

Afghanistan

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Prime Minister

To see all

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FM KABUL 180442Z

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 278 OF 18 SEPTEMBER 88.

INFO ROUTINE ISLAMABAD, WASHINGTON, NEW DELHI, MOSCOW,
UKDEL NATO AND MODUK (DI4).

INFO SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

MY TELEGRAM NO 273 : AFGHANISTAN : SITREP.
POLITICAL.

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO LOCAL COMMENT ON THE SOVIET DEFECTOR IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY (REPORTED SEPARATELY). ADDED SECURITY MEASURES OF SURVEILLANCE AND SEARCH OUTSIDE WESTERN EMBASSIED CONTINUE. MOST OF OUR CARS ARE ALSO FOLLOWED. I AM PROTESTING THIS MORNING TO PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT OF THE MFA.
2. A NEW LAW "THE PENAL LAW FOR CRIMES AGAINST COMBAT PREPARATIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE DRA" HAS BEEN PASSED. IT IS OFFICIALLY DESCRIBED AS DESIGNED IN PART TO "STRENGTHEN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RUNNING AWAY FROM MILITARY SERVICE".
3. A DECISION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON 17 SEPTEMBER PROVIDES FREE ELECTRICITY TO ALL MOSQUES IN AFGHANISTAN.
4. BABRAK'S MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS OF JOURNALISTS, WHICH OPENED ON 15 SEPTEMBER, STRESSED TO ROLE OF JOURNALISTS IN CULTIVATING THE NECESSARY SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MENTAL ATTITUDES AND IN COUNTERING THE POISONOUS PROPAGANDA OF IMPERIALISM.
5. A TASS ARTICLE ALLEGING BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN STOCKPILING AMERICAN, AND PRODUCTION OF HER OWN, CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT PORTON DOWN HAS BEEN REPRODUCED IN THE LOCAL PRESS.
6. AN AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL CO-OPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN SIGNED BY DR ANAHITA RATEBZAD, MINISTER OF EDUCATION, WHO HAS SUBSEQUENTLY LEFT ON ANOTHER TOUR TO USSR, YUGOSLAVIA AND BULGARIA.
INTERNAL SECURITY.
7. THERE IS NO HARD INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPERATION IN THE PANJSHER. MOST REPORTS CICULATING CONSIDER IT A FAILURE FOR THE SOVIETS, IN WHICH THEIR HEAVY ARMOUR WAS TRAPPED AND THEIR CASUALTIES HEAVY. HOWEVER, THE INDIAN MILITARY ATTACHE (PLEASE PROTECT) CONSIDERS THE ACTIONA SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS FOR THE SOVIETS IN CONTAINING THE RESISTANCE FORCES AND IN BLOCKING OFF THE REGION EAST OF KABUL AND SOUTH OF PANJSHER, THUS COMPARTMENTALISING THE RESISTANCE EFFORT.

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/ 8. AN EDITORIAL

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8. AN EDITORIAL IN THE LOCAL PRESS ON 15 SEPTEMBER ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE REBELS REMARKS UPON "AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS BEING NOTICED IN THE SURRENDER OF ARMS BY THOSE WHO HAD BEEN DECEIVED BY THE REBELS TO TAKE UP ARMS AND CARRY OUT SUBVERSIVE ACTS". REPORTS OF SUCH SURRENDER OF WEAPONS USUALLY DESCRIBE THE WEAPONS AS OF US AND CHINESE MANUFACTURE.

8. IN KABUL, SHOOTINGS AT NIGHT SEEM TO HAVE INCREASED AGAIN OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS. A LARGE CONVOY MAINLY OF FUEL TANKERS PASSED THROUGH TOWN FROM THE AIRPORT GOING NORTH ON 16 SEPTEMBER. AERIAL ACTIVITY REMAINS LIGHT. FIGHTING HAS BEEN REPORTED AROUND KARIZMER 17KMS NORTH OF KABUL AND ON 17 SEPTEMBER SOME 40 KMS TO THE EAST, WHERE RESISTANCE FORCES ATTACKED MILITARY UNITS AROUND SAROBI.

PRESS DISTRIBUTION.

9. NO RESTRICTION.

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