

AFGHANISTAN TALKING POINTS

-- We face an immediate test in Afghanistan where the Soviet invasion represents an ominous departure in Russia's willingness to intervene militarily outside its own borders; and positions Moscow better to exert political pressure on Iran and Pakistan -- the key to Soviet aspirations to obtain access to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

-- Our concern is two fold. Soviet intervention in Afghanistan severely disturbs the regional balance in Southwest Asia; and this act threatens to disrupt the global network of strategic relationships and understandings constructed over the past generation.

-- [

]

-- We assume the Soviet Union's immediate aims in Afghanistan will be (1) control of Kabul and all major production centers; (2) control of major roads; (3) control of the major passes between Afghanistan and Pakistan; and (4) restriction on the ability of the outside world to obtain solid information on the insurgency. These aims appear achievable in the short term.

-- A total "pacification" of Afghanistan on the other hand will be a much longer term and expensive undertaking, but one that the Soviets will undoubtedly attempt. The Soviets have major problems on their hands:

- a weak political structure
- questionable loyalty of Afghan army
- terrain favors insurgents
- the Soviet-Babrak "pacification theme is unlikely to sell.

-- However, the insurgents face many problems as well:

- Despite their numbers, they are ill-equipped and poorly led. (Several hundred groups with no central command.)
- They are no match for Soviet troops.

- [

]

-- On Friday, President Carter announced a series of far-reaching adjustments in U.S. relations with the Soviet Union. These include a sharp reduction of grain sales, a tightening of controls on other exports to the USSR, restrictions on Soviet fishing allocations within the U.S. economic zone, a slowdown in bilateral negotiations with the Soviets, and a stepping-up of our efforts to publicize to the Soviet populace via radio broadcasts its government's invasion of Afghanistan.

-- In addition, we are ^{working in concert} ~~concerting~~ with others to place the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan on the Security Council's Agenda, consulting with other countries to deny the USSR further credits, and urging our allies to take other appropriate actions to isolate the Soviets diplomatically and raise the economic costs of its aggression.

-- I believe that in addition to such measures, we must take action to provide political and material support to the insurgent forces in Afghanistan.