

# Spotlight on Afghanistan



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## Introduction

What has happened in Afghanistan cannot be understood unless it is placed against the background of many other events.

This collection of articles mainly aims to give some information about the revolutionary events in Afghanistan last December.

As a result of these events, Mr Fraser, Prime Minister, says that detente is dead. Something needs to be said about that. Detente is a word, which today, sums up the need of the people of all countries for peace. It means the peaceful settlement of disputes between nations, mutually beneficial trade, scientific and cultural exchange, friendly sporting competition, steps towards disarmament. In a word — peace.

Mr Fraser wants to bury detente because it is an obstruction to his liking for the times of the cold war and his paranoic anti-communism.

However, detente is much bigger than Mr Fraser and it is not his to bury. It lives in the hearts and minds of millions of people in Australia and other countries — those who are no longer prepared to go along with war-mongering and are not interested in interfering in the affairs of others.

But like all good things, detente must be defended, now and in the future, against the Frasers and others like him who will plunge the world into nuclear war if their policy of confrontation is followed.

Detente lives! Defend it! It means life itself.

# Afghanistan And World Issues

For centuries mountainous Afghanistan saw little change. Despite its ancient civilisation its 15 million people lived in primitive conditions. The political situation was feudal. The land was owned by big landowners. The people were deeply religious — Moslem. Most were illiterate. About one third of the people were nomadic. There was little industry. The people were strongly independent and fought three successful wars against British attempts at colonisation.

In April, 1978, a revolution took place led by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The feudal regime was overthrown and power passed into the hands of the people. The PDPA had a program of land reform, industrialisation, education, health care and democratic reform. These revolutionary changes were not to the liking of the big landowners and those who had previously held positions of power and privilege. Nor was it to the liking of outside imperialist powers. The US, Britain and other reactionaries immediately voiced their opposition and began planning counter measures.

They incited and encouraged opposition, stirring up fears, particularly using the cloak of religion. They encouraged refugees and began to collect them in neighbouring Pakistan.

As far back as May 1979, *Newsweek* wrote about extensive discussions carried on in Washington concerning "secret intervention" in Afghan affairs. The magazine pointed out that

this intervention was advocated particularly vigorously by the President's National Security adviser, Brezezinski, and high ranking CIA officials. Even at that time vigorous activities were conducted on the Afghan-Pakistani border under CIA control. A network of military camps was set up to train members of different Afghan counter-revolutionary organisations. These gangs started crossing back into Afghanistan and launched a virtual undeclared war.

Confirmation from other US daily newspapers is provided by the following references.

On February 2nd, 1979 a correspondent of the *Washington Post* in Pakistan described "Guerrillas trained in Pakistan to oust the Afghan government." He wrote, "Afghan dissidents are undergoing guerrilla training at a base near here...in a bid to intensify armed opposition to the government in Kabul."

On August 9, 1979 the *Christain Science Monitor* wrote, "Pakistan has received the backing of China and the United States. The Afghan rebels have been trained and armed inside Pakistan, and no reprisals made by Moscow."

In April, 1979 the *New York Times* correspondent in Pakistan wrote: "The nerve centre of the rebel campaign is at Miram Shah in northern Pakistan. A system of couriers carries information and orders back and forth between the rebel fighting units in Afghanistan and the planners of the operations at various bases on the Pakistan side of the border."

But, it was not only in Afghanistan that the Americans, now openly joined by the Chinese leadership, carried on their intervention.

In Iran, following the overthrow of the Shah, the US began assembling its fleet in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean, threatening military intervention and a trade boycott. They began scouring the region for more bases and established the so-called "quick reaction force" to be used for open intervention whenever the US declared its interests were threatened.

In Europe the US pressured its NATO allies to agree to stationing modern nuclear weapons on their territories, pointed directly at the Soviet Union. NATO countries made a decision last December to adopt the USA's nuclear missile plan.

In the American Congress the SALT II agreement signed by President Carter was not ratified. Instead it was delayed on one excuse after another. The delay was accompanied by decisions of Congress to outlay many more billions of dollars for arms expenditure.

In Africa the United States increased its connections with the apartheid regime of South Africa, investing more and more money, thereby helping to strengthen the racist regime against the gathering liberation struggle of black Africa.

All these events happened BEFORE any military assistance was given by the Soviet Union to Afghanistan. Taken together they indicate that the US administration had already, during 1979, embarked on a new course approaching all international problems from positions of militarism using cold war rhetoric to back it up. This course was justified by asserting that the interests of the US stretched to the far corners of the earth and that every other country was obliged to bend the knee to acknowledge and accept the US domination.

It was on this background of events, and in particular, the aggravation of the situation inside Afghanistan by the escalating armed intrusion by counter-revolutionaries and agents, that the Soviet Union responded to the appeal of the Afghanistan government for assistance.

Immediately President Carter, Prime Minister Fraser and others charged "aggression" and on the old axiom that if one tells a lie big enough, often enough and loud enough it will stick, they have continued to repeat it day in and day out.

The UN Charter, Article 51, says that: "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a member of the United Nations."

Furthermore, in December 1978, the Soviet Union and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan concluded a Treaty of Friendship, Goodneighbourliness and Co-operation. It provided that each side will consult each other and will, by mutual consent, "take relevant measures with a view to ensuring the security, independence and territorial integrity of the two countries."

This Treaty was duly registered with the United Nations Organisation as provided by the Charter.

In the face of these facts the charge of aggression and invasion falls to the ground. It has been stated that the sole reason for the presence of Soviet troops is to resist external aggression and interference and that as soon as the external threat is removed Soviet troops will leave.

However, instead of acting to bring the attacks across the Pakistan/Afghan border to an end, the US leaders and various allies are now pouring in vast new sums of money and weapons for the counter-revolutionary forces encamped on Pakistani territory. A procession of reactionary political figures have gone to Pakistan to peer over the Afghan border and to make plans for new aggression. They include Brezezinski, Huang Hua, China's Foreign Minister, Lord Carrington, British Foreign Minister, Mr Peacock, Australia's Foreign Minister, various members of the US Congress and US military top brass. This escalation heightens tensions in Asia and serves as a source of further, wider conflict in the areas.

The regime of Zia ul Haq in Pakistan is a military dictatorship. The US administration can hardly claim any defence of the "free world" when it acts to bolster such a government. It cannot claim a peaceful intent when it uses Pakistan as a staging camp in an attempt to restore the rule of the feudals in Afghanistan.

The course that Mr Fraser is pushing Australia on to is one which can only have negative consequences. He is offering Australia as an unquestioning ally of the most bellicose and war-mongering sections of the US government, the military industrial complex. More bases, more arms expenditures, joint manoeuvres and participation in any adventure directed against the socialist countries and the national liberation movements of Asia and Africa.

