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**PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN: President Zia's Views**

*//President Zia believes he is under increasing domestic pressure to settle on Afghanistan.* [REDACTED]

*//Zia is prepared to accept any regime in Kabul, provided an agreement leads to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the removal of Afghan refugees from Pakistan. He reportedly believes two major Pakistani opposition parties that want direct talks with Kabul recently have increased their public support and is concerned that public opinion is shifting on the issue.* [REDACTED]

*//Moreover, Zia believes both Pakistani and Afghan Islamic fundamentalists within Pakistan could join against him. He also feels more isolated on Afghanistan because of what he sees as deteriorating relations with Iran.* [REDACTED]

*Comment: //If Zia believes his internal position is weakening, he may decide on a tactical demonstration of flexibility at the forthcoming round of UN-sponsored talks on Afghanistan in Geneva. The presence of 2.8 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan is a growing domestic issue. Islamabad is aware, however, that the refugees will not return unless the Soviets first withdraw and that any settlement also would have to be acceptable to Pakistan's friends—including Saudi Arabia and China.* [REDACTED]

*//Pakistan's ties with Iran have been slowly improving, despite differences on the Afghanistan talks. Nonetheless, Shia charges that Islamabad favored the Sunnis in recent riots in Karachi could cool relations.* [REDACTED]

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