Intensification of Warfare and Moslem Rebels - Government Involvement of Foreign Powers

ril to August 1979 the Govern-
e April 1978 [see 29037 A] by
raki, who was also secretary-
ocratic Party of Afghanistan
increasingly faced with armed
r of Moslem groups opposed to

l in *Le Monde* early in August the
about 80 per cent of Afghanistan's
le the Government still exercised
y's inhabitants concentrated in the
per cent of the people lived in dis-
my during the day and by rebels
per cent lived in areas under full
men, directed by several thousand
th modern Soviet matériel, was
whose weapons were mainly those
Casualties in this war were said to
nds, with hospitals being full of
bers of the armed forces were said
of a regime which forced Moslems

ime which had aroused widespread
[see 29198 A; 29641 A] which was
whom had refused to plant crops,
lready badly affected by adverse
that Afghanistan was expected to
'9), and (ii) the literacy campaign,
and the proposed abolition of the
which met with opposition from

groups conducted their armed
ther and without co-ordination,
ats at the hands of troops loyal
d by superior Soviet equipment.

he *Teiman Atahad-Islami* ("those
") was formed in Peshawar (north-
a merger of four groups—the
he Imam Seghbatullah Mujjaddedi
ssor Sibhatullah Mojaddedi—see
Afghanistan, led by Professor
ent for the Islamic Revolution, led
ction of the *Hizb-i-Islami*, led by
s. The ultimate object of the new
t of an Islamic republic based on
iority of Afghans belonging to the

not include (i) the Afghan Islamic
cil, led by Sayed Ahmed Gailani,
of the *Hizb-i-Islami* led by Mr
Islamic Movement Organization
ghanistan), led by Sheikh Moham-
essage broadcast from Tehran on
"managed to put the demon of
o our nation is struggling against
Soviet Union" and "will not rest
ment of the Islamic Republic of

e operating among tribes in the
stern regions. These included an
Mujaheddin Islami Afghanistan),
mber of Parliament), formed in
central Afghanistan and reported
men under arms.

rganizations made (apparently
n support from Western and

dedi admitted in London on May
money from Islamic and other
ed to be afraid of offending the
ment had sufficient guns but was

arious rebel groups of military
inflicted on government forces
ers as vastly exaggerated. By
orted from several provinces
on both sides, with insurgent
vernment forces but also the latter's Soviet advisers and officials of the PDPA, and with the security forces carrying out acts of retaliation with increasing ferocity.

In a report by a commission set up by the PDPA and the Government on the events of Herat in the latter part of March 1979 [see page 29642] it was stated on April 11 that more than 120 PDPA activists and members of their families had been "brutally murdered" and that there had been "mass shootings of [government] sympathizers and cruel massacring of those who refused to join the mutiny". The material damage caused by the rebels was estimated at 10,000,000 afghanis (£100,000). According to the report large caches of weapons of US and Chinese manufacture had been found after being brought secretly into Herat from abroad—which proved that "the Afghan counter-revolution is being directed from abroad".

In another mutiny, reported to have taken place at Jalalabad (eastern Afghanistan) on April 22, more than 150 mutineers were said to have been killed before the mutiny was put down by government troops.

On May 2 it was reported that a further mutiny by two battalions (one of whose commanders had shot dead the Governor and military commander of the province of Nangarhar) had been crushed by a commando unit from Kabul and a mechanized brigade.

On May 25 another mechanized brigade was reported to have deserted on May 17 and to have joined Pathan rebel forces near Gardez (about 65 miles south of Kabul).

On May 27 some 700 other Afghan soldiers (mainly of engineering units) were reported to have joined rebel forces while Pathan rebels claimed to have killed at least 500 soldiers, to have captured another 2,000 and to have taken control of the Bamian, Ghor and Urozgan districts (west of Kabul).

In Kabul an armed demonstration against the Government was crushed by government forces after five hours of fighting on June 23, and several hundred people were subsequently arrested, while at least 50 demonstrators were said to have been killed. The Government attributed the demonstration to "Iranian agents and paid servants of anti-revolutionary forces".

On June 30 rebels were reported to have taken Fort Gomal (150 miles south of Kabul) after it had been besieged for 2½ months and 250 Soviet advisers and PDPA members had been evacuated by army helicopters.

On July 22 it was reported that heavy fighting was taking place around an air base at Begram (about 36 miles north of Kabul) and also in the Panchir region (north of Kabul), where rebels were led by General Abdul Karim Mustaghani, a former Chief of Staff under President Daud [see 28224 B].