It is time to sober up! Most countries have already demonstrated that they will not go along with such dangerous plans. Australia will become increasingly isolated. Fraser's government will be seen as a willing lackey of the US administration without any respect or concern for our own independence and interests. The increased military expenditure will aggravate the present

economic crisis. Worthwhile expenditure for peaceful purposes will be curtailed. As these policies will be inevitably opposed by many people, democratic rights will be attacked to force them through.

Many countries are taking the path of social change, throwing off colonial status, becoming both politically and economically independent. More and more are moving towards a socialist system. The old capitalist system is unable to solve the problems of economic backwardness, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and malnutrition. The people are offered conflict and wars when they want peace. Every attempt at change is met with savage repression.

There are many signs that the Carter/Fraser policies are already failures. Policies of cold war with hot war to follow cannot gain any support from those who understand the catastrophic consequences of nuclear war and suffer the inevitable deprivations caused by huge military expenditures. That is why there is only one course open to humanity — peace.

These are some of the wider issues to consider in understanding events in Afghanistan.

**Announcement: December 27th 1979:**

## **A great turning point in Afghanistan's history**

"In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, I, Babrak Karmal, on behalf of the Central Committee of the single People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the Presidential Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the government of the DRA, greet as well as congratulate you oppressed compatriots, impoverished Moslems of Afghanistan, Sunnis or Shittes, pure and pious religious scholars and leaders of the country, heroic soldiers and officers of the homeland, national traders and national men of capital, patriotic land-owners, hard-working artisans, brave clans and tribes of Afghanistan, fugitive shepherds and nomads of the homeland, government officials, vanguard intelligentsia and the youth, working men and women, fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters who have been to date under the yoke of history's most hypocritical hangman, Hafizullah Amin and the Aminis, on the occasion of the total collapse of the fascist regime of Amin, that blood-thirsty agent of American imperialism and demagogic tyrannical dictator...

"The Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan with firm determination and sincere trust declares that it will ensure real freedom and security for the people,

release the prisoners, improve working conditions for workers, and provide the peasants with land. It will also create favourable and secure conditions for the return of those compatriots who were forced to emigrate abroad under the tyranny and despotism of Amin's regime and settle through a political solution the issue of those fighting against the government.

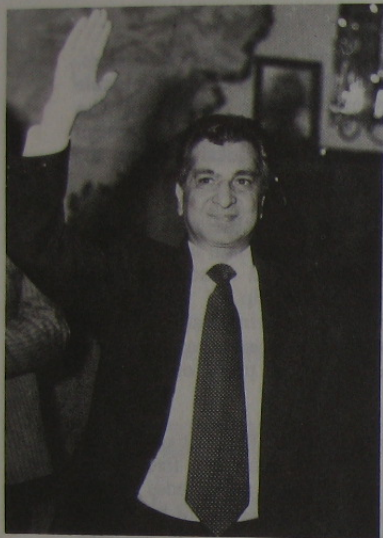
The statement went on to declare that "the ruling power, belongs to all the people of Afghanistan and in a possibly short time, a vast front of all national and democratic forces will be formed under the single leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. All the democratic freedoms, including the freedom to establish progressive and patriotic parties, mass organisations, freedom of the press, of expression and of assembly will be ensured.

"In the international arena the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will side with the peace front, support the freedom of peoples, national independence and progress and oppose jingoist reactionary forces, imperialism and zionism. It will be a loyal and active member of the United Nations and of the non-aligned countries, a sincere co-crusader of the world's working Moslems...

My heroic friends and colleagues, the national liberation army of Afghanistan! Our struggle is a great just war. It is a war waged by the people of Afghanistan to administer justice and value piety.

Forward to the realisation of the lofty objectives of the glorious April Revolution, towards peace and freedom, independence and democracy, work and struggle, progress and prosperity, equality and fraternity, justice and happiness for the people of Afghanistan."

*(Kabul New Times, 1/1/80 Abridged)*



Mr Babrak Karmal, President of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and General Secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, acted decisively to save the Afghan revolutionary movement.

The first act of the new leadership of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was to release more than 10,000 political prisoners who had been imprisoned by the Amin regime. The picture shows the former prisoners of Puli-Charghi prison in Kabul.



## Babrak Karmal interviews the press

On January 9th, 1980, Babrak Karmal who is General Secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, (PDPA), President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA), held a press conference in Kabul for local and foreign journalists. Babrak Karmal gave answers to numerous questions and at the outset said:

"Friendly journalists and unfriendly journalists! I thank the former on behalf of the PDPA, the DRA government and the freedom-loving, valiant and independent people of Afghanistan.

"Likewise, I point out to the unfriendly journalists who have come here from the West, from imperialist nations and those attached to them, that when the CIA agent Amin murdered the late Noor Mohammad Taraki, the first General Secretary of the PDPA and the first Prime Minister of the DRA and usurped the legitimate government in a conspiratorial manner, where were you journalists then? You so-called champions of the "free world," you so-called champions of "human rights," led by Mr Carter, where were you?



"Gentlemen, when the CIA agent was savagely terrorising our people and tens of thousands of our compatriots including workers, peasants, honest clergy, the intelligentsia and men of learning were chained or groups of them were sent to jails and chambers of horrors or massacred, where were you? Today, as if scared by a spectre, you have been raising a riotous hue and cry in the whole world. Your motive does not need any proof. It was clear that the band of Amin and the Aminis, were in collusion with international reaction and imperialism. It had joined your ranks. However, the front also consisted of progressive forces which are prepared to resist you and to promote its just cause.

Now please put your questions."

**Soviet Radio and TV correspondent:**

*"Never has so much attention been paid to Afghanistan by the West as it does today. Western personalities disseminate all kinds of astonishing statements about the situation in Afghanistan. For instance, the US Secretary of Defence, Harold Brown, has recently said in Peking that the Soviet Union is making efforts to subjugate the Moslem people of Afghanistan. What would you say about such assertions?"*

**Answer:** One should say in reply that it would not astonish me at all. This is what the enemies do. The duty of the adversary of the national liberation movements is to hatch plots and enter into collusions. Therefore one should say with regard to the working Moslem people of Afghanistan, that since the Great October Revolution, the Soviet Union has not only been a sincere and loyal friend of the working Moslem people of Afghanistan, but also of all working peoples of the world and it will remain so in the future.

