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# Karmal calls Amin mass killer, CIA spy

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By United Press International.

Afghan President Babrak Karmal charged in an interview published yesterday that his predecessor, Hafizullah Amin, was a CIA agent who killed up to 1.5 million people under a brutal regime "a hundred times more merciless than that of Pol Pot in Cambodia."

Karmal, who came to power when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan last Christmas and Amin was killed, denied Western intelligence reports that the Soviets have 80,000 troops in his country. "There are not more than 15,000," he told the West German news magazine Der Spiegel in an interview conducted in Kabul.

He said the Soviets moved into Afghanistan to defend the country against American-inspired plots.

Echoing the Moscow and Kabul line, Karmal charged Amin was a CIA agent who worked with China and reactionary Arab states to undermine the April 1978 revolution that brought the Kremlin-backed regime of Nur Mohammed Taraki to power. U.S. officials have denied the charges repeatedly.

Karmal said that 15 days after Amin ousted Taraki in a coup last year, he returned to Afghanistan from Eastern Europe to work against Amin. During the brief months of Amin's rule, Karmal said, "more than 1 million, 1.5 million, people were mercilessly destroyed through mass murder."

Karmal said more and more Afghans are supporting his rule. "In moral and military terms, we get stronger every day," Karmal said.

He dismissed the February anti-Soviet riots in Kabul as organized by the Israeli secret service, Mossad, which Karmal claimed assembled and armed a few thousand protesters to create an impression of internal resistance to the Soviet presence.

He also denied reports that the Soviets had used nerve gas in their fight to contain the Afghan rebels.