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Afghan Rebels Are Said to Remain Divided

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A shortage of antiaircraft and anti-tank weapons and rivalry between pro-Western and pro-Iranian rebel groups in Afghanistan have combined to reduce resistance to the Soviet Union, according to intelligence analysts in Washington and London.

Military Analysis This is also the view of Sibghatullah al-Mojaddedi, head of the Organization for Islamic Unity, a pro-Western rebel group.

Mr. Mojaddedi, who left Afghanistan four weeks ago, said in an interview

that the rebels had been promised \$25 million in Western arms but received only \$6 million worth and still needed surface-to-air weapons, such as the American-made Redeye, a portable antiaircraft missile, to engage Soviet helicopter gunships. The rebel leader did not identify the arms suppliers.

Iran Backs 3 Groups

Western intelligence analysts say they believe there is no chance of turning the Afghan insurrection into a Vietnam for the Soviet Union unless more weapons reach the rebels. Afghan and Western sources have said that Pakistan is skimming the cream off arms deliveries. Pakistan has denied this.

On the issue of disunity among the insurgents, Mr. Mojaddedi said that at least three of the six rebel groups were dominated by Iran. Their problem is that Iran, in the fourth year of a war with Iraq, cannot provide weapons.

Both American and British intelligence sources doubt that the Afghan rebels can unite. Religious and tribal antagonisms run too deep, they said, to permit the establishment of a command that would oversee all insurgent operations.

They believe that the Russians, with the Afghan Army's help, can police the country with one division, about 10,000 men. The rest of the occupying force, estimated at 110,000 to 120,000 men, is being trained in an environment unfamiliar to a Soviet Army trained for operations in Western Europe and northern China.

Fighting Between Rebels

In several instances, Mr. Mojaddedi said, fighting has broken out between rival rebel groups.

One of the pro-Iranian factions, he said, is the Moslem Brotherhood, which is said by intelligence experts to have been responsible for the assassination of President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt.

The Soviet Union is also said to train

Afghan civil servants. About 15,000 young Afghans are now studying in the Soviet Union, a British analyst said. About 5,000 children are sent to camps in the Soviet Union every year.

Western analysts, surveying the present situation, say they wonder whether the trend toward Soviet domination is irreversible. A few, British and American, believe the trend might be reversed by the wholesale shipment of arms. But such arms, they say, will be of little use unless the insurgents realize they must unite.

Meanwhile, intelligence sources on both sides of the Atlantic emphasize, Russia continues to modernize and expand the air bases it has taken in Afghanistan. As a result, one British source said, "the Soviets must now be considered a military factor in the Persian Gulf, which is only a few minutes flying time away from their major new bases in Afghanistan."