



Directorate of Intelligence

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Afghanistan Situation Report

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16 April 1984

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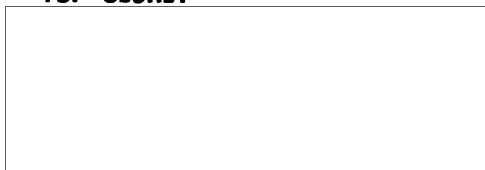
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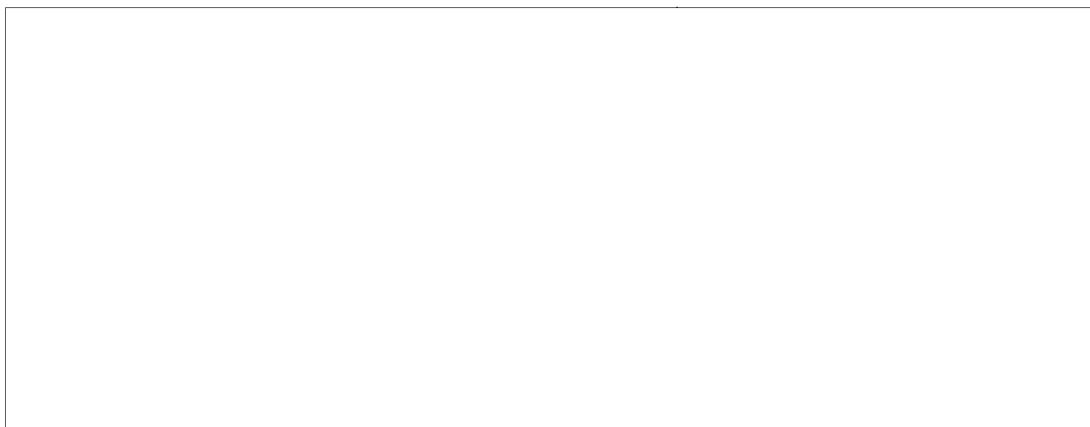
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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT

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SOVIETS CONTINUE OPERATIONS IN THE SHOMALI


3

Major operations are already underway in the Shomali area north of Kabul. 

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CORDOVEZ ACCOMPLISHES LITTLE

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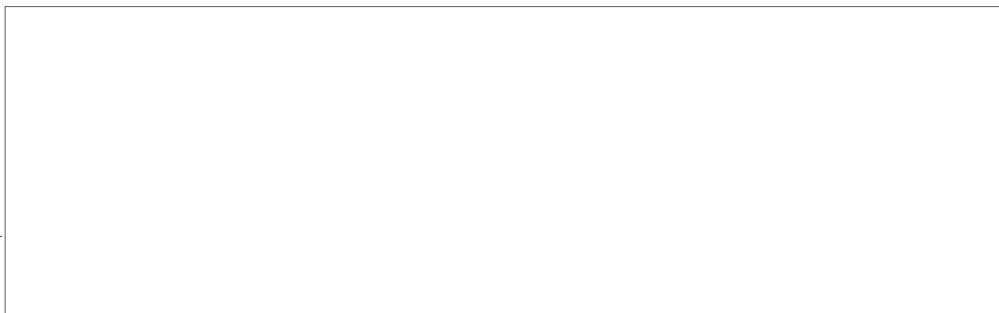
Kabul's latest proposal is a step back from last year's Soviet-Afghan position on troop withdrawals and almost certainly is unacceptable to Pakistan. 

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IN BRIEF

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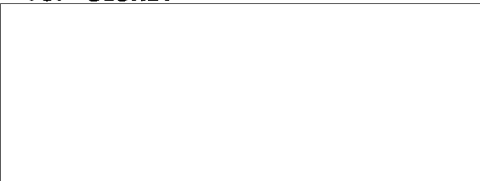


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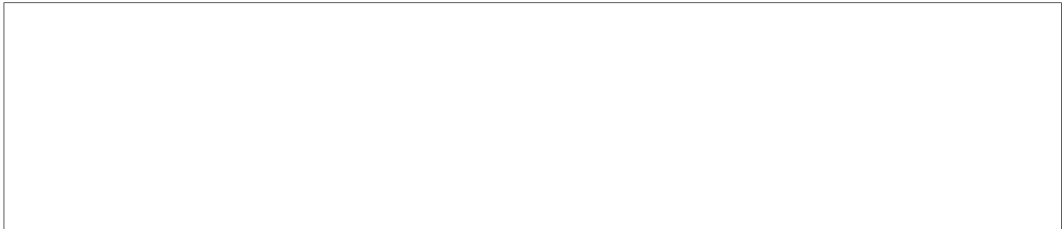
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SOVIETS CONTINUE OPERATIONS IN THE SHOMALI 


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According to US Embassy sources, the Soviets bombed several villages and conducted ground operations in the Shomali last week, inflicting high civilian casualties. Insurgents from the Panjsher Valley and Paghman areas were involved in the fighting, and resistance was fierce. Guerrillas reportedly shot down a helicopter over Shakardara on 10 or 11 April and destroyed a large number of armored vehicles. 
desertions from Afghan forces are higher than in previous campaigns in the area. 

