

**December 27, 1979**

**Soviet Foreign Ministry Circular Cable to Soviet  
Ambassadors on the Situation in Afghanistan,  
Instructions for Meeting with Communist Party  
Leaders**

**Citation:**

"Soviet Foreign Ministry Circular Cable to Soviet Ambassadors on the Situation in Afghanistan, Instructions for Meeting with Communist Party Leaders", December 27, 1979, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Boris Gromov, "Ogranichenny Kontingent ("Limited Contingent")", Progress, Moscow, 1994. Translated for CWIHP by Gary Goldberg. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/113145>

**Summary:**

This document reveals the struggles facing Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Local individuals reacted negatively to outside Soviet involvement, which threatened to overturn the results of the April Revolution. Also, Soviets believed that the CIA, and Beijing's leadership, were attempting to de-stabilize Afghanistan.

**Original Language:**

Russian

**Contents:**

Translation - English

Top Secret  
Special Folder  
Flash [precedence]

TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR[1]

Meet with the representatives of the leadership of friends and inform them in the name of the CC CPSU of the following:

Dear comrades!

Following the tradition which has developed in relations between our Parties, the CC CPSU would like to share with the leaders of your Party our views and an assessment of recent events in Afghanistan.

As you well know, a new progressive national [political] system was created in Afghanistan as a result of the April 1978 Revolution. Much work was done in the country to eliminate the despotic monarchy by enlisting the broad popular masses on the side of the Revolution; land reform has been carried out, and a large amount of land has been transferred to the working peasantry; the payment of kalym (compensation) for a bride has been abolished; and other reforms have been carried out in the interests of the people.

However the revolutionary events in Afghanistan have met with fierce opposition on the part of hostile foreign reactionary forces. Constant subversive activity from Pakistan, Iran, and China has been unleashed. In turn, the reactionary remnants of the old regime, landowners deprived of land, the former minions of the monarchy, and part of the Muslim clergy have unleashed a struggle against the revolutionary order.

To this was added the mistaken, it must be frankly said, dictatorial, despotic actions of H. Amin, violations of elementary norms of legality, widespread repression of everyone who did not agree with him, including those who for many years fought against the monarchy and actively participated in the April Revolution.

Having eliminated the former General Secretary of the People's Democratic Party and President of the Republic N. M. Taraki, H. Amin has recently hypocritically talked of humaneness and legality, given ultrarevolutionary speeches, etc., but in fact has carried out massive repression and undermined the foundations of the revolutionary order.

Thus external intervention and terror against honest persons devoted to the cause of the Revolution and the interests of the people has created a threat of liquidation of what the April Revolution brought the Afghan people.

As a result of the harmful and impermissible acts of H. Amin and his closest associates enormous discontent and protests against the policy of H. Amin have arisen in the country and at the same time subversive activity of reactionaries has revived and attacks of armed formations sent from abroad have intensified.

All this has been exploited by foreign reactionary forces. They have intensified the infiltration of sizable armed groups (mainly from Pakistani territory), they have supplied various military formations with weapons and money, etc.; in a word, they have worked towards establishing the previous reactionary regime and subordinating Afghanistan to imperialism. American imperialism and the CIA, and also the Beijing

leadership have acted as the main force in carrying out this policy.

However in Afghanistan there have been found forces which have risen decisively against the regime of H. Amin, removed him from power, and created new governing bodies for the Party and the country. Those who for many years fought against the monarchy and brought about the April Revolution together with Taraki have been brought into them. Karmal Babrak [SIC] has become the head of the Party and the government. His speeches and appeals to the people of Afghanistan are directed at ensuring the national independence of Afghanistan; rallying the people together; carrying out a progressive, democratic policy; observing legality; establishing firm law and order; and [having] a humane attitude toward people. The new leadership is setting as its task the assurance of civic peace in the country. All of this gives reason to say that such a leadership will facilitate the strengthening of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and a progressive republican system.

The new government and Party leadership has turned to the USSR with a request to give it political and material aid, including military support.

The Soviet Union has decided to give this support. In this matter the Soviet and Afghan governments have relied on an international treaty concluded between the USSR and Afghanistan on 5 December 1978. Chapter 4 of this treaty says: "The High Contracting Parties, acting in the spirit of the traditions of friendship and neighborliness and also the UN Charter, will consult and with the consent of both Parties undertake the appropriate measures to ensure the security, independence, and territorial integrity of both countries. They will continue to collaborate in the military field in the interests of strengthening the defensive ability of the High Contracting Parties."

The Soviet Union has given consent to the Afghan government to the introduction of a small military contingent for a period of time. Its very presence in Afghanistan will serve as a guarantee (barrier) against sudden armed attacks of hostile foreign forces (mainly from Pakistan) and from the actions of internal counterrevolutionary forces.

The Soviet armed formation will be withdrawn from Afghanistan as soon as the situation there stabilizes and the reasons which prompted this action no longer exist.

In taking this decision, the CC CPSU considered the possible negative reaction of imperialist states and their mass media. But the political attacks of class and ideological enemies should not deter the CPSU and the Soviet Union from granting the request of the Afghan leadership.

The CC CPSU expresses confidence that your Party will well understand the motives which dictated the need to give this kind of aid to democratic Afghanistan and will support these measures.

With Communist greetings

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY  
OF THE SOVIET UNION

LIST

of Communist and workers' parties  
of non-socialist countries

who are being sent the CC CPSU letter

The Communist Party of Austria  
The Party of the Socialist Avant Garde of Algeria  
The Communist Party of Argentina  
The Communist Party of Bangladesh  
The Communist Party of Belgium  
The Communist Party of Bolivia  
The Brazilian Communist Party  
The Communist Party of Venezuela  
The Communist Party of Great Britain  
The German Communist Party  
The Communist Party of Greece  
The Communist Party of Denmark  
The Communist Party of Israel  
The Communist Party of India  
The Iraqi Communist Party  
The People's Party of Iran  
The Communist Party of Ireland  
The Communist Party of Spain  
The Italian Communist Party  
The Communist Party of Canada  
The Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus - AKEhL  
The Communist Party of Colombia  
The Lebanese Communist Party  
The Communist Party of Luxembourg  
The Communist Party of Malta  
The Mexican Communist Party  
The Communist Party of the Netherlands  
The Communist Party of Norway  
The Peruvian Communist Party  
The Portuguese Communist Party  
The Reunion Communist Party  
The San Marino Communist Party  
The Syrian Communist Party  
The Communist Party of the USA  
The Communist Party of Turkey  
The Communist Party of Uruguay  
The Communist Party of the Philippines  
The Communist Party of Finland  
The French Communist Party  
The Communist Party of Chile  
The Swiss Party of Labor  
The Workers' Party - Communists of Sweden  
The Leftist Party - Communists of Sweden  
The Communist Party of Sri Lanka  
The Communist Party of Ecuador  
The Communist Party of Japan

[1] This circular is an implementation of Attachment 8 of the document agreed upon at the 27 December 1979 Politburo meeting, "Our Steps in Connection with the Development of the Situation Around Afghanistan"; the Politburo decision also carries a "Flash" message precedence, the designation "Special", the notation "Regarding Point 151 of Minutes N° 177" and "Special Folder", and the classification "Top Secret."