

State

Country: Afghanistan/Pakistan/USSR

Subject: Afghani-Pakistani Dispute/Internal Economic Prospects/Communist Activity

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- 1. What are the indications that further Afghan-Pakistan negotiations will be held?

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Based on conversations with top people in the Afghan Air Force there is little prospect of any immediate settlement of the Afghan Pakistan dispute. Although there is considerable bitterness on the part of the Afghans, there is small chance of their using military force to gain their objectives. The status quo will probably be maintained for a considerable time.

internal

- 2. What is the overall/economic prospect for the coming year?

Prominent businessmen in Afghanistan, one a sugar beet mill owner and the other a prosperous merchant believe business in general will improve. The Minister of Interior stated that the internal economy of the country was not "critical", and that the government could fulfill all of the measures required by the budget.

- 3. Are there any indications of an active Communist Party in Afghanistan?

no indications of organized communist activity. The people are concerned about the Russians [Soviets] since they are neighbors, and there is a desire to live with them as amiably as possible. There is, however, no desire to accept Communism as a form of government.

The Soviets maintain a courier plane service to Afghanistan, the schedule being every week or ten days. Each plane carries about sixteen passengers, and is usually full.

In addition, the Soviets offer free movies as entertainment to the Afghans. The US commercial enterprises charge a fee.

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