



Intelligence

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C/TFD/SOVA

Afghanistan Situation Report



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16 November 1982

~~Top Secret~~

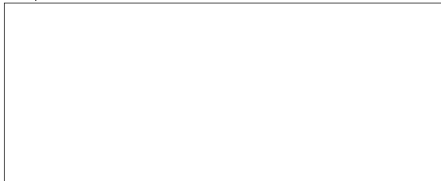
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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT 


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A majority of the weapons were captured, but some of the most important--such as antitank rockets--were acquired in Pakistan. 

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LUXEMBOURG GRANTS AFGHANS LANDING RIGHTS 2


Ariana will be able to use Luxembourg when its landing rights end in France, West Germany, and the UK. 

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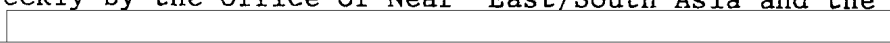
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PERSPECTIVE

WILL BREZHNEV'S DEATH AFFECT THE USSR'S AFGHAN POLICY? 3

Our initial judgment is that there will be little change in Soviet policy in the near term. 

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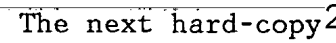


Publication Note

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Unless major developments warrant. 

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 The next hard-copy report will appear on 30 November. 

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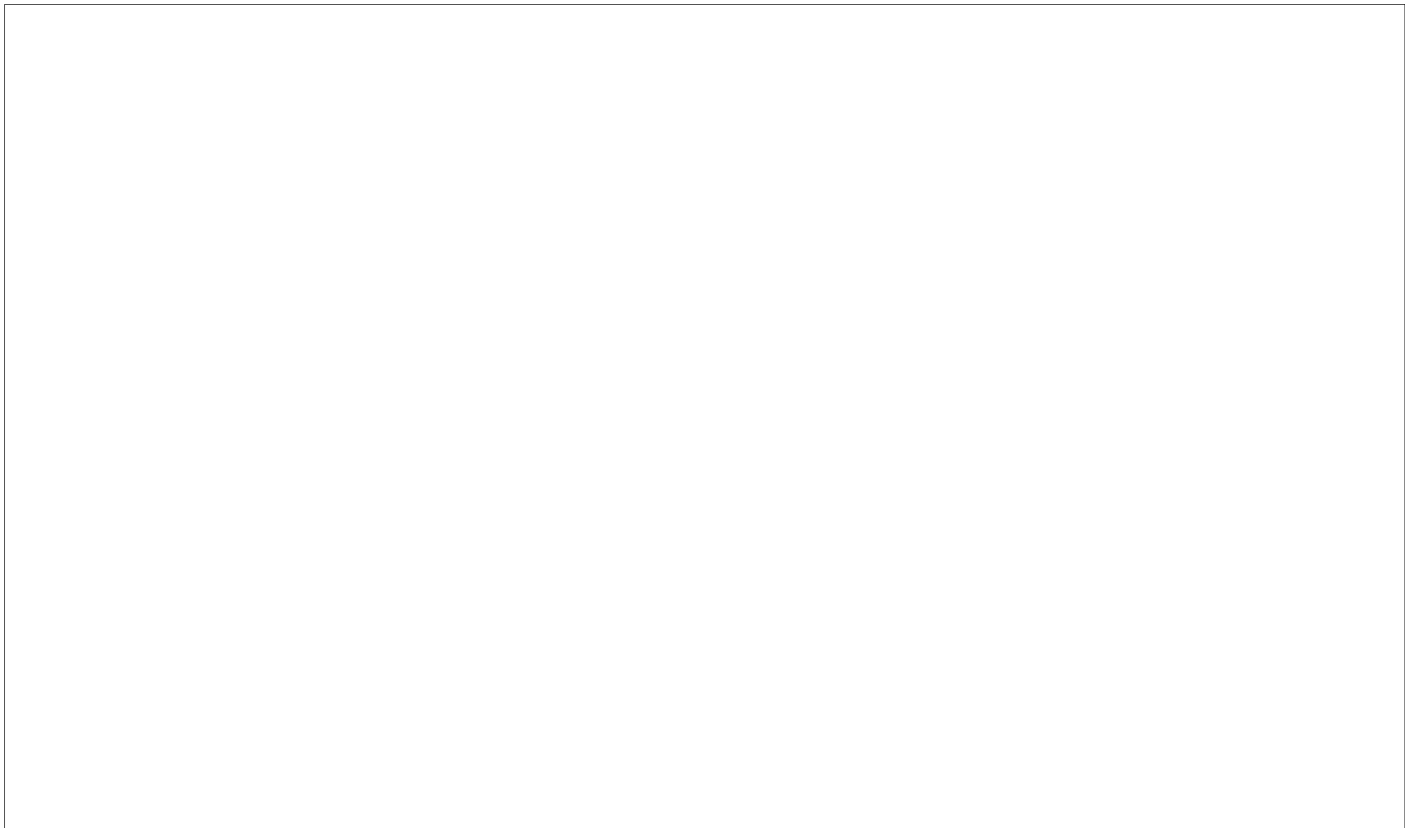


