

Report From Kabul (Secret. Urgent)

...Taraki, and Amin as well, repeatedly returned to the issue of the widening of the Soviet military presence in the country. They put forth the issue of introducing approximately two divisions to the DRA in the event of emergency circumstances "at the request of the legal government of Afghanistan."

In regard to this pronouncement of the Afghan leadership it was declared that the Soviet Union cannot do that.

Ponomarev

7.19.1979

*As cited in Liakhovskii, A.A. The Tragedy and Valor of the Afghani. (Moscow: GPI "Iskon", 1995), p. 87*

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On July 19 a second meeting with N.M. Taraki took place...Taraki once again returned to the issue of the strengthening of military support from the side of the Soviet Union, saying in that regard that in the event of the outbreak of an emergency situation the landing of a parachute division could play a decisive role in crushing the demonstration of counter-revolutionary forces.

In response, our position was put forth once again, emphasizing that the Soviet Union cannot take such measures.

Ponomarev

7.20.1979

*As cited in Liakhovskii, A.A. The Tragedy and Valor of the Afghani. (Moscow: GPI "Iskon", 1995), p. 87*