

Confidential

INFORMATION

About the visit to the USSR of the General Secretary of the CC of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Noor Mohammed Taraki  
(December 18, 1978)

---

Inviting Taraki to Moscow for an official friendly visit, we proceeded from the need, which had become urgent, to establish personal contacts with the new Afghan leaders, to consider with them the basic directions of the further development of Soviet-Afghan relations, and also to exchange opinions on the most important issues of the contemporary international situation.

In addition to the documents which were published in the press and materials relating to the Soviet-Afghan negotiations, we would like to share with you the following confidential information.

In the discussions with Taraki and his aide Amin, L.I. Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders set forth for them our principled line in relation to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. It was stressed that relations between the USSR and the DRA have acquired a qualitatively new character, based on a class foundation, imbued with a spirit of camaraderie and revolutionary solidarity. It was said that the leadership of the DRA can firmly count on our assistance and support, it goes without saying, taking into account our capabilities, in the matter of moving forward along the path of the revolutionary reformation of Afghan society.

The Afghan side underlined that it ascribes paramount importance to this visit, keeping in mind that meetings and negotiations on the highest level provide essential political support to the revolutionary regime in Afghanistan on both the domestic and international planes.

N.M. Taraki informed us that the PDPA in its domestic policy will strive to bring <sup>to</sup> life a broad program of radical socio-economic transformations in the interests of working people, and directed at the liquidation of feudal and semi-feudal manners, <sup>at</sup> the development of the country along a non-capitalist path and <sup>the</sup> creation of a new society, free of exploitation, based on a foundation of an advanced ideology of the working class, <sup>and</sup> at scientific socialism.

Speaking about their foreign policy, the Afghan leaders stressed that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan supports the consolidation of friendly relations with Socialist countries, for an active policy of non-alignment, understanding it as a struggle against imperialism, colonialism, for the securing of peace and the relaxation of tensions, in support of national liberation movements. The positions of the new Afghan government on the main international problems, which found <sup>its</sup> reflection in N.M. Taraki's speech at a reception in the Kremlin on December 5 of this year, and in the joint Soviet-Afghan communiqué, correspond with the

*their*

positions of the brother countries of Socialism, respond to our common interests in the struggle for the consolidation of peace and international security.

The most important result of the visit was the reaching of a Treaty of friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation between the USSR and Afghanistan. The initiative in this matter came from the Afghans. Both sides underlined the important significance of the Treaty as an outstanding political document called upon to effectively serve the matter of the further consolidation of Soviet-Afghan friendship and, simultaneously, the interests of peace and security in Asia, and in the same way in the whole world. The Treaty, naturally, is not directed at any third country. At the same time, it undoubtedly facilitates the consolidation of the DRA's position in the international arena and the securing of the interests of "security, independence, and the territorial integrity of both countries (p. 4), which under the current conditions which are developing around Afghanistan and in the region overall, may exert a restraining influence on the adversaries of that regime which are carrying out underground work against the DRA.

While expounding <sup>on</sup> the foreign policy situation of Afghanistan, the Afghan leaders expressed concern about the anti-Afghan activity which is being carried out from the territory of Pakistan and put a certain accent on disagreements with that country on the issue of the fate of Pushtuns and Baluchis. From our side, tactically, there was expressed the inexpediency of applying any sort of extreme measures that might be used by foreign and domestic enemies of Afghanistan to the deficit of the interests of the people's revolution and lead to the complication of the situation in that whole region. It was stressed that we share the opinion which Taraki and other leaders of the DRA publicly expressed regarding the need to resolve the issue of the Pushtuns and Baluchis via peaceful political means, <sup>through</sup> negotiations.

In the course of the visit L.I. Brezhnev and N.M. Taraki signed a plan for Party relations for 1979 which envisages the broadening of contacts along Party lines. The text of the plan is not being published.

At the negotiations, from our side in a friendly way there was expressed our thoughts in favor of the strengthening of unity in the party ranks, the consolidation of all revolutionary, progressive forces in the country.

The Afghan leaders gave a high evaluation to the economic assistance which the Soviet Union has provided to Afghanistan and expressed hope for the future deepening and broadening of economic and trade, scientific, cultural and other relations and expressed corresponding requests.

From our side it was said that these requests will be reviewed with the required attention. A permanent inter-governmental Soviet-Afghan commission on economic cooperation, an agreement about the foundation of which was signed during the visit, will study the concrete issues of the broadening and deepening of technical-economic cooperation between the USSR and the DRA.

Overall, summing up the results, it can be said that the negotiations with Taraki and the ministers who accompanied him were useful and timely.

On the base of the broad coincidence of views between the Socialist countries and the new Afghanistan on the most important foreign policy issues, the striving of the Afghan leaders to construct their foreign and domestic policy from a position responding to the interests of the forces of peace, democracy, and Socialism, there spring up the reassuring preconditions for future, significantly more active development of cooperation of the countries of the Socialist commonwealth with revolutionary Afghanistan and for the coordination of efforts with it in the international arena in the struggle for peace, for freedom, and the independence of peoples, for disarmament, for an end to the arms race, for social progress.

Information from the Central Committee of the CPSU to Erich Honecker, December 18, 1978.

Source: Stiftung Archiv der Parteien und Massenorganisationen der DDR im Bundesarchiv, Berlin, J 2/202, A. 575.