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Translator comment:

There are many typos in the document, I was able to figure most of them out but few remained illegible and were noted as such.

Document page 1:

In the late winter of 1988, the Arabs were at the peak of their energy; so I decided not to waste time and quickly move towards "Bari". If we were able to inflict a painful hit on the Communists in Khowst, it will have a great impact. The Geneva Accord would, most likely, be signed in mid April. The city of Khowst had dominated the world's news following the unprecedented noise regarding the battle of "Zadran" road. The spot lights have neither gone too far nor have forgotten the way to the region.... It is necessary that the Soviets leave with a military fiasco if not completely defeated, and Khowst is the best place to achieve that.

Today is Wednesday the first day of March, 1988 and in spite of the slight coldness, the weather in Islamabad feels like an early spring is in the air. Though Afghanistan is different, even the pleasant climate of Khowst has a cold March that should be considered.

Four important and significant seasons when considering the timing of military operations in Afghanistan:

First: The Winter Season: it varies in bitterness from one region to another; yet it is bitter overall and often cripples the operations. It pushes the Mujahidin backwards most of the time, leaving behind some mountains or rigid plains, even though they are of importance to them.

Second: The month of Holy Ramadan: Nothing more appealing to the Afghanis than spending this month in their villages with their families.

Third: Eid Al-Fitr [TN: The Ramadan Holiday]

Fourth: Eid Al-Adha [TN: the holiday following the pilgrimage Mecca]

So, the war can wait. It has been going on for years and had not ended, so why can't it wait until these people return from their holiday vacation with their families and loved ones.

These are traditions or rules that are hard to bypass or change. Yet the problem is that, the Soviets are aware of them and always use them to their advantage everywhere in Afghanistan. Thus, these four seasons are permanent victory seasons for the Soviet Forces and their allies.

We were operating on a very tight schedule. The winter is not over in Afghanistan; but Khowst is alright anyhow. Yet, what about Ramadan; it is about a month and a half away; if we get lucky and the Mujahidin become enthusiastic, they might spend Ramadan and the Eid with us. This has happened in the past and who knows it might happen again this time around.

I left Islamabad with my friend "Abu-Mu'adh" of the Egyptian Jihad group. In addition to being an expert on interpreting dreams, he is pleasant and fun to be around. Just like the rest of obese people his kind. Abu-Mu'adh was supposed to handle the administrative matters concerning our upcoming operation, through our office in the borderline city of Miranshah; which is the main backstage administrative center to all units operating in

Khowst and many other areas. Abu-Mu'adh had efficiently and consistently performed an operation with an everlasting smile which I am yet to catch him without.

My older son Walid left with us to join Abu-'Usama's camp in Worsuk. As for my other son Khalid, he managed to avoid from traveling with me. He was busy with some small business deals in our neighborhood bazaar. He told me that he wants to quit school and start a business, and he wants me to help him start a supermarket business.

I thought that I had succeeded in convincing him to pay attention to his school and put off his business project until after graduation. But his fun filled spirit, his guts, and his ability to quickly master the language spoken locally made him succeed in business beyond my expectation; which encouraged him to pursue his business dreams.

What helped to succeed is the savage treatment he had received from his teachers at the "Libyan School". It seems like they mad him the target of punishment for all the Egyptian government's mistakes against the "lieutenant brother", leader of the 1st. of September Revolution. In his turn, Khalid with his instinctive outgoing personality and his inherited love for the Egyptian joke twisted the words of a slogan they had repeated in school describing September 1st. Revolution as a revolution for freedom. Instead he played with words and the meaning changed from revolution of freedom to revolution of thieves. He returned home that day with a huge bruise on his left cheek caused by the hand of the class teachers.

Document page 2:

In this secluded picnic, that book was my great pleasure. I have summarized its main points in a small notebook. I still keep it with the book.

No doubt this exciting and profound book had picked up his deteriorating morale. Once again I returned to my notebook and noted down new suggestions to come out of our Arab dilemma and improve our work and that of the Mujahidin as well. For example, on Tuesday April 26, I wrote down these notes. I wanted to present to Sheikh Jalal-al-Din the idea of placing the scattered heavy machineguns of the Mujahidin groups in special artillery units and use them in joint military operations. Also, I wanted to bring down the two "Shalka" guns from the top of Ghowr Mountain and use them in offense operations, where air traffic will be light after the withdrawal of the Russians as the situation requires huge offensive operations.

In like manner, I have thought about discussing with Abu-'Ubaydah and Abu-'Abdallah establishing a fixed Arab taskforce that could be deployed in planning for major offensive operations provided that the roles of individuals are explained as well as the chain of command. This is to avoid being exposed to the same mistakes that occurred in Bari. Following this note, I added this strange note:

"It seems like all the ideas are theories and reality does not allow for their execution. Therefore, ever since yesterday, I have been thinking about meeting with Mas'ud in Panjshir to study his experience and write about it as the recent work of its kind among Muslims. After that, I will go to study the big revolutionary experience in Iran.

Fortunately, all ideas were not theories because Haqqani had done most of what I was thinking of. Yet we have discussed the need for putting together the heavy machineguns on many occasions, and prior to Khowst's conquest his forces have reached a good level of organization.

On the Arab level, nothing of which I was thinking of had been done. Things were going in the same fashion and leading to all anticipated disasters.