**Federal Republic of Germany correspondent:**

*"As far as we know, it was the Soviet Union that supported Amin's regime which you call oppressive and blood-thirsty. What would you think about that?"*

**Answer:** The Soviet Union, on the basis of its principled peaceful policy never interferes in the affairs of any country

in the world and it will not do so in the future. The Soviet Union in accord with its peaceful policy has always supported the peoples and nations of the world to attain their rights, enjoy justice, freedom, independence, peace and progress and it will do so in the future. Following the April 1978 revolution, up to the martyrdom of the late Noor Mohammad Taraki, the Soviet Union backed the legitimate government of Taraki. After the murder of Taraki the Soviet Union due to its principled policy supported the gains of the April revolution and the people of Afghanistan and not the terrorist CIA agent of American imperialism, Amin. This backing was extended on the basis of the treaty of December 5th, 1978 between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, which has been registered with the United Nations and is based on Article 51 of the UN Charter.

**American Broadcasting Corporation — TV correspondent:**

*"In your opinion, when would the Soviet troops now in Afghanistan leave the country?"*

**Answer:** Whenever the aggressive policy of American imperialism now in collusion with the Peking leaders and the provocations and plots of reactionary circles in Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, etc., and the danger of their aggression is eliminated. On the same day, the limited Soviet contingent will leave for home.

**British TV correspondent:**

*"Mr. Brezhnev in his telegram has congratulated you on the occasion of your election in a democratic manner as head of the Afghan government. On what basis were you democratically elected and under what conditions did this election take place? Had you been so elected, why did the Soviet forces help you to wrest power?"*

**Answer:** Your old face, representing British imperialism which invaded our country three times in the past and three times got a bloody nose from the Afghans; I reply to your question in this way. If you recall, following the April revolution, I was Vice-President of the Revolutionary Council, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. After the plot hatched by the CIA and American imperialism and represented by Amin, martyred

the late Taraki, the majority of the committed members of the PDPA Central Committee and those of the Revolutionary Council, decided together to destroy the CIA band represented by Amin. At that time, on the basis of the principles followed by our party and government they nominated me as General Secretary of the PDPA, President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of Afghanistan. When I returned, two months ago, to my homeland through revolutionary routes and contacted the majority of the PDPA members and the Revolutionary Council, we adopted all the necessary measures before American imperialism could stage a coup in Afghanistan and before they could implement their aggressive plan from Pakistan's borders. At that time, a meeting was held which condemned the CIA agent Amin to execution and decided to launch the second phase of the April revolution.

*Pravda* correspondent:

*What do you think about the prospects for developing relations between the DRA and neighbouring countries?*

**Answer:** I am thoroughly optimistic about good relations between Afghanistan on the one side and Iran and Pakistan on the other. We will soon take certain initiatives in this connection to neutralise the plots hatched by American imperialism and its Chinese allies with regard to friendly ties between the Moslem peoples of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.

Swedish newswoman:

*Since the beginning of 1978, the PDPA leaders have been successfully killing one another. Don't you think this might happen again?*

**Answer:** I can assure you, respected lady, that the last vestiges of the plots of the murderous CIA will come to an end in Afghanistan. All the massacres and conspiracies launched by the agent of American imperialism, Amin, shall be uprooted.

Radio Finland correspondent:

*The Soviet Union had announced that its forces entered Afghanistan at the request of the Afghan government. Could*

*you tell me whether this request was made by the former government under Amin or by the new administration?*

**Answer:** Following the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Co-operation and due to the aggressive and subversive policies followed beyond our borders and the subversive elements supported by American and Chinese instructors, the Afghan government had asked for help but the Soviet Union would not agree to this until the last moment. When it became perfectly clear that the plan prepared by American imperialism in collusion with the Chinese leaders and Pakistan reaction imperilled Afghanistan's territorial integrity, national independence and sovereignty, the Soviet Union agreed to use its limited contingents in Afghanistan in case of aggression from the other side of the borders.

Bulgarian TV correspondent:

*The socialist community of nations and that of the national liberation movements of the world have expressed their profound support for the April Revolution since its inception. Please tell me how you assess this solidarity with the new phase of revolution in Afghanistan?*

**Answer:** I can frankly say that had the forces from fraternal socialist and progressive countries of the world and the national liberation movements not supported the April revolution in a united front, there would have broken out a civil war in Afghanistan at the instigation of American imperialism, regional reaction and China. It was due to this solidarity that all the plots hatched by international reaction were foiled.

French Newsmen:

*"What preliminary actions will be taken by the revolutionary government of Afghanistan? That is, what will you do after the establishment of the new revolutionary government?"*

**Answer:** In the first days, after the revolution had entered its new phase, all the political prisoners numbering more than 10,000 were released on the basis of the government policy statement and the general amnesty proclaimed later. A process is going on to uproot the remnants of the oppressors and spies of American imperialism, Amin and the Aminis, in our society.

**Federal Republic of Germany news correspondent:**

*Afghanistan belongs to the non-aligned movement. With the presence in Afghanistan of Soviet troops, could it still feel itself non-aligned?*

**Answer:** On the basis of an objective principle we have been enabled to stand in the ranks of non-aligned nations through the preservation of our national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity with the material and moral help of the Soviet Union.

**Greek news correspondent:**

*"How do you assess the new phase of the April revolution?"*

**Answer:** Our reply has been systematically explained in a scientific manner in the policy statement of the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The people on entering the second phase of the revolution will accomplish a national, democratic, anti-feudal and anti-imperialist uprising.

**National Broadcasting Corporation TV correspondent:**

*"In your first address to the nation you said that American imperialism was involved in the plot to martyr Noor Mohammad Taraki and keep the people of Afghanistan strangled. Can you produce anything to prove this?"*

**Answer:** All the plots and conspiracies of the espionage agency of American imperialism, the CIA, will be published soon in the world press.

**Al Nida correspondent:**

*How do you see the future relationships between the DRA and Arab nations especially the PLO?*

**Answer:** These relationships are and will be like ties among sacrificing brethren, heroes and warriors, closing their ranks to fight zionism and imperialism.

**Associated Press correspondent:**

*I would like to make sure if the western reports were right that there are about 75,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan or would this figure be an exaggeration?*

**Answer:** Evidently, these are an exaggeration. Is not the questioner familiar enough with the lie fabrication plants in the West?

**PTI correspondent:**

*What do you think, as a non-aligned country, about the concentration of troops along your border with Pakistan? Military forces have been beefed up in your neighbourhood. I don't want to say they are Pakistani or American.*

**Answer:** I am thankful to you because as an honourable journalist, you disclosed the fact that military camps from imperialist nations, China and Pakistani reactionaries are making preparations in Afghanistan's neighbourhood to attack Afghanistan's territorial integrity. But, I can assure you that the people of Afghanistan, like a clenched fist, will give them bloody noses as they have given three times in the past the invading British colonialists and imperialists.

**American news correspondent:**

*President Carter lately called Amin a legitimate government. Could you give me the reason as to why he did so or was fond of Amin.*

**Answer:** I thank you for your question. As explained earlier, the imperialist espionage agency and Mr Carter supported an ally and agent like the Shah of Iran and as a co-called champion of human rights implicated himself in the unpardonable crimes committed by him.