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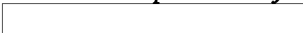


INSURGENTS SHORT OF WEAPONS IN NORTH 

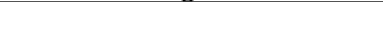
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Jamiat-i-Islami insurgent commanders in Takhar Province claim,  that weapons captured from Soviet and Afghan forces continue to be more important than supplies from Peshawar. Equipment lists on each of the 19 JI groups in the province show that although insurgents captured or bought most of their weapons--including over two thirds of their AK-47s--all the mines, anti-tank rockets, and heavy machineguns came from Pakistan. 

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 60 percent of the ammunition is allocated to more numerous groups in the south with the remainder given to northern groups. Shortages of ammunition reportedly limit the guerrillas to a few small actions each month. 

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Comment: The insurgents appear to be able to acquire enough weapons in Afghanistan to continue resistance without outside support. Without the mines, rockets and machineguns from Pakistan, however, they would be much less effective. 



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Long supply lines from the Pakistani border to Takhar probably are the main reason groups in the north receive a smaller amount of equipment from Peshawar. They are probably better off to steal or buy local small arms and ammunition, however, and use the supply caravans to bring in heavier weapons and mines without which the insurgents would be less able to attack convoys or defend themselves against air attack. Insurgent acquisition of more automatic weapons, like the AK-47, ironically worsens the ammunition situation because such weapons tend to be used to fire bursts rather than carefully aimed single shots. 


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LUXEMBOURG GRANTS AFGHANS LANDING RIGHTS 

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According to the US Embassy in Luxembourg, Ariana--the Afghan airline--has been granted landing rights in Luxembourg. There will be two flights a week from Kabul with stops at Zurich and Moscow. The Swiss have told the British that they have not given permission for the stop in Zurich. The US and several Western European countries plan strong demarches to try to change Luxembourg's decision. 


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Comment: A year ago, the UK, France and West Germany informed Kabul that Ariana would lose its landing rights in the three countries on 1 December, 1982. In July 1981, the Ottawa economic summit meeting had called for the suspension of flights to and from Afghanistan because of Kabul's "flagrant breach of its international obligations" during and after the hijacking of a Pakistani airliner in March 1981. Ariana tried to obtain landing rights elsewhere in Western Europe, but its requests were rejected by the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and apparently by Austria and Switzerland. Until the Luxembourgers granted landing rights, it had appeared that Ariana would have to give up its profitable Western European runs--used by many Indians and Pakistanis--and fly no further than Prague where passengers would have to transfer to other carriers. 

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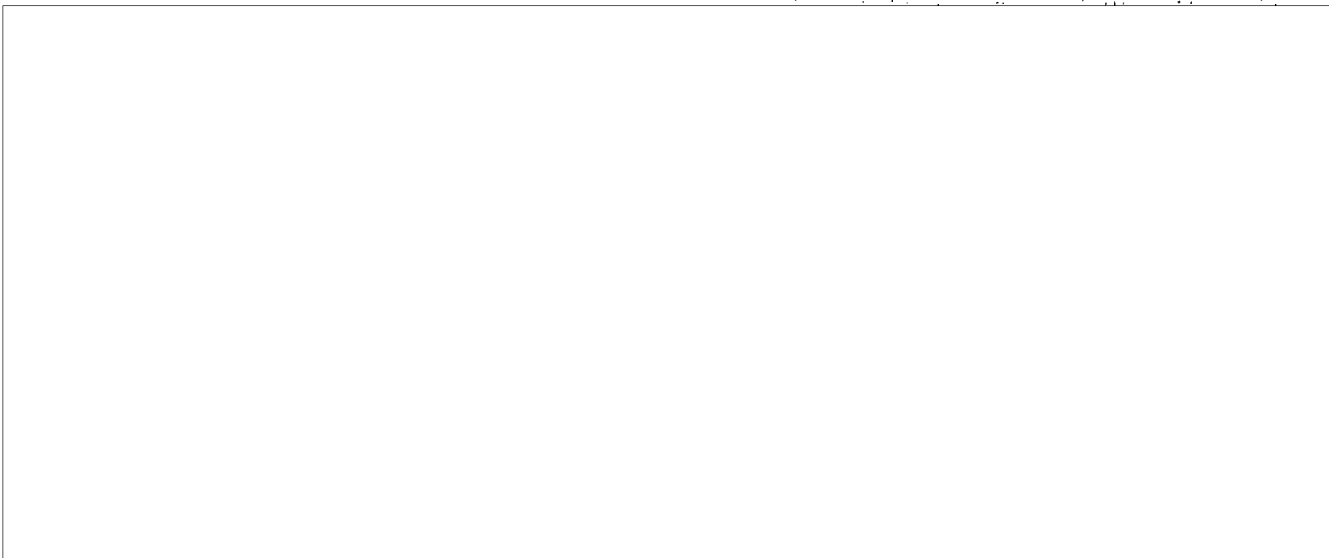
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IN BRIEF

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--The Afghan Defense Ministry has ordered the construction of 10 new airfields, most of which will be at provincial capitals [redacted]. The government presumably is trying to increase its ability to give air support to convoys and isolated garrisons by upgrading existing airfields. There are now only dirt strips at some of these towns. [redacted]

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PERSPECTIVE

Will Brezhnev's Death Affect the USSR's Afghan Policy?



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As head of the KGB, General Secretary Andropov has been deeply involved on all aspects of the Soviet Union's Afghan policy. We have no evidence he opposed the move or favors a radically different policy than the one now being pursued. Andropov said little about Afghanistan publicly prior to the invasion; afterward, however, he appeared among the more militant defenders of the move.



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Given his role in the decision to invade, we believe that Andropov does not share the view [redacted] that the Soviet Union has become too entrenched in Afghanistan.



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The decision, in our view, was made quickly by a handful of men, including Andropov, whose KGB had failed to oust former President Amin in September 1979. Andropov subsequently had to take some of the blame for underestimating the problems the Soviets would face after the invasion.



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Some changes--probably unrelated to the succession--may become apparent in the way the Soviets prosecute the war in Afghanistan or handle it politically over the next few months. This is the time of the year when the leadership has traditionally focused on Afghanistan and made decisions about altering policy. For example, this time a year ago the Soviets were beginning the process of modestly augmenting Soviet forces there, in hopes of reversing a stalemated military situation. The military situation remains stalemated and in the coming months Afghanistan is going to be thrust back into the international limelight by the Nonaligned Summit in New Delhi. The Soviets almost certainly will be coming up with some new position on a political settlement in order to minimize NAM criticism of their policies. Andropov may have surfaced some new ideas when he met with Presidents Babrak and Zia on Monday.




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Debate over Afghanistan, in our view, will be intertwined with maneuvering for political advantage in the post-Brezhnev period. In these circumstances, it is unlikely that any contender would argue for abandoning the effort to transform Afghanistan into a full-fledged Marxist State. Moreover, as Brezhnev's successors cope with Afghanistan, they will face the same set of policy tradeoffs and resource constraints he did. 