Circumstances in the following days did not allow me to go to Panjshir. Also, it was not possible to go to Iran; because the gilded atmosphere and the dominant politics in both the Afghani and Arab sections of Peshawar did not allow going there especially for me. It would have been an actual suicide and not just political.

Though, I used to tell my close friends about what I was thinking of. Upon my return to Miranshah on Thursday, the 28th of April, I sat down with Abu-'Ubaydah who had missed me in the past days and so did the brothers in Bari. They realized that I was staying in Lijah after searching around. I told Abu-'Ubaydah of my opinion in what is taking place in Bari and that I am no longer working there as well as my recent recommendations for the work there. Then, I told him about the new suggestions regarding the permanent Arab force.

Abu-'Ubaydah is back to his courteous nature and fun loving brotherly spirit, so he agreed to all my suggestions. Rather he asked me to be in charge of forming this permanent force and prepare it. Yet, I am still under shock from Bari so I apologized to him; though, I nominated our friends Abu-Hafas and Abu-Jihad to take charge of this project. Both of them were still at the training course in Shahi Kut under the supervision of [IL].

I informed Sultan that I am planning on leaving to Panjshir and then to Iran to study Mas'ud's experience in guerrilla war and his experience in the Iranian revolution, in which there is guerrilla war. Then the Iranian revolution experience in which we find many lessons useful to our work in the Arab area and especially Egypt.

Abu-'Ubaydah informed me that Dr. 'Abd-al-Mu'iz had sent to him saying that he wishes to meet with me, either in Miranshah or Peshawar. I inquired about the reason, he said it is personal. He assumed that Dr. 'Abd-al-Mu'iz likes to work with me on establishing a studies and research office. Abu-'Ubaydah then took out some small rocks from his desk drawer and said that 'Abd-al-Rahman had sent these rocks to him from "Tora Shni". They have gone to Torgar Mountain at night with Awal Din's company. They have climbed part of it then returned and 'Abd-al-Rahman brought these rocks as a souvenir.

I took the rocks in my hand turning them and kissing them with excitement as if they came from the face of the moon. They were pieces of black basalt. My feelings and my thoughts got mixed up and didn't know what to say. So I mumbled good, good.

Document page 3:

My friend 'Abd-al-Rahman lives in Peshawar with his wife and he receives acupuncture treatment in one of the hospitals which treat chronic tonsils problems. I met with him and he was getting ready to move with his family to Miranshah so we can start our program in Khowst. 'Abd-al-Rahman was happy with the move and was working on it for quite sometime.

Our new friends, Shafiq and Abu-Anis are doing their best to quickly move with us and they are nominating other members from the peninsula youth and such. In spite of the warning, the youth in Worsuk had great deal of interest in Abu-Usama's camp. Many of them have received training in "Sada" before, but their curiosity pushed them to check

out the gruesome “Abu-Usama” who has been portrayed as a ferocious monster by the stories of the Arabs in Peshawar. Perhaps some were inspired by their competitive instinct.

Another surprise manifested itself by the presence of a number of African Americans who arrived in Peshawar to be trained. We were introduced among them to Abu-Aminah, Khalil and three others I do not recall their names. Their total number was more than that. Few problems happened among them; a group of them agreed with Dr. ‘Abdallah ‘Azzam to come for the training and another group agreed with our friend Sultan. Nevertheless, both groups were put in the same house in Peshawar and in spite of the fact that both were careful not to let the other know anything about them.

They were all martial art pros; one of them was a “Taekwondo” instructor who broke away from them after a little time. But Walid, who had learned English very well, made friendship with them that lasted for a relatively long period of time. He had his share of kicks and punches, though he learned from them enough to make him believe that he was a good boxer.

Khalil was their oldest and he was looking at me wandering; “we would like to know who’s who?” His question hurt and I didn’t have the answer; so I kept silent. Up until the tragic end of the Arabs in Afghanistan, no one could answer our brother Khalil’s question: “Who’s who?”

That same day, we had to visit one of the secret homes occupied by one of Jihad Organization leaders; that is, Dr. ‘Abd-al-Mu’iz. The house was situated near the end of one of the narrow side streets of the university road in an area called “Tahkal”. I have met Dr. ‘Abd-al-Mu’iz several months ago. He is a successful surgeon and a smart intellectual. This secret location was disclosed today because very important guests have arrived at the house and they had too many interviews to the extent that made Dr. ‘Abd-al-Mu’iz temporarily leave the house until the end of their visit to Pakistan. All these guests were Muhammad Shawqi Al-Islambuli and his mother. It was the first time for me to meet them and the last time to meet this virtuous lady. We talked for an extended period of time; we were a crowd of Egyptians working in the “Afghani Jihad”. Her main topic was her memories of her martyr son Khalid. When she arrived at her son’s execution day, she let out a charge of emotions stemming from the heart of a mother who buried her older son.

Umm-Khalid said that, the execution date and time were unknown by Khalid and his other colleagues. Last time she visited him in prison, he was constantly fasting and reading the Koran. He asked her to bring on her next visit some juice for him and his brothers so they can break their fast. On the day of the final visit, the mother arrived at the exact time with the juice; but she did not find her son in his cell. Some of the jail guards tried to reassure her, but the mother’s instinct never fails her. She realized that they have taken her son to the jail court to be executed. Soon enough, some of those in charge who have witnessed the execution operation, gave her the news. Some of them were wearing gloves and in the room there were few women; who worked there and expected the traditional reaction to any mother shocked by such a horrible situation. Perhaps the jail women prepared themselves to revