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SUBJECT: Monthly Warning Assessment: Near East and South Asia NFAC 5262-80

3. Afghanistan/Pakistan: There is some concern around town that after the Olympics the Soviets might make a massive move into Afghanistan that might have some spillover into Pakistan. The group did not share either of these concerns. In Afghanistan the Soviets are practicing a policy of economy of forces. They are not hurting in Afghanistan, and the price they are paying is not high. They are getting valuable experience and are making "trial and error" progress. Unless there is some dramatic change in the level and the style of the insurgency, the Soviets will stay at current force levels. The Soviets also probably will not make any dramatic military move into Pakistan. They cannot stop this kind of insurgency by punitive raids - there are no major depots, the Soviets would be chasing ghosts. If the Paks got too troublesome, the Soviets would use subversion to get rid of Zia and cause political chaos in Pakistan that they could exploit.

4. Iran: We briefly reviewed the necessity of devoting some of our intelligence resources to the "after Khomeini" problem. We are probably too involved in current reporting and need to do more long-term thinking.

5. Lebanon: The Phalange victory over the Chamounists could well be the most explosive event in this explosive region since the 1973 war. We need to know more about Bashir Jumayyil's intentions. Does he just want to unite the Christian heartland, or does he want to unite all Lebanon by force of arms? Are the Israelis or Syrians behind this move? Bashir is an ambitious, unpredictable young man and if he is not content with his victory over the Chamounists, his next move could drag us all into the maw of Lebanon.

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