On July 30 Tass, the official Soviet new agency, published reports of the devastation of villages, massacres of women and children and the burning of crops allegedly carried out by Moslem rebels.

On Aug. 5 heavy fighting was reported to have broken out in Kabul from shortly after mid-day local time onwards. According to a Kabul broadcast at 10.20 p.m. (local time) on the same day "a number of Pakistanis and Iranians had infiltrated the city of Kabul with their subservient lackeys" but had been "very swiftly brought under control and eliminated" by security forces. Eye-witnesses reaching New Delhi stated later that at least 600 persons had been killed as a result of what had been a mutiny of regular troops at the Bale Hissar fort near the centre of Kabul. Renewed fighting was reported from the capital on Aug. 15.

In Kandahar (southern Afghanistan) more than 30 Soviet visitors to a Moslem shrine and 15 Afghan officers were said to have been killed by hostile Moslems who were subsequently forcibly subdued by troops on Aug. 12.

Mr Wali Beg appealed on Aug. 15 to the UN Human Rights Commission to inquire into "the regime of terror of the Afghan Army unleashed against the Moslem population". He claimed that his movement, which was "fighting against the regime in power aided by the Soviet Union", was in control of 10 per cent of the country's territory. In the *International Herald Tribune* it was reported on Aug. 16 that 300 Hazara rebels had been executed near Kabul while being subjected to brutal atrocities.

A rebel source in Peshawar claimed on Aug. 16 that in the Razmak area Moslem rebels had taken the towns of Farsh, Nilap and Hiar and had set up Moslem revolutionary courts, one of which had condemned to death 34 active *Khalq* party members who had afterwards been executed. On Aug. 24 the same source claimed that between Aug. 10 and 14 a total of 900 government troops had been killed.

On Aug. 27 other insurgents claimed to have taken the town of Asmar (in Kunar Province, eastern Afghanistan), where the garrison was said to have surrendered and joined the rebels after a four-month siege.

Mr Barakullah Khan, information secretary of the Pakistan National Alliance, stated in Lahore on Aug. 21 that during the past 16 months

50,000 Moslems had been killed in Afghanistan by Soviet pilots flying bombing and strafing missions.

"For security reasons" the US authorities had decided on July 23 that the families of US nationals in Afghanistan should be evacuated. On the following day the Afghan Government asked the ambassadors of the United States (as well as of China and Pakistan) to reduce embassy staffs to make them proportionate to the aid given by their countries to Afghanistan and to comply with the principle of reciprocity.

Official Measures to counter Insurrection - Decision to create National Front Organization - Government Reorganization

Measures taken by the Government during this period of increasing internal unrest included both an amnesty and steps to strengthen the regime's powers.

President Taraki announced in Kabul on April 30 that he had released 1,300 political detainees and that only 1,000 persons still remained in detention on political grounds. He claimed that 98 per cent of the population supported the revolution and that opposition came only from a small minority at home and from "Iranian and Pakistani imperialists" whose countries were both interfering in Afghan int
troops disguised as civilians. He denied that
garrison mutiny at Jalalabad in the previou
that bomb explosions which had taken plac
had been due to action on the part of rebels.

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On May 6 the Government decreed a gene
refugees in Pakistan, who were called upon to
by May 28, 1979; on June 10 this amnesty
until July 1.

On May 27 the Government was reporte
militia which would have training, equipmen
as good as those of the Army; which would b
and be the military arm of the PDPA, with
being required to swear obedience to the party
would take orders from the Government.

On May 30 it was reported that the Gove
people's courts which would be headed by p
would deal with "counter-revolutionaries", in
Parcham group (the wing of the PDPA whos
President Babrak Karmal, who had been dism
ment in July 1978—see 29198 A) and also
Communist *Shola Javed* group.

In broadcasts on July 13 and 18 Moscow
the PDPA political bureau had decided e
set up a "National Organization for the
lution" which would bring together "all o
gressive public and political forces", an
PDPA itself.

The reports stated that the aim of the ne
progressive, patriotic forces for further action
the April [1978] revolution, to defeat domesti
aries in their attempts to subvert these gains, a
programme for building a society free from ex
sion". In addition to the PDPA, the front woul
peasants' committees, the People's Youth Org
Women's Organization, the Ulema Council and
forces "irrespective of their party, religio
status".

In a cabinet reorganization announced
were newly distributed as follows (with pre
shown in parentheses):