**Question:**

*How many Soviet troops, during the last few weeks, have been wounded, killed or taken prisoner?*

**Answer:** None of them have been killed. The limited Soviet contingents are here as reserve forces against external aggression. They have nothing to do with the second phase of the April revolution or other affairs of Afghanistan.

**Associated Press correspondent:**

*As an agent of American imperialism, why did Amin invite Soviet troops to Afghanistan?*

**Answer:** Amin had not asked the Soviet Union for its limited contingents. The request had been made almost unanimously by the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

**BBC correspondent:**

*As observed by foreign newsmen during their stay here, most of the people of Afghanistan do not support you due to the presence in Afghanistan of Soviet troops. How many people in your opinion, are backing you?*

**Answer:** Very well, you the BBC correspondent! Suffice it to say your organisation is the greatest in the world for fabricating lies.

**Question:**

*You said in one of your speeches about unity among all progressive forces in Afghanistan. Please furnish some explanation about that.*

**Answer:** The leadership of the second phase of the April revolution, the party leadership and that of the DRA government have honourably pledged before the freedom-loving and noble people of Afghanistan to practise what they preach. The vast fatherland front constituting one of the basic principles of the second phase of the April revolution will be reflected in the press, effective from this evening and practically formed in Afghanistan shortly.

**Colombia Broadcasting Service and TV correspondent:**

*Again, how many Soviet contingents are there in Afghanistan and would the people of Afghanistan support you despite the presence of these contingents?*

**Answer:** The limited Soviet contingents are here as reserve forces against aggression from the other side of the Afghan borders. However, the grateful and noble people of Afghanistan will, in the case of aggression, fight arm in arm, for their freedom, national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Soviet Union valiantly fought against fascism in the great patriotic war, took a firm stand against other aggressors and considerably participated in the liberation of many countries.

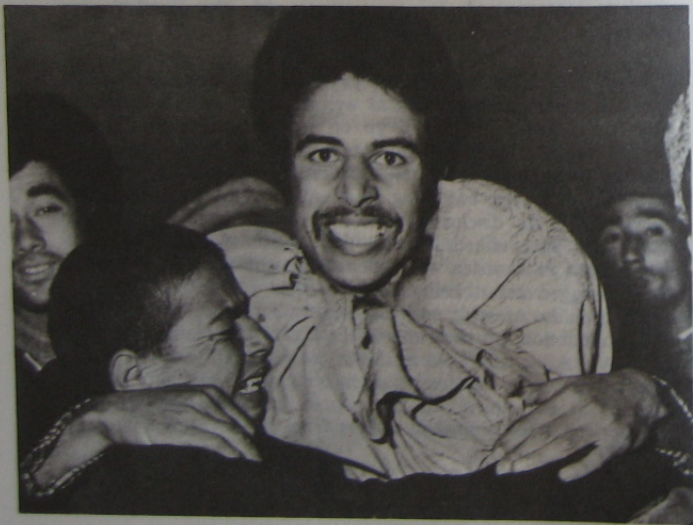
**Bakhtar News Agency correspondent (Iran)**

*You said in your first interview that you knew Amin well enough. I wish you to explain how Amin's plots and subversions commenced in connection with the revolutionary movement in Afghanistan?*

**Answer:** Hafizullah Amin's tragic crimes are being dealt with over the radio and television as well as in the press in Afghanistan right now. This will go on in the future, to disclose all the facts. Since it would take a lot of time to answer your question, you should get the reply in the press. I must point out, however, one thing about Amin as far as I personally knew him. As disclosed by the American imperialist press, those who were chosen as President of the foreign student's associations in America were bound to become a CIA member. Amin bragged about being president of the Afghan Student's Association in America and thus a member of the CIA. The Asia Foundation has been one of the organisations supported by the CIA. Amin also took pride in co-operating with the Asia Foundation by producing a circular which was sent to all Afghans at the time. In this, Amin had admitted that he had received a few thousand dollars from the Asia Foundation.



The citizens of Kabul read the news of a change in government and the defeat of Amin.



Emotional scenes outside the prison when political prisoners were released early in January. This father-and-son picture breaks volume

## The Soviet Union's stand

On January 13, Mr L. Brezhnev, President of the USSR and General Secretary of the CPSU gave an interview to *Pravda*, the Soviet national daily paper.

Here are his answers:

**Question:** Leonid Ilyich, how do you evaluate the present international situation, especially in the light of the American Administration's latest steps?

**Answer:** Our Party's consistent and creative pursuance of a course of peace, detente and disarmament, of implementing the peace programme set forth by the 24th and 25th Congresses of the CPSU, has made it possible to achieve a great deal. Broadly speaking, the main accomplishment is that we have succeeded in breaking the tragic cycle: world war — brief spell of peace — world war again. We Soviet people, our friends — the peoples of fraternal socialist countries and all those who have struggled and continue to struggle for peace, for detente and for the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems — have a right to be proud of his historic result.

The situation, unfortunately, has noticeably deteriorated at the turn of the 1980s, and the peoples must know the truth as to who is responsible for this. I will answer without any reservations — the imperialist forces, and especially certain circles in the United States, are to blame for this. The blame rests on all those who see in relaxation of tension an obstacle to their aggressive plans, to whipping up war hysteria, to interfering in the internal affairs of other peoples. The blame rests on those who have a deeply ingrained habit of treating other states in a cavalier manner, of acting in the international arena as if everything were permitted them.

It has been clear for some time that leading circles in the United States and some other NATO countries have embarked on a course hostile to the cause of detente, a course of spiralling the arms race, leading to an increased danger of war. The beginning of this was as early as in 1978 at the May session of the NATO Council in Washington where the automatic growth of the military budgets of the NATO member countries till the end of the 20th century was approved. Lately, militaristic tendencies in the policy of the United States have also found expression in the acceleration of new long-term armament programmes, in the setting up of new military bases far away from the United States, including the Middle East and the Indian ocean area, and in the formation of the so-called "quick reaction corps" — an instrument of the policy of military interference.

Now take an important document like the SALT II Treaty. Its implementation would have opened the way to major steps in disarmament. As is known, this treaty received world-wide support, including that of the NATO allies of the United States and of broad circles of international public opinion. And what did the Carter administration do with it? No sooner had the treaty been signed than attempts to discredit it began in the United States. The opponents of the treaty — not without the connivance of government circles in the United States — actually began using the process of ratification to complicate to the utmost the treaty's ratification. By his decision to freeze indefinitely the debate on the SALT II Treaty in the Senate President Carter has added one more touch to this unseemly process.

