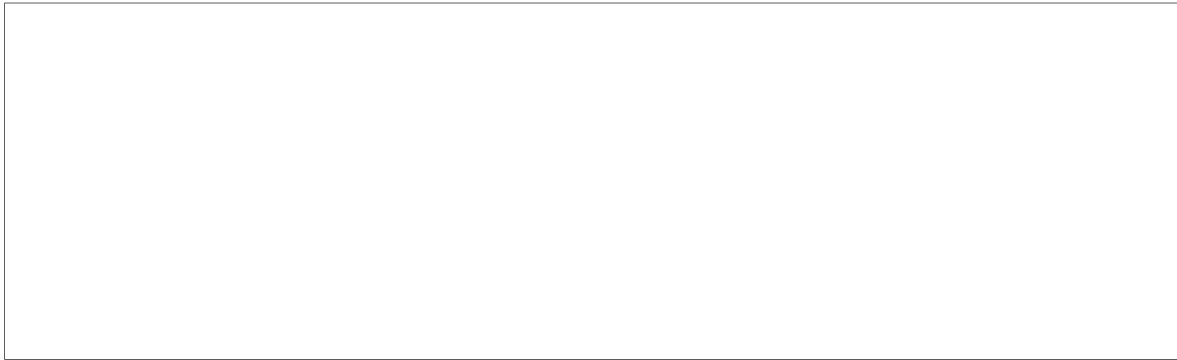
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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT

CONTENTS



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PAKISTAN RECONSIDERING ITS AFGHAN POLICY?

2

Public discussion of Islamabad's policy may indicate a policy review, but we expect Zia to continue his strong stand.

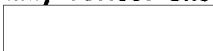


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CHERNENKO'S POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN

3

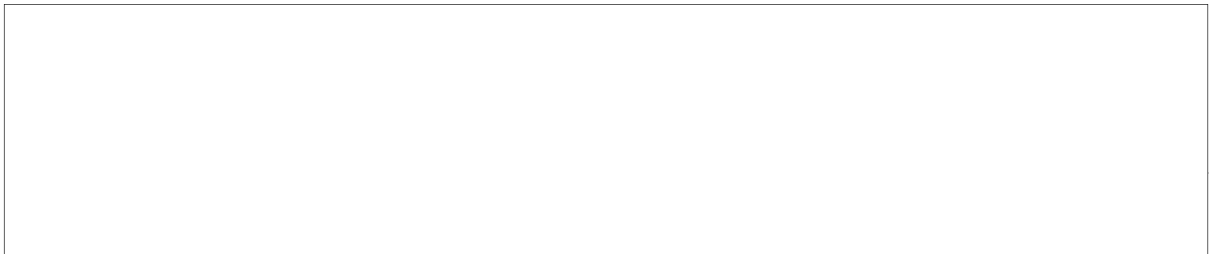
Moscow's snub of Zia during Andropov's funeral may reflect Chernenko's reluctance to challenge hardliners such as Ustinov.



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IN BRIEF

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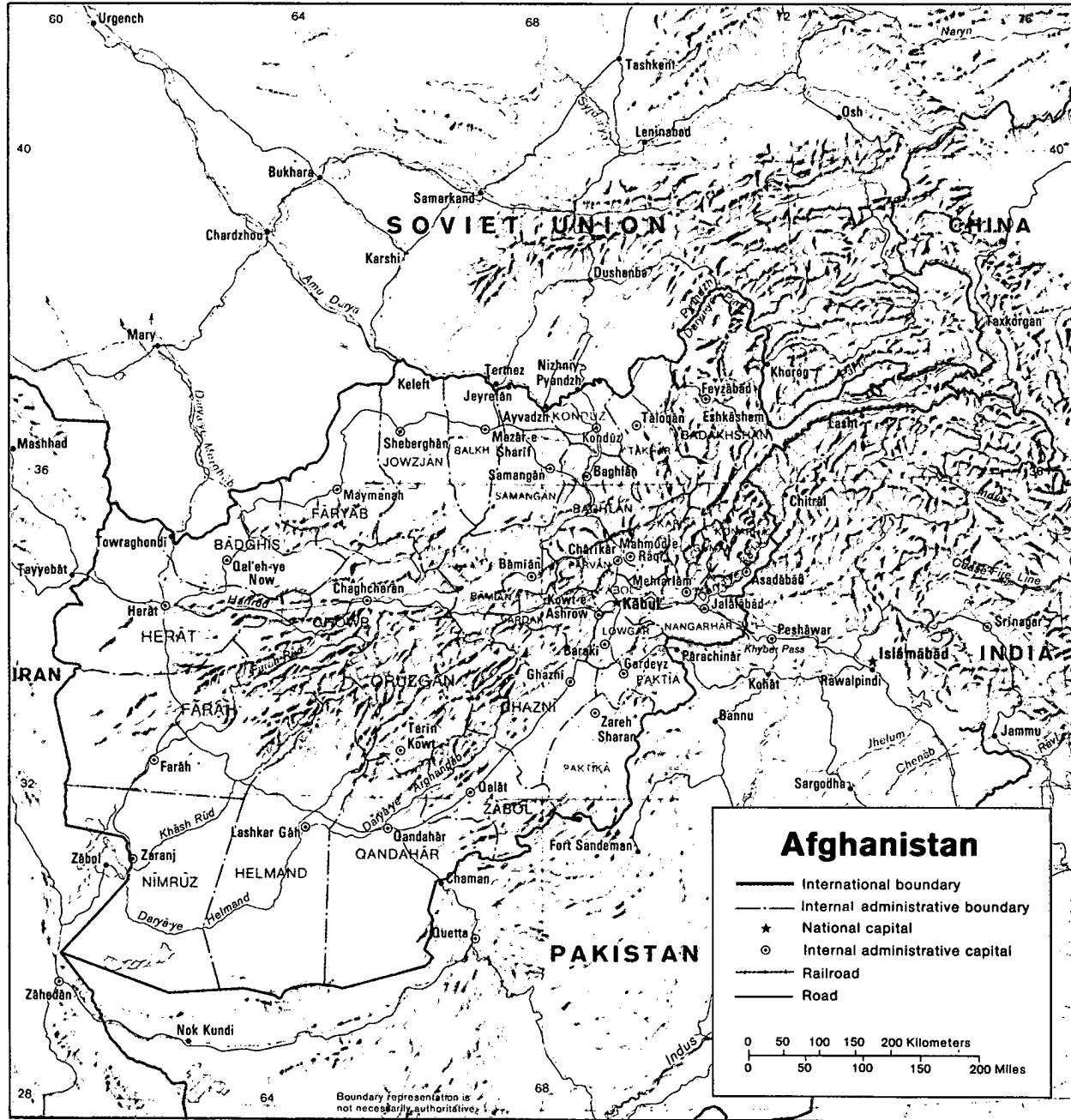
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PAKISTAN RECONSIDERING ITS AFGHAN POLICY?



