

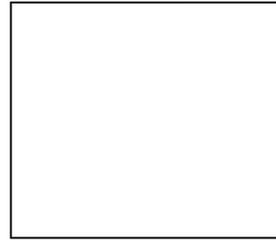


Director of Central Intelligence

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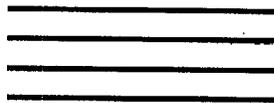
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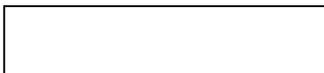
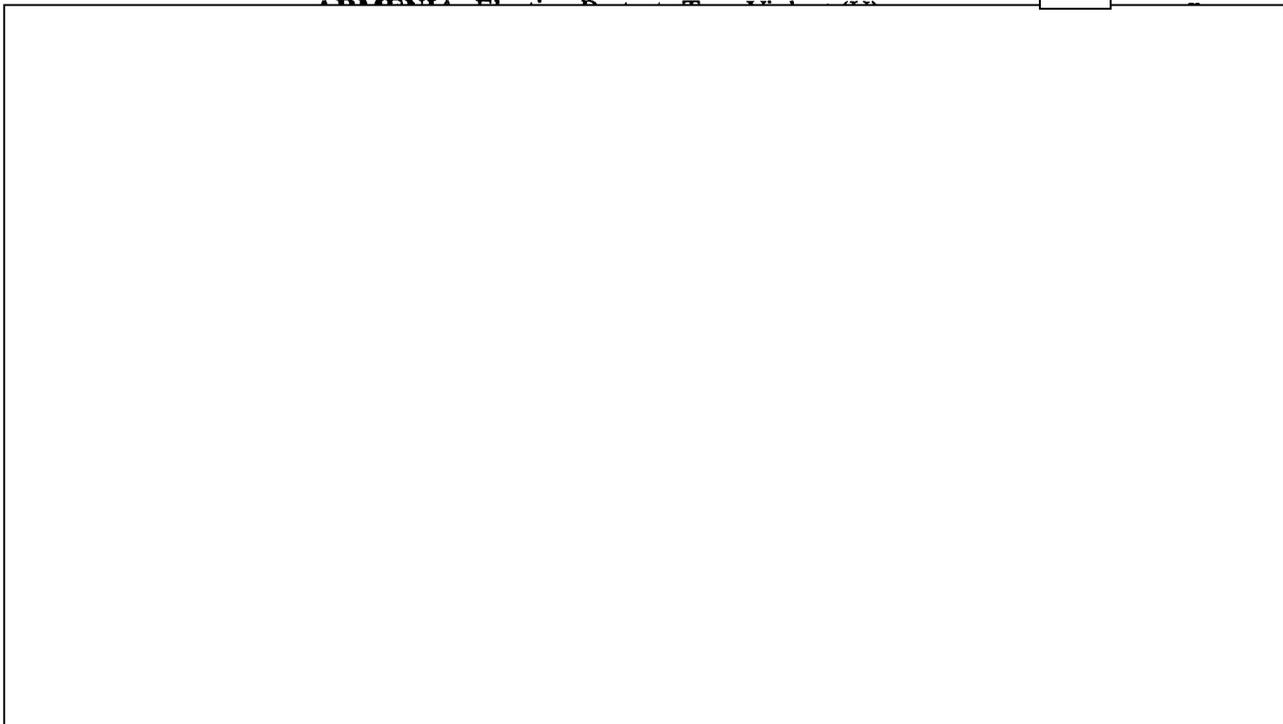
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AFGHANISTAN: Implications of Taliban Capture of Kabul



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AFGHANISTAN: Implications of Taliban Capture of Kabul []

Taliban advanced to the outskirts of Kabul yesterday and is positioned to take the city. Government forces are digging in, [] but Taliban's momentum may outpace government efforts to organize the city's defense. []

Control of Kabul would not accord the militia nationwide control. Ethnic minorities in the north will resist domination by the predominantly Pashtun Taliban and its hardline policies.

- *Government military commander Masood, an ethnic Tajik, will concentrate on preventing Taliban from entering his home base in the Panjsher valley.*
- *Opposition leader and ethnic Uzbek Dostam will fight if Taliban tries to infiltrate his area in the north, []*
- *Taliban consistently rejects compromise with Afghanistan's political factions, which it regards as criminals. []*

Taliban's gains will prompt neighboring countries to reassess their Afghan policies, but none are likely to take action in the near term.

- *Islamabad had been improving relations with Kabul and probably will be reluctant to reverse course unless it believes Taliban can consolidate control in Kabul.*

[]

Kabul's food shortage may ease if Taliban captures the city because Taliban will allow international aid.

- *Relief operations may be impeded because the International Red Cross is evacuating personnel, []*
 - *Press reports say Kabul has food for two months. []*
- CIA, DIA, NSA-

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