

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 8

LOS ANGELES TIMES
2 JANUARY 1980

Kremlin Steps Up Anti-U.S. Campaign, Charges CIA Is Training Afghan Rebels

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MOSCOW—The Kremlin, intensifying the anti-American campaign with which it is attempting to justify its military move into Afghanistan, charged Tuesday that CIA officers are using a humanitarian foundation and an anti-drug program as a cover to train Afghan rebels fighting the pro-Moscow regime in Kabul.

The charge came in an article in the government newspaper Izvestia, which accused "American Imperialism" as being "most directly involved in organizing . . . actions directed against the Afghan people, who embarked upon the road of building a new society."

The Kremlin charge followed a statement by President Carter on Monday saying that Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev had lied to him about the Soviet action in a hotline message to the White House last week. There has been no direct reply to the Carter accusation here as yet.

The Soviets have claimed that they sent "a limited military contingent" into Afghanistan last month at the request of the Afghan government to counter an external threat to the country. American officials say that the contingent now numbers more than 30,000 troops and that the Soviet forces played the major role in last week's coup, which saw former President Hafizullah Amin executed and replaced by Babrak Karmal.

The Soviet move—its first of such magnitude outside of Eastern Europe since World War II—has spurred sharp criticism of the Kremlin, particularly among nations of the Middle East and southern Asia.

Moscow's claim that it acted only after Afghanistan was threatened by external enemies of the April, 1978, revolution that threw it into the socialist camp is reminiscent of Kremlin statements in 1968 that Soviet troops invaded Czechoslovakia because that nation was threatened by West Germany.

In the face of such criticism, the Soviets have been increasingly specific in their accusations of an "imperialist" threat to Afghanistan. The Izvestia article charged that the Central Intelligence Agency "is directly involved in training Afghan rebels in camps in Pakistan and maintains contacts with counter-revolutionaries and reactionaries in Afghanistan itself. CIA officers operate in the area of the Afghan-Pakistani frontier, specifically under the cover of the anti-drug board and the American Asian Fund," Izvestia claimed.

Western diplomatic sources here said that the article apparently referred to the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Asia Foundation, a private American humanitarian organization. The DEA has officers attached to the U.S. embassies in both Kabul and Islamabad, Pakistan, charged with helping to curb the flow of opium from these countries.

The sources said the Asia Foundation operates in many underdeveloped countries of Asia and compared it with the Ford Foundation. It provides teachers and technical spe-

cialists who aid in national development programs, and it sponsors art exhibits and other such activities. "It's a non-political organization," one source familiar with its work said.

Western sources here rejected the Soviet charges. "They're just resorting to the big lie," one said. "They don't have any other justification (for their incursion into Afghanistan)."

"They're trying to prove a case that's unprovable," another source said.

The Izvestia article said that 12 refugee camps in Pakistan have been used to train Afghan counter-revolutionaries. "About 5,000 saboteurs underwent training for conspirative actions in all Afghan provinces bordering on Pakistan," the article said.

It listed Pakistan, the United States, Britain, China and Egypt among those nations trying to subvert the pro-Moscow government in Afghanistan, but it clearly laid the primary blame at America's door.

Washington's motives, Izvestia said, "are directly linked with the loss by the United States of its dominant influence in Iran. How much the United States would like at this time to subjugate Afghanistan to its designs, primarily anti-Soviet designs, to make the Afghan people give up the new revolutionary course!"

The article reiterated Moscow's earlier statement that the Soviet troops "will be fully withdrawn from Afghanistan when there is no longer the reason that caused the necessity of such action."