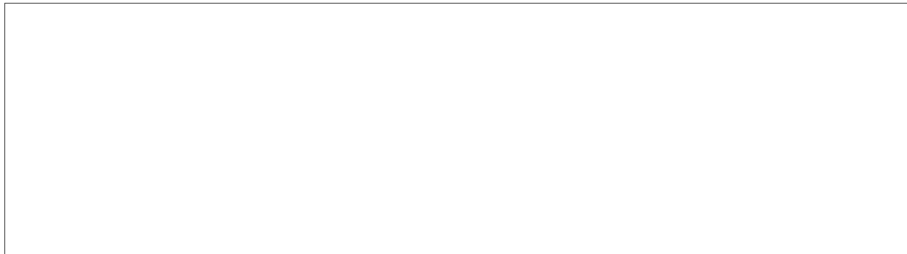
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At a seminar in Islamabad this month, several prominent participants called for greater Pakistani efforts to negotiate an Afghan settlement. The press has given considerable play to statements by well known scholars that the Soviet presence in Afghanistan is permanent. One journalist has published a series about the "intolerable" burden of the refugees and called for a negotiated settlement on Soviet terms. According to the US Embassy, reporters in Pakistan believe these discussions are either trial balloons to test public reaction to a policy change or signals to the US.



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Comment:



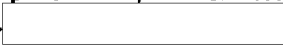
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CHERNENKO'S POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN



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General Secretary Chernenko met Indian Prime Minister Gandhi and Afghan President Babrak after Andropov's funeral but, unlike Andropov after Brezhnev's funeral, ignored Pakistani President Zia's request for a meeting. The Soviets also have quickly rescheduled Defense Minister Ustinov's trip to India, which was postponed during Andropov's final illness.



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Comment:

These decisions suggest that Moscow has little interest in negotiations on Afghanistan and that it wants to increase Zia's concerns about the possibility of a tougher Soviet posture.



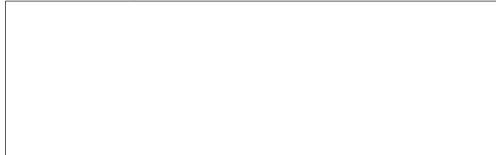
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[redacted] hardliners, such as Ustinov, may have forced the decision to invade on a reluctant Brezhnev and his allies, including Chernenko. Chernenko may not now have enough political support to challenge present policy. More important, any radical departure would have higher political, economic, or military costs that would be difficult to sell to the Politburo. [redacted]

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IN BRIEF

-- Insurgents dramatically increased their attacks in Kabul last week--the anniversary of the 1980 anti-Soviet uprising--despite the tightest regime security measures in three years, according to US Embassy reporting. [redacted]

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-- According to US Embassy sources, insurgents attacked and briefly occupied one of the three main Soviet posts on the Qandahar-Herat road last week. [redacted]

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-- The US Consul in Peshawar reports a growing number of stories about resistance leaders selling weapons either for profit or for money to obtain supplies they need more. [redacted]

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-- Last week's Literary Gazette, a magazine for Soviet intellectuals, praised the work of Soviet helicopter pilots in Afghanistan and for the first time told a Soviet audience they "shoot bandits" and "drop bombs." Heretofore the only hint of combat involvement came in articles noting that pilots often had to carry out humanitarian or rescue missions under hostile fire.



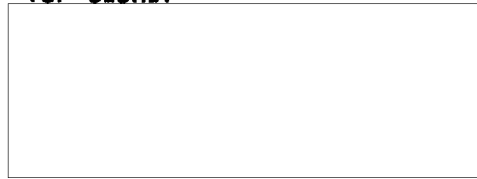
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-- According to the Pakistanis, UN Special Representative Cordovez will arrive in Islamabad on 31 March or 1 April following talks in Kabul. 

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-- Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Jamiat leader Rabbani both raised the expulsion of Afghan refugees with the Iranians when they were in Tehran for the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. Gulbuddin later told the US Consul in Peshawar that high level officials are involved in inciting clashes between Iranians and refugees.



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28 February 1984
NESA M 84-10081CX
SOVA M 84-10024CX



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