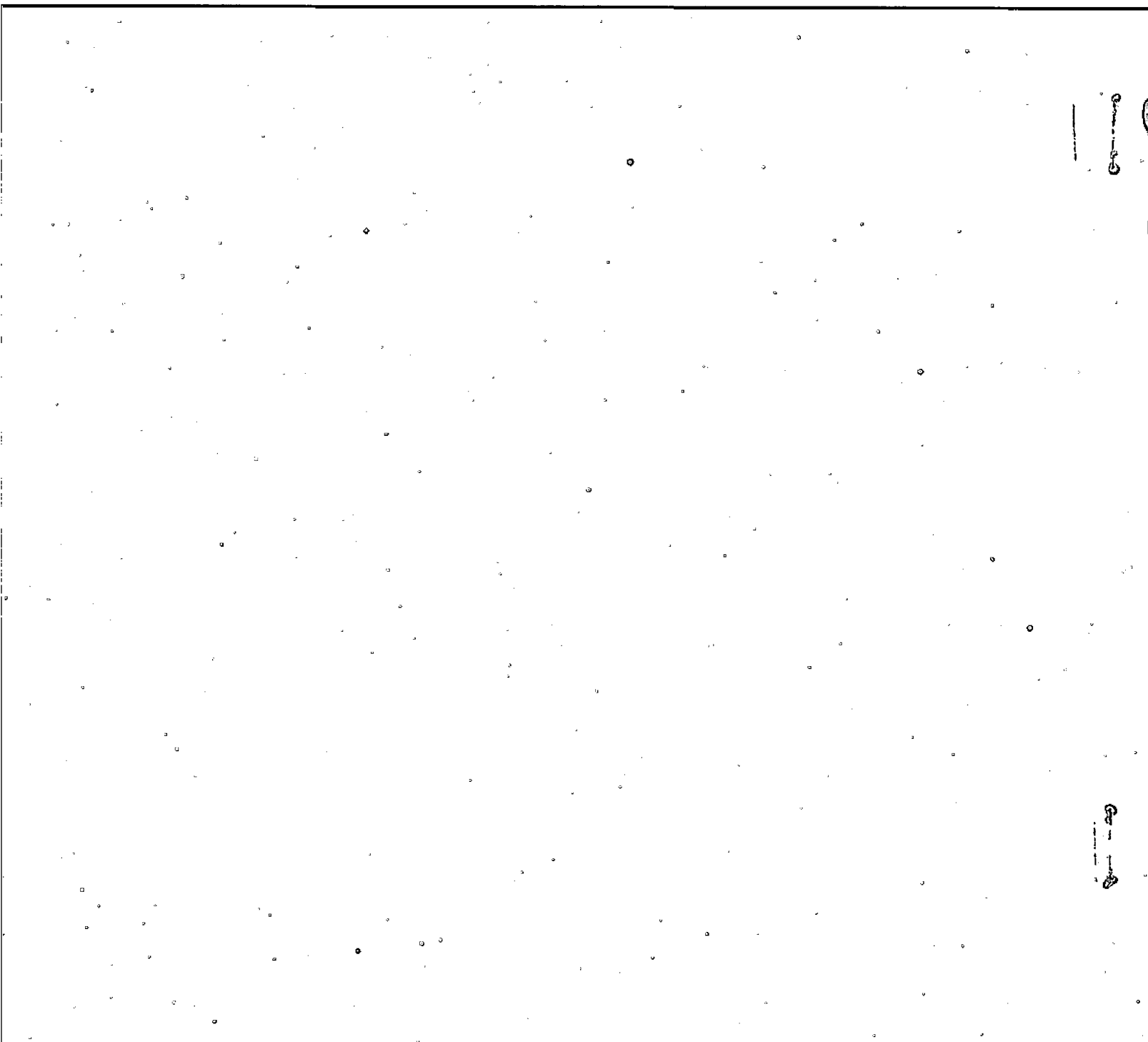
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