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Comment:


Current Soviet operations in the Shomali may be the prelude to a larger offensive against resistance forces north of Kabul. The Soviets may try to move units garrisoned in Kabul and Bagram through the Shomali area to the Panjsher Valley. They probably will attempt to mass troops around the valley in an effort to interdict insurgent supply and escape routes before striking. 

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CORDOVEZ ACCOMPLISHES LITTLE 

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UN Special Representative Cordovez told the US Ambassador in Islamabad that the main accomplishment of his recent discussions in Tehran, Kabul, and Islamabad was obtaining an Afghan proposal for two-track negotiations--Kabul and Islamabad would negotiate about ending outside interference while Kabul and Moscow negotiated the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Pakistanis, however, still refuse to negotiate with Kabul. 

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 a primary objective of the trip was to keep the talks going. Cordovez, who has returned to Kabul, hopes

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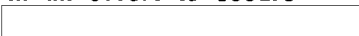


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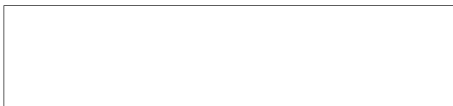
there will be enough progress to justify another round of indirect talks in Geneva. 

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Comment:

As Cordovez knows, the alleged "concessions" by the Soviets and their Afghan allies is a further retreat from the position they held last year that troop withdrawals could be the subject of negotiations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Pakistan almost certainly was not taken in by this ploy, and Cordovez probably returned to Kabul last week in an effort to secure additional Soviet/Afghan concessions. 

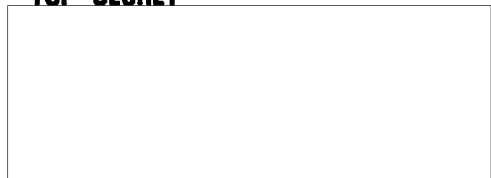
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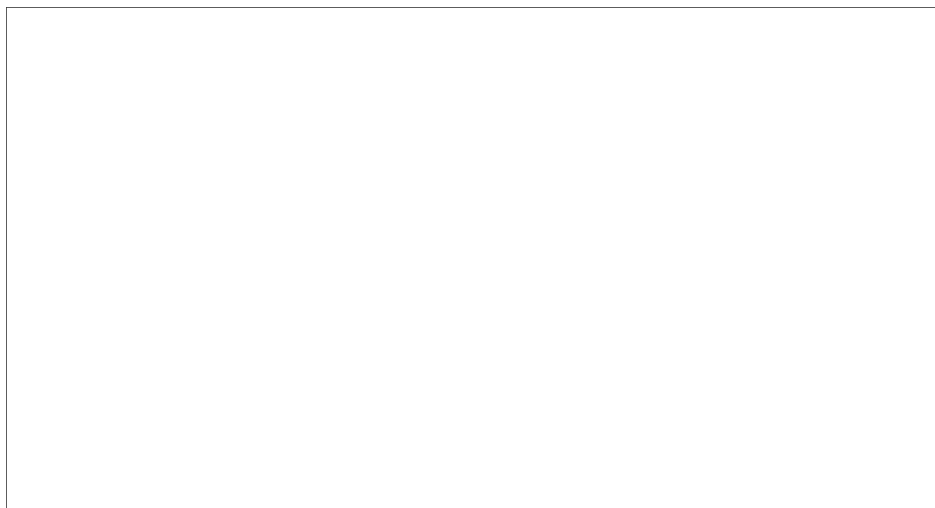
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-- Afghan tribal leader Habibullah Karzai publicly announced that he released a captured Soviet junior officer to the ICRC for incarceration in Switzerland. This is the 11th Soviet prisoner the ICRC has received since May 1982. 


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-- On 28 May three Soviet prisoners released to the ICRC by Afghan guerrillas will complete their two-year sentences in Switzerland. 

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-- According to the Soviet press, President Chernenko served in the border guards in the 1930s near the Afghan or Chinese border, displaying bravery and skill in battles against bandits. 

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