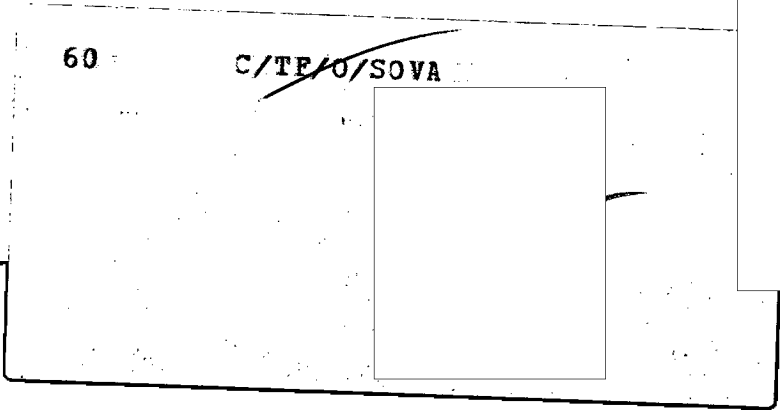




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Afghanistan Situation Report



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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT

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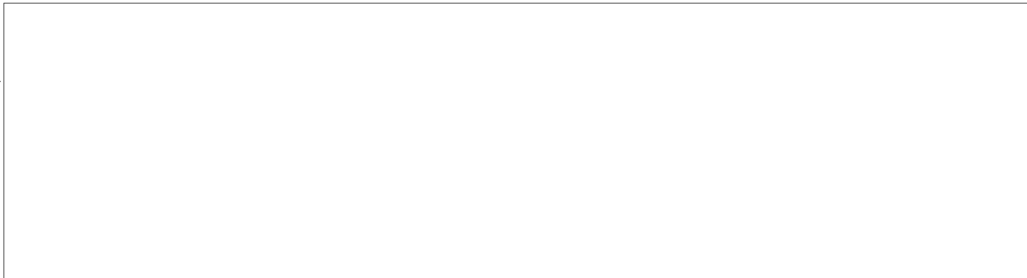
AFGHANISTAN IN APRIL



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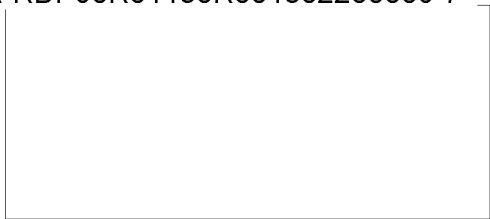


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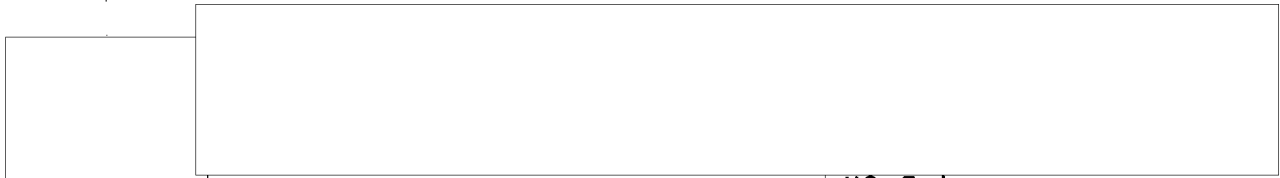
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INSURGENTS ATTACK AIRFIELDS



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[redacted] US Embassy sources report that insurgents bombed Jalalabad airport on 2 May during the arrival of delegates returning to the city from the regime's Loya Jirga. A week earlier, guerrillas attempted to rocket the airfield but hit a nearby Soviet encampment, causing some 25 casualties, according to Embassy sources. [redacted]

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Comment: The recent insurgent attacks occurred despite renewed Soviet attempts to improve security around airfields. Improvements in resistance weapons holdings--such as incendiary shells and rockets with a greater range than those available early in the war--are enabling the insurgents to adapt their tactics to counter improved Soviet defenses and increased Soviet patrols around airfields. [redacted]

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PROMOTIONS FAVOR PARCHAMIS



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Members of Babrak Karmal's Parchami faction of the PDPA dominated promotions announced during the seventh anniversary of the 1978 coup. Two prominent Khalqis, Interior Minister Gulabzoi and Defense Minister Nazar Mohammad, were promoted to the rank of major general, but six of the seven others raised to that rank are Parchamis. Of the 19 officers promoted to brigadier general, a significant majority belong to the Parchami faction, and more than half are members of the KHAD, the Afghan Government intelligence service. [redacted]

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Comment: The Parchamis have been unable to alter the factional balance among the military officers, which reportedly still favors the Khalqis. The regime probably is trying to compensate for this by increasing the influence of KHAD, dominated by the Parchamis, in the military. The promotions of Gulabzoi--the unofficial head of the Khalqi faction--and Nazar Mohammad suggests that the regime recognizes the need, or was urged by the Soviets, not to appear too one-sided in the promotions. [redacted]

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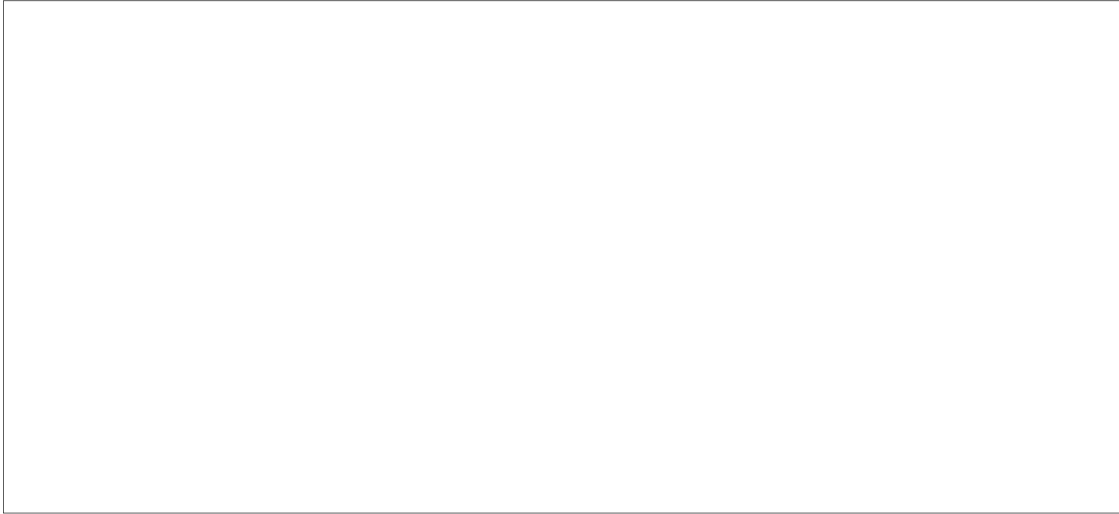
resistance. Guerrilla forces received warnings of Soviet plans for operations near Kabul and were prepared for the attacks. Heavy fighting around Paghman reportedly resulted in high casualties among Soviet and Afghan forces and civilians. Insurgents also rocketed Kabul for the first time in four months but caused little damage.



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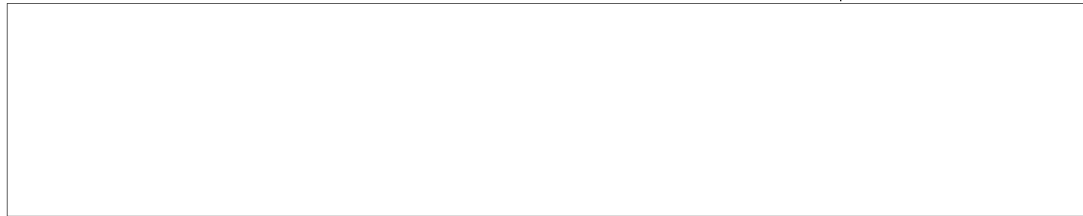
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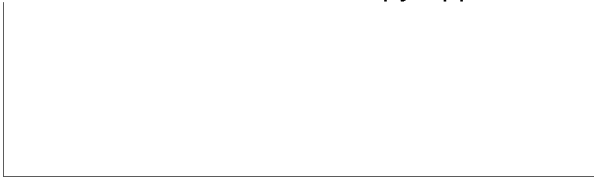
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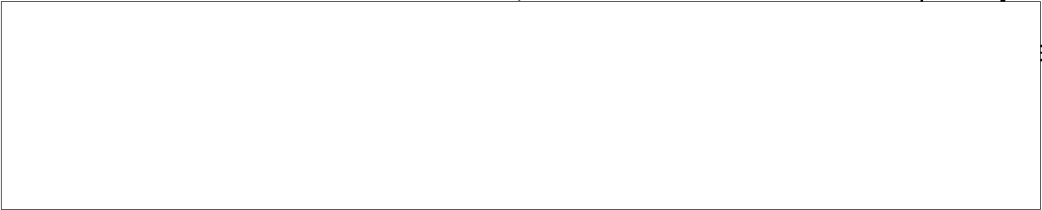


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Outlook

Soviet efforts probably will focus on the border regions in attempts to stem the flow of arms from Pakistan and Iran. The deployment of Spetsnaz units indicates that the Soviets believe in many instances that small unit operations are more effective than large-scale operations. The Soviets are relying increasingly on heliborne operations to catch the guerrillas off guard. [redacted] the Soviets will gain some victories, as they reported in Konduz in April,

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