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Page 1 of 2

Attachment to Z-17186/82

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NPIC/IEG (12/82)

23 DECEMBER 1982

**COMBAT OPERATION
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN**

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1. (SWN) SIGNIFICANCE: A MAJOR SOVIET AND AFGHAN SWEEP OPERATION WAS IN PROGRESS IN THE KABUL AREA ON IMAGERY OF

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2. (SWN) REMARKS: COMBAT/SWEEP OPERATIONS WERE OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY OF KABUL ALONG THE ROADS TO POL-E KHOMRI, QANDAHAR, AND GARDEZ, AND IN THE PAGHMAN/KHARGHA AREA. CENTRALIZED COMMAND AND CONTROL INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS ELEMENTS OF A SOVIET ARMY LEVEL COMMAND POST AND AN AFGHAN COMMAND POST WERE ESTABLISHED AT KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD

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(SWN) A REGIMENT-SIZE COMBAT FORCE, SUPPORTED BY A FORWARD COMMAND POST AND TWO ARTILLERY FIRE SUPPORT BASES, WAS CONDUCTING COMBAT/SWEEP OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE ROAD TO POL-E KHOMRI. EVIDENCE OF COMBAT ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA INCLUDED NEW CRATERS IN THE AREA OF OPERATION AND A LARGE TRAFFIC BACK UP ON THE NORTHWEST EDGE OF KABUL. ANOTHER REGIMENT-SIZE COMBAT FORCE, WITH A FORWARD COMMAND POST, WAS MANEUVERING IN THE PAGHMAN/KHARGHA AREA.

(SWN) AN AIRBORNE BATTALION WAS IN CONVOY HEADED SOUTH ON THE ROAD TO QANDAHAR TOWARD A DEPLOYED BATTALION-SIZE COMBAT FORCE WITH A FORWARD COMMAND POST. ANOTHER BATTALION-SIZE COMBAT FORCE WAS ENGAGED IN COMBAT/SWEEP OPERATIONS NORTH OF ZAYDABAD ALONG THE ROAD TO GARDEZ. TWO ARTILLERY FIRE SUPPORT BASES AND A FORWARD COMMAND POST WERE DEPLOYED IN THE RISH KHVOR/ZAYDABAD AREA IN SUPPORT OF THIS BATTALION-SIZE COMBAT FORCE. EVIDENCE OF COMBAT ACTIVITY IN THE ZAYDABAD AREA INCLUDED SIX DESTROYED VEHICLES ON THE ROAD AND NEW CRATERS.

These notes have been prepared for briefing purposes only and should not be used for detailed analytical work. Their use should be restricted to the particular briefing board(s) they were prepared for and must be considered valid only for the reporting period as indicated by the date of issue.

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WARNING NOTICE
Intelligence Sources
and Methods Involved

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(SWN) A 150 VEHICLE CONVOY INCLUDING 60 ARMORED VEHICLES AND A POSSIBLE ARTILLERY (ARTY) BATTALION WAS ADVANCING SOUTHEAST FROM POL-E CHARKHI TO AN AREA WHERE A POSSIBLE FORWARD COMMAND POST WAS BEING ESTABLISHED. TRAFFIC WAS ALSO BACKED UP IN POL-E CHARKHI, PROBABLY TO ALLOW THE MILITARY CONVOY TO PASS THROUGH. AT LEAST A BATTALION-SIZE COMBAT UNIT AND AN ARTILLERY FIRE SUPPORT BASE WERE DEPLOYED IN THE BAGRAM AREA (NOT ON GRAPHIC). TRAFFIC HEADED SOUTH TOWARD KABUL WAS BACKED UP IN THIS AREA.

(SWN) INCREASED AIR SUPPORT, DEPLOYED TO THE KABUL AREA FOR THE OPERATION, INCLUDED FIVE FROGFOOT A AT BAGRAM AIRFIELD [REDACTED] (NOT ON GRAPHIC) AND MAJOR ELEMENTS OF A HELICOPTER ATTACK REGIMENT AT KABUL INTERNATIONAL.

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(SWN) MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE COMBAT UNITS GARRISONED IN THE KABUL, BAGRAM, AND GARDEZ AREAS PROBABLY PARTICIPATED IN THE OPERATION. SOVIET GROUND UNITS INCLUDED THE AIRBORNE (ABN) REGIMENT (REGT) AND THE ABN ARTILLERY (ARTY) REGT FROM KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD, THE MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENT (MRR) AND MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE ARTY REGT FROM KABUL DEPLOYMENT AREA NW [REDACTED] THE MRR FROM KABUL DEPLOYMENT AREA SW [REDACTED] THE ABN BATTALION FROM BAGRAM AIRFIELD, MAJOR ELEMENTS OF TWO ABN BATTALIONS FROM KABUL BKS REG A BN HQ A SCH BALA HISAR [REDACTED] AND KABUL ROYAL PALACE [REDACTED] AND PROBABLY THE ABN BATTALION FROM GARDEZ NEW AIRFIELD [REDACTED] ALTHOUGH A COMPLETE ASSESSMENT OF THE AFGHAN UNITS INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION COULD NOT BE DETERMINED, UNITS OBSERVED INCLUDED TWO FIELD ARTY BATTERIES AND ONE PROBABLE BM-13 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER BATTERY AT KABUL ARMY BKS DIV A REGT HQ RISHKHOR (BE [REDACTED] AND AN UNIDENTIFIED INFANTRY UNIT. [REDACTED]

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3. (S) BE NONE, COORDINATES 34-30-45N 069-10-00E

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