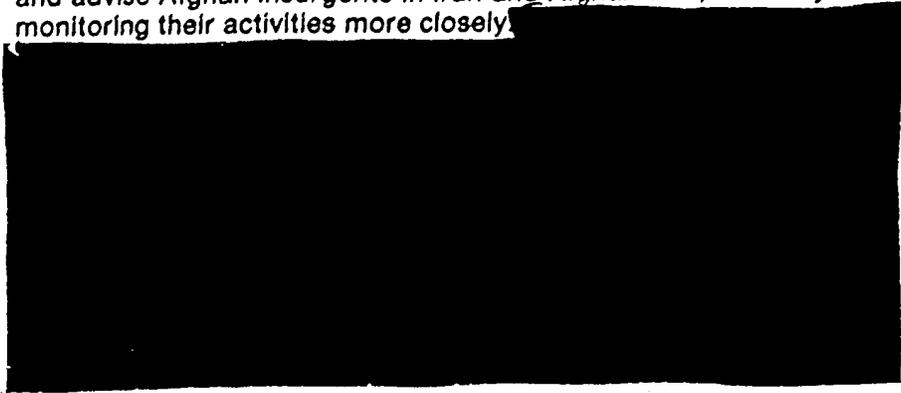


IRAN-AFGHANISTAN: Military Tensions

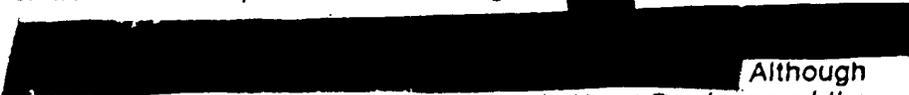
Tehran fears Kabul will retaliate for continued Iranian aid to insurgent groups.



In the past year Iran has doubled the small quantity of arms it gives to pro-Iranian Afghan insurgents. In addition, Iranian Revolutionary Guards continue to train and advise Afghan insurgents in Iran and Afghanistan, and they are monitoring their activities more closely.



The Soviets and the Afghans have been increasingly concerned about Iranian aid to insurgent groups. Nonetheless, they probably will continue to limit any retaliation to attacks on Afghan camps in Iran or on Iranian border posts that aid insurgents.



Although Iranian aid is important to the insurgents in Herat Province and the mountainous central region, it apparently is only a small share of the total received by the guerrillas.

The Afghans being moved away from the border probably are Sunnis, who are distrusted by the Iranian Shia regime. Iran wants the insurgents to establish pro-Khomeini organizations in Afghanistan in return for Iranian aid, something of little interest to most Sunnis.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: 1/17/01

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