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USSR-PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN: New Soviet Proposal

that the USSR has made a new proposal for separate and parallel discussions on Soviet troop withdrawals. He says that, if Pakistan will negotiate seriously on noninterference in Afghan internal affairs, and if the US will "guarantee" Pakistani pledges, Moscow will immediately negotiate with its Afghan allies on withdrawing Soviet troops. The results of both negotiations could then be incorporated into a UN accord.

Comment: The USSR apparently has gone back to its longstanding public position that troop withdrawals are a bilateral issue between Moscow and Kabul.

Moscow's current offer suggests that the Soviets want to keep the negotiations alive but that they are not serious about negotiating.

