

March 1988
Soviet Military Intelligence (GRU) Memorandum,
'About US Aid to the Counterrevolutionaries'
(Excerpt)

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Summary:

Report on US economic and military aid to opposition forces in Afghanistan.

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Memo

About US aid to the counterrevolutionaries

The US Administration, in spite of the prospect of achieving mutually advantageous agreements at the indirect Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva, continues to give broad military, financial, and political support to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

The policy and practical activities of the US on the Afghan question are directed first of all at achieving the withdrawal of Soviet troops in the shortest possible time, the failure of the implementation of the program of national reconciliation, and the preservation of the military potential of the counterrevolutionaries at a level sufficient to support a struggle for power in the new conditions - that will arise in the event of a successful conclusion of the Geneva talks. Under pressure of extremist forces in Congress several representatives of the Administration are trying to put an end to the aid to the antigovernment forces, depending on the withdrawal of Soviet military contingent. The demand is advanced that aid is not to be stopped right after the signing of the corresponding documents in Geneva, but it is to be maintained proportionate to a reduction in the numbers of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. The root goal of the American policy is to establish a pro-Western reactionary regime oriented mainly towards Washington.

At the present time the CIA, the State Department, the Department of Defense, and other US agencies are active in planning anti-Afghan actions. The amount of official American aid to the counterrevolutionaries has exceeded two billion dollars. In 1988 the planned aid amounts to more than \$700,000,000. Recently the Americans have been emphasizing deliveries of modern anti-aircraft weapons to the rebels. In 1987 about 600 "Stinger" portable surface-to-air missiles were sent to the counterrevolutionaries and more than 100 rebels have been trained, having completed an expanded course for instructors in the use of this weapon in US armed forces training centers and military bases in Texas and California. American military aid is being implemented directly via the headquarters of the rebel parties. The main part of the military cargo intended for the rebels is initially delivered to the port of Karachi. Subsequent operations - storage, transshipment to regions bordering Afghanistan, and transfer of the weapons to the rebels - are done as a rule with the participation of Pakistani armed forces subunits and special services.

Since the beginning of 1988 intensive deliveries of military cargo from the US to ports and airbases of Saudi Arabia, Oman, and several other countries have been noted. Weapons and ammunition are stored with the expectation of future [use].

With the participation of the Americans measures are being implemented to convert the rebel groups to a regular troop structure. As of 1 March 1988 22 so-called regiments have been formed on Pakistani territory and in Afghanistan, 43. New fire bases are being created for the counterrevolutionaries and the system of command and control is being improved.

The number of American advisers training rebels in military training centers in Pakistan and active in organizing combat operations and engineering works on Afghan territory has reached 250. The presence of American advisers has been noted in specialized centers situated in the region of the Pakistani cities of Barsak, Kohat, Parachinar, Quetta, Peshawar, Jamrud, Sadda, and Miram Shah. Their presence (the advisers) in rebel groups was confirmed by chairman of the "Alliance-7" [Islamic Party of Afghanistan leader Muhammad Yunus] Khalis at a press conference in Peshawar when he reported the death of one of the military advisers in December 1987.

With the active participation of Washington a broad psychological offensive has been organized against the Republic of Afghanistan which has the goal of discrediting the policy of national reconciliation being pursued by Kabul and preventing the formation of coalition government bodies. More than 50 radio stations overseen or run by the CIA and USIA make subversive transmissions in the various languages of the peoples of Afghanistan. More than \$1,000,000 was allocated by the CIA for the training of propagandists from among the rebels in 1988.