It was the United States that in December 1979 forced on

its NATO allies a decision to deploy new medium-range nuclear-missile weapons in several West European countries, which leads to a new round of the arms race. Washington virtually muzzleed those of its allies who were inclined to respond positively to the Soviet Union's constructive proposals for negotiations on this matter.

Today the opponents of peace and detente are trying to make capital out of the events in Afghanistan. Mountains of lies are being heaped around these events and a shameless anti-Soviet campaign is being mounted. Now what actually happened in Afghanistan?

A revolution took place there in April 1978. The Afghan people took their destiny into their own hands and embarked on a road of independence and freedom. As has always been the case in history, the forces of the past joined forces against the revolution. To be sure, the people of Afghanistan could have coped with them themselves. But from the very first days of the revolution they encountered external aggression, gross intervention from outside in the country's internal affairs.

Thousands and tens of thousands of insurgents, armed and trained abroad, whole armed units were sent into Afghanistan. In effect, imperialism together with its accomplices launched an undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan.

Afghanistan persistently demanded an end to the aggression and that it be allowed to build a new life in peace. Resisting the external aggression, already during the lifetime of President Taraki and later, the Afghan leadership repeatedly asked the Soviet Union for assistance. We on our part warned those concerned that if the aggression was not stopped we would not abandon the Afghan people in their testing time. As is well-known, we keep our word.

The actions of the aggressors against Afghanistan were assisted by Amin who, on seizing power, started cruelly repressing broad sections of Afghan society, party and military cadres, members of the intelligentsia and of the Moslem clergy, that is, the very sections on which the April revolution relied. And the people under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party, headed by Babrak Karmal, rose against Amin's tyranny and put

an end to it. Now in Washington and some other capitals they are mourning Amin. This exposes their hypocrisy with particular clarity. Where were these mourners when Amin was conducting mass repressions, when he forcibly removed and unlawfully killed Taraki, the founder of the new Afghan state?

Unceasing armed intervention and the well-advanced plot by the external forces of reaction posed a real threat to Afghanistan's independence and created the possibility of making it an imperialist military bridgehead on our country's southern border. In other words, the time came when we could not but respond to the request of the government of friendly Afghanistan. Acting otherwise would have meant leaving Afghanistan a prey to imperialism, allowing the aggressive forces to repeat in that country what they had succeeded in doing, for instance, in Chile, where the people's freedom was drowned in blood. Acting otherwise would have meant passively watching the creation on our southern border of a source of serious danger to the security of the Soviet state.

When making the request to us Afghanistan proceeded from the clear-cut provisions of the Treaty of Friendship, Good-neighbourliness and Co-operation concluded by Afghanistan and the USSR in December 1978; from the right of each state, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to individual or collective self-defence — a right that other states have exercised many times.

It was no easy decision for us to send Soviet military contingents to Afghanistan. But the Party's Central Committee and the Soviet government acted in full awareness of their responsibility and took into account all the relevant circumstances. The only task of the Soviet contingents is to assist the Afghans in repulsing the aggression from outside. They will all be withdrawn from Afghanistan once the reasons for the Afghan leadership's request for them disappear.

Imperialist and Peking propaganda is deliberately and unscrupulously distorting the Soviet Union's role in Afghan affairs.

It goes without saying that there has been no Soviet "intervention" or "aggression" whatsoever. There is something different: we are helping the new Afghanistan at the request of

its government to defend the national independence, freedom and honour of its country from armed aggressive actions from outside.

Further, the national interests or security of the United States of America and other states are in no way affected by the events in Afghanistan. All attempts to portray matters otherwise are sheer nonsense. These attempts are being made with ill intent, with the aim of making the fulfilment of imperialism's own plans easier to achieve.

Absolutely false are also the allegations that the Soviet Union has some expansionist plans with regard to Pakistan, Iran or other countries in that area. The policy and mentality of colonialism are alien to us. We do not covet the lands or wealth of others. It is the colonialists who are attracted by the smell of oil.

Nothing but sheer hypocrisy are the attempts to talk at length about a "Soviet threat to peace" and to pose as watchmen of international morals being made by people whose record includes the "dirty war" against Vietnam; who did not lift a finger when the Chinese aggressors made their armed intrusion into socialist Vietnam; who have for decades been keeping a military base in Cuba contrary to the will of the Cuban people and government; who are engaged in sabre-rattling; who are threatening to impose a blockade and are exerting open military pressure on the revolutionary Iranian people by sending a naval armada armed with atomic weapons, including a considerable part of the US aircraftcarrier force, to the shores of Iran.

There is one final point that must be made in this connection. Interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is actually taking place, and even such an august and respected body as the United Nations Organisation is being used for this. In fact, can the discussion of the so-called "Afghan question" at the United Nations, despite the objections of the government of Afghanistan, be described as anything but a rude flouting of the sovereign rights of the Afghan state?

Indeed the Afghan government and its responsible representative at the United Nations are stating for all to hear: "Leave us alone, the Soviet military contingents were brought in at

our request and in accordance with the Soviet-Afghan treaty and Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.”

Meantime, under the cover of the clamour, aid is being increased to the elements that are intruding into Afghanistan and perpetrating aggressive actions against the legitimate government. Recently the White House openly announced its decision to send these elements more military equipment and goods necessary for hostile activities. The Western press reports that during his talks in Peking the US Defense Secretary colluded with the Chinese leadership on the co-ordination of such actions.

Concluding the Afghan theme, it must be said that there is nothing surprising in the hostile reaction of the imperialist forces to events in Afghanistan. The crux of the matter is that here the card on which the imperialists and their accomplices had been counting has been trumped.

In short, the events in Afghanistan are not the true cause of the present worsening of the international situation. If there had been no Afghanistan, certain circles in the United States and NATO would surely have found another pretext for aggravating the world situation.

Finally, the sum total of the American Administration's steps in connection with the events in Afghanistan — the freezing of the SALT II Treaty; refusal to deliver to the USSR a whole range of commodities, including grain, in accordance with previously signed contracts; the ending of talks with the Soviet Union on several questions of bilateral relations, and so on — shows that, just as decades ago, Washington is trying to talk to us in the language of the cold war. In doing this the Carter administration is showing contempt for important interstate documents and is disrupting established ties in the field of science, culture and human contacts.

It would be difficult even to list all the treaties, inter-governmental agreements, accords and understandings reached between our two countries on questions of mutual relations in various fields that have been arbitrarily and unilaterally violated in recent days by President Carter's government. Of course, we will manage without such ties with the United States. In fact, we never courted them, believing that this was a mutually advantageous arrangement meeting the interests of the peoples of

both our countries, above all, in the context of strengthening peace.

