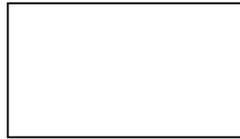




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*Selected Items From the
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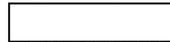
Tuesday, 5 September 1995



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COPY: 342



Table of Contents

Situation Report

		1
--	--	---

Developments

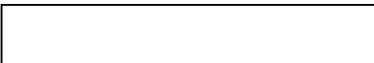
		2
		3
		4
		5

Current Notes

<i>Near East and South Asia</i>	Afghanistan: Taliban Making Gains	6
		7
<i>Eurasia</i>		8
		8
<i>Americas</i>		9
		10

Special Analyses

		11
		13



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Current Notes

NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan: Taliban Making Gains

The religious student militia on Sunday captured Shindand, one of the government's largest airbases, according to press reports, and last week it defeated a government offensive against it in the south. The airbase was controlled by Rabbani ally Ismail Khan, and [redacted] it may have had 30 percent of the operational aircraft in the country, including fighter-bombers and attack helicopters.

— Press reports say the government is preparing to retake Shindand and prevent Taliban from advancing on Khan's provincial capital at Herat. Khan needed heavy reinforcement from Kabul to drive Taliban from his area in April, *but the loss of Shindand will make another such effort more difficult.*

— *Continued Taliban advances near the Iranian border could provoke a response from Tehran.* [redacted]

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5 September 1995