But the arrogation by Washington of some sort of a “right” to “reward” or “punish” independent sovereign states raises a question of principle. In effect, these actions of the US government deal a blow at the established system of international law governing the relations between states.

As a result of the Carter administration's actions the United States is increasingly being seen all over the world as an absolutely unreliable partner in inter-state ties, as a state whose leadership, prompted by some whim, caprice or emotional quirk, or by calculations as to a narrowly understood immediate advantage, is capable at any moment of violating its international obligations and cancelling the treaties and agreements it has signed. There is hardly any need to explain what a dangerous destabilising impact this has on the entire international situation, all the more so because it is the behaviour of the leadership of a big and influential power, from which the peoples have the right to expect a well-considered and responsible policy.

Of course, these actions by the US Administration will not inflict on us the damage their initiators obviously hope for. The cynical estimates concerning the “worsening” of the food situation in the Soviet Union as a result of the US refusal to sell us grain are based on ridiculous notions about our economic potential. The Soviet people have sufficient resources to live and work with calm, to fulfil their plans and raise living standards. In particular, I may assure you that the plans for providing the Soviet people with bread and grain products will not be reduced by a single kilogram.

We may regard the actions of the American Administration only as an ill-judged attempt to use the events in Afghanistan to block international efforts to lessen the danger of war, to strengthen peace and to curb the arms race, in short, to block the attainment of aims which are in the vital interests of mankind.

The unilateral measures taken by the United States are tantamount to a serious political miscalculation. Like a boomerang, they will strike their initiators, if not today then tomorrow.



Now, if all these sallies against our policy are intended to test our mettle, this means that the experience of history is being completely ignored. When the world's first socialist state was born in 1917 our people did not ask anybody's permission. Today, too, they decide for themselves what laws they would live by. Imperialism tried to put us to the test at the very dawn of Soviet government and everybody remembers what came of this. The fascist aggressors tried to break us in the bloodiest war mankind has ever experienced. But they suffered a defeat. We were subjected to trials in the years of the cold war when the world was pushed to the brink of the precipice, when one international crisis after another was engineered. But then, too, nobody ever succeeded in shaking our resolve. It is useful to recall all this today.

**Question: What, in your opinion, are the prospects for the development of the situation in Europe?**

**Answer:** The situation in Europe today is much better than it was, say, in the early 1970s. But, of course, Washington's latest irresponsible actions are making themselves felt here as well. The United States is not content with doing almost everything possible to poison Soviet-American relations. It would like also to spoil relations between the West European countries and the Soviet Union, relations in which, as everybody knows, many useful things have been achieved in the past decade. The United States is trying to undermine the spirit and essence of the Helsinki Final Act which has become a recognised milestone in strengthening security and developing peaceful co-operation on the continent. Finally, Washington's attempts to aggravate the international situation also have the aim of bending the European states, especially its own allies, to its will.

But the cardinal interests of the European peoples are wholly bound up with detente. Europeans already know its advantages from their own experience. They are inhabitants of a continent that has been scorched more than once by devastating wars and they are by no means prepared, and we are convinced of this, to embark on an adventurist path at the bidding of politicians from across the ocean. It is impossible to believe that there are states in Europe that would wish to throw the fruits of detente under the feet of those who are keen to trample them. Western states, including the United States, need detente

in Europe no less than the socialist countries do, than the Soviet Union does.

Much of a constructive nature can be done to strengthen peace in Europe in the near future, in particular, in connection with the forthcoming meeting in Madrid and the proposal by the Warsaw Treaty countries for holding a conference on military detente and disarmament. We are resolute in our desire to consolidate and multiply everything positive that has been achieved over the years on the European continent through the collective efforts of states big and small. We will continue to pursue our policy of peace and friendship among peoples.

In contrast to Washington's present extremist stance our position is to continue the talks started in recent years in many directions with the aim of halting the arms race. This, naturally, also applies to the problems of lessening military confrontation in Europe.

I repeat: we are for talks, but for honest and equal talks, with observance of the principle of equal security. It is precisely talks of this kind that we recently proposed to start on the question of medium-range nuclear weapons. Nobody can expect the Soviet Union to accept NATO's terms which are designed to allow talks to be conducted from positions of strength. The present attitude of the NATO countries makes talks on this problem impossible. We formally informed the US government of all this a few days ago.

We face the future with optimism. This optimism is well-founded. We realise that the deliberate aggravation of the international situation by American imperialism is a manifestation of its displeasure at the consolidation of the positions of socialism, at the upsurge of the national-liberation movement and the strengthening of forces coming out for detente and peace. We know that the will of the peoples has cleared through all obstacles a road for the positive trend in world affairs that is well expressed by the word "detente." This policy has deep roots. It is supported by mighty forces and has every chance of remaining the basic tendency in relations between states.

Our people, our country are firmly advancing along the road of communist construction, fulfilling the assignments of the tenth five-year plan, the tasks set by the Party. Soviet people

and our friends abroad may rest assured that our Leninist foreign-policy course will never waver. It was defined by the decisions of CPSU congresses and is being embodied in all our activities in the field of foreign policy. This course combines consistent peaceableness with a firm rebuff to aggression. It has justified itself in past decades and we will continue to adhere to it. No one will deflect us from this course.

## Appeal By N.M. Taraki's Widow to President Carter

**Dear Mr President**

As you know, in April 1978 a popular revolution took place in Afghanistan. You undoubtedly also know that the revolution was carried out by the national armed forces under the guidance of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan which was headed since its inception by my late husband, Nur Mohammad Taraki. The April revolution was accomplished in the interests of the overwhelming majority of our people, and therefore it is not accidental that it was received by my countrymen with enthusiasm and inspiration.

During the subsequent period of time extending to the middle of September 1979, my husband, being the legitimate head of state, President of the Revolutionary Council, tirelessly worked to create a new, prosperous Afghanistan. But in September last year the conspirator and apostate Amin, who did not disdain using the most perfidious methods, took power in the country in a treacherous and foul manner. He killed my husband — I repeat — the legitimate head of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and he put all of our family, including myself, in his terrible prison.

Your attempts to defend the criminal and murderer Amin provokes wrath and indignation in me and in all honest Afghans. You allow yourself to call him the "lawful president" of Afghanistan. Your words insult the memory of my late husband Nur Mohammad Taraki, who was villainously killed by Amin and his butchers. These words cannot be anything but blasphemy to the memory of fighters for freedom and happiness in their homeland who were tortured to death by him, though they were innocent.

Unfortunately, I witnessed the crimes of that blood-thirsty gang who didn't even spare women or children. My relatives and I were among those who fell victim to the crimes of Amin and his men. And now, when retribution came, when the party formed by my late husband, its glorious sons and daughters, and all Afghan patriots who cleared our dear motherland, Afghanistan, of criminals, you take under protection those who were cursed by the people for their criminal deeds.

Why were you, Mr President, silent when they villainously killed my husband, the legitimate President of the free Afghan people, the man who gave up his life for the happiness and the bright future of his countrymen? Why didn't you, Mr President, display your concern at the time when the killer and traitor Amin put into prison, tortured and killed genuine Afghan patriots, old men, women and children?

I am happy and take pride in the fact, that our children, disciples and successors of the cause of my late husband, Nur Mohammad Taraki, have again lighted the flame of freedom and restored justice to our native home. They have always been fighting for the happiness of their unfortunate people, and the people supported them. The people believe them and will be with them till the very end in the cause of defending their motherland and the revolution.

We, the Afghans, love freedom, peace and independence more than our own lives and are ready to shed our blood for their sake. We are putting things in order in our own home and demand that no-one prevent us from following the road we have chosen for ourselves. We do not want and do not do ill to your country. What is going on now is quite the contrary of this. It is your government which gives covert and overt support to the dark forces which are coming out against our people.

In conclusion, I wish to express confidence that the cause that my husband, Nur Mohammad Taraki, gave his life for, shall triumph, and the proud Afghan people shall attain happiness and prosperity.

Nur Bibi Taraki

## Appeal to Moslems by the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan

The victory of the national and democratic April (1978) revolution in our ancient land had sincere support and was warmly welcomed by the broad popular masses, Moslems of all of the country's nations and nationalities.

Being profoundly national and democratic in its essence, the April revolution was at the same time a powerful manifestation of the will of the country's Moslem people for the establishment of true social justice and has been a major step on the way of realisation of age-long aspirations of our country's true Moslems.

This revolution has undertaken the noble mission of protection of the oppressed people, the working masses and devout Moslems, as the interests of the broad popular masses are in deep conflict with the strivings and role of exploiters of the whole world.

US imperialism, striving for world domination and acting jointly with the Chinese leadership, home reaction and reaction of the region, began hatching plots and provocations for fomenting strife among our people, among our country's Moslems.

Acting with the aid of its allies and accomplices, US imperialism hatched and continues to hatch schemes for putting up all sorts of obstacles in the way of the drawing closer of the people of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. It strives to sow discord everywhere between the Moslem and noble peoples of these states who have deep common historical, cultural and religious ties. It was by fomenting racial, national, language and religious differences that butcher Amin was attempting to discredit and stain the April revolution in the eyes of world public opinion.

Acting on the instructions of the imperialists, Amin and his criminal accomplices were trying to establish an atmosphere of bloody terror directed against all honest and sincere Moslems, against the noble and learned clergy which expressed its support for the April revolution. All of these people were subjected to tortures and persecution, were physically destroyed. Mosques and Madrasahs were purged of noble and devout Moslems. The clergy found itself in a most difficult position. Amin started carrying out anti-popular, anti-democratic measures directed against our country's progress, at a split between nations, nationalities and religious groups of Afghanistan.

After the revolutionary events which took place in December last year, the April revolution has entered a new stage, the ideals and objectives of the revolution have been revived.

Now, international reaction and imperialism, led by US imperialism in collusion with Chinese chauvinists and other reactionary forces of the region, take advantage of the fact that a certain number of Moslems of Afghanistan have been deceived by the enemies of our people and are trying to undermine the unity of Moslems, are hatching plots against the national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, against the freedom won by our country's Moslem peoples.

These enemies are trying to place the sacred religion of Islam at the service of the interests of imperialism and the enemies of Islam, to use this religion as a means for the attainment of their sinister aims. But the noble peoples of our country will deal a blow to these devils, whatever masks they may use as a cover.

In these circumstances, the government of the DRA was forced to turn for aid to the Soviet Union — the sincere friend of the Moslem people of Afghanistan. The Soviet Union has proved by its sincere, timely, disinterested and fraternal assistance that it is a sincere friend of the Moslem people of Afghanistan, of all Moslems of the world in the cause of independence, freedom and sovereignty of the oppressed nations and nationalities.

The Moslems of Afghanistan approve of the arrival of limited military contingents from the USSR, which have been invited to assist us in repelling foreign aggression, and which will leave our country as soon as the threat from the outside hanging over the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is eliminated.

The fraternal Moslem peoples of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan are in the front ranks of the struggle against the common enemy. The imperialists are trying to strangle the revolution in Afghanistan and Iran. They strive to isolate the free Moslem countries from the rest of the Moslem world, from the developing States.

We are confident that those who were deceived by imperialist and Chinese propaganda, will now understand their delusions and errors and support the Moslems of Afghanistan, who continue developing and strengthening the gains of the April revolution.

We call upon our Moslem brothers and the governments of the Moslem countries not to allow the imperialists striving for world domination, in the first place the US imperialists and zionists, these enemies of the long-suffering Palestinian people, the enemies of the revolutionary peoples of the whole world, to deceive them.

Support our national, democratic and anti-imperialist revolution!

We call upon all the Moslems of the world for the defence of the revolution in Afghanistan and Iran, for struggle against imperialism, zionism and reaction, in defence of our righteous and just cause.



The preliminary investigation into the murder by Amin's followers of N. M. Taraki, General Secretary of the PDPA's Central Committee and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has taken place in Kabul. It was established during the investigation that the direct participants in the crime were Captain Abdul Hadud, the former chief of the communications department of the Ministry of Defence; Senior Lieutenant Mohammad Ekbal, the commander of a troop sub-unit which guarded Amin's palace; and Ruzi, a former serviceman who has escaped and is being searched for. By order of the chief of Amin's guards, Jandad, who received an order from Amin on October 8, 1979, these three persons went to the premises where Taraki was kept under house arrest, attacked and throttled him. He was buried in a place which still remains unknown. The picture shows the interrogation of Major Jandad, the former commander of Amin's guards.



The people's armed forces of Afghanistan are still in action against the bands of counter-revolutionaries being sent across the Afghanistan/Pakistan border after receiving training and weapons from the US and China. Senior Captain G. Farouk (on the left), commander of a special armoured brigade, discusses an order.



Afghan counter-revolutionaries and different groups of bandits, trained by American and Chinese instructors at camps in Pakistan are using these arms against the people of the DRA. The US and Chinese weapons shown in this picture have been captured.

## The CIA Conspiracy that failed

Hafizullah Amin was an Afghan student in the USA in the mid-60s and became President of the Afghan Student's Association. It was almost certainly at this time he was recruited as a CIA agent. He received some money from the Asia Foundation an organisation through which the CIA works.

He became a member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and became one of its leaders. He in fact, became Prime Minister in the Taraki government and in that position pursued a policy and gave advice to Taraki (who was President), which created divisions in the leadership of the revolutionary movement, made arrests of political activists, set the deeply religious Moslem population against the revolution and generally caused confusion and antagonism.

His chance came when Noor Mohammed Taraki who was not only President but also General Secretary of the PDPA, left Afghanistan for a period to attend the meeting of non-aligned heads of government in Havana, Cuba, in September 1979.

Upon Taraki's return to Kabul, Amin seized power in a coup and had Taraki murdered. Those who took part in this murder have been arrested.

Upon seizing power, Amin began broadening his contacts with the counter-revolutionary forces both inside Afghanistan and outside, right up to the US President himself.

Late in September, 1979, an emissary of Amin had a secret meeting with Gulbuddin Ekmatiar, a leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan which is a main force behind the counter-revolutionary activity going on in Pakistan. The objective of the meeting was to reach agreement to end confrontation and establish co-operation.

Amin's elder brother, Abdullah, began openly talking about "putting an end to the game of revolution" and called for the appointment of relatives and "loyal" friends to senior party and government posts.

On October 4th, 1979, Amin held a secret meeting in Kabul at which he and his fellow conspirators endorsed co-operation with the Islamic Party of Afghanistan and made specific plans and preparations.

The slogans and policies adopted by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the changes brought about in the country following the April 1978 revolution, were to be abandoned. The CIA agent, Amin, was to become President and the leader of the Islamic Party, Gulbuddin Ekmatiar, Prime Minister of a new government.

Inside Afghanistan the ground was being prepared. Distortion of the policies of the PDPA and adoption of unpopular and repressive measures were intensified. More of the loyal activists of the PDPA were arrested, including Taraki's widow and his family. Some were killed or tortured. Others were sent out of the country by Amin.

The position inside Afghanistan was further destabilised by the raids of cut-throat counter-revolutionary bands based in Pakistan and being organised jointly by the CIA and the Chinese.

In mid-December, 1979, Amin's personal representative made a round trip, Kabul-Paris-Rome-Karachi in a special plan belonging to the Afghani Ariana Air Company. The representative met in those cities US special services agents and informed them of the preparations for the coup. Assurances were received

from Washington of US military intervention in support of Amin "if necessary."

On December 22-24, Amin's representative went to Peshawar (Pakistan) one of the centres of the counter-revolutionary forces and near the headquarters of Gulbuddin Ekmatiar.

Thousands of the activists of the PDPA, already in jail, were to be executed. The PDPA was to be eliminated. Afghanistan would have become another Chile under Pinochet or another Kampuchea under Pol Pot.

On December 27th those loyal to the April Revolution acted to foil the plot.

The very first act of the government of Babrak Karmal was to release all the political prisoners. Over 10,000 were let out of various jails.

A new stage of the progressive, democratic social revolution which in a short time will transform Afghanistan and end its feudal backwardness, poverty and illiteracy, has opened.



The new Afghanistan government is calling for all-out efforts to lift production and improve living standards. Personnel of the Kabul knitted goods factory.



For over 60 years the Soviet Union has been assisting Afghanistan to build up its economy, build roads, educational establishments and other facilities. The picture shows a grain elevator in Kabul built with the technical and economic assistance of the USSR.

## Afghanistan — Soviet Union:

# Firm friends for sixty years

by Jim Mitchell

Since the 60,000 Afghans held back a 340,000 British army sent from India to crush them in 1919, Afghanistan has cherished its independence and since that time too the most friendly relations have existed between the central Asian country and its great neighbour — the USSR.

For more than 60 years the Soviet Union has helped Afghanistan's battle to overcome the dreadful legacy of the feudal and colonial past. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan still has a long way to go but all its achievements since the overthrow of the monarchy in 1973 would have been destroyed today were it not for the continued friendly help — this time military — from the Soviet Union.

It is timely to recall some examples of Soviet assistance since the signing of the Treaty of Friendship between the two countries in 1921. At that time Lenin said the treaty "formalised the friendship and mutual sympathies which for two years now have been developing and strengthening between Afghanistan and Russia..."



Economic assistance was the first need to help the Afghan people catch up to the 20th century.

In 1920 the Soviet Union gave Afghanistan its first radio station as a token of friendship. Young Afghans were invited to Tashkent to learn radio engineering. A weather station was built at Herat with Soviet assistance in 1923. Telephone and telegraph stations were built and lines constructed by Soviet engineers with Soviet equipment to help strengthen the country's links with the world.

Direct air communication was established in 1927. The Kabul International Airport was built with Soviet assistance.

In the '30s the Soviet Union helped plan and build a number of cotton cleaning plants and with airplanes and chemicals wiped out the most dreaded scourge of the peasants — the locust plagues.

Soviet specialists in the early '30s helped transform the capital Kabul, built its main roads and gave it a mechanized bakery. An automotive plant at Jangalak for major repairs to agricultural machines and pumps was another target of Soviet help. A building construction plant became the basis for the general reconstruction plan of the capital worked out by Soviet architects.

Hydropower stations have added to the needs of Afghan expansion. Last year there were 117 projects being built with the fraternal help of the USSR.

The north of Afghanistan known for its carpets and astrakhan is today yielding natural gas thanks to Soviet geologists and engineers. The geologists are continuing to tap the untouched gas and mineral wealth of the country.

Afghanistan's first chemical plant — a nitrogenous fertilizer complex — together with an adjacent thermal power station is another example of Soviet solicitude for its neighbour.

Camel caravans have given way to motor vehicles which demand good roads. Tremendous construction projects through very high mountains were undertaken by Soviet equipment and specialists. The high mountain Salang motor road and the Turghundi-Herat-Kandahar highway are symbols of Soviet-Afghan friendship.

The foundation stone of the Kabul Polytechnical Institute — a major training centre for young specialists — was laid by Leonid Brezhnev during a State visit in 1963. Soviet architects and builders erected the group of 78 lecture rooms, laboratories and hostels. Soviet teachers were seconded to the Institute while many Afghan youngsters now study at Soviet institutes of higher learning.

The beautiful Blue Mosque, serving students and teachers of both the Institute and the nearby University was also built with Soviet assistance.

The list of projects could be considerably extended. Although at the present moment — in the second stage of the Revolution — when the threats from without and the intruding mercenary bandits trained by the CIA and the Chinese over the border have to be dealt with, some projects have to be slowed down, in the main the development continues.

A faster rate of progress can be expected now that the country is united behind a patriotic and vigorous leadership and is protected by the strong arm of the Afghan people and the soldiers of their friendly neighbour.



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The foundation stone of the Kable...  
— a major training centre for young people...  
by Lewis Bruden during a state visit in 1947...  
architects and builders across the country...  
apartments and houses...  
attitude which made Victorian...  
institutions of higher learning

The committee has...  
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The list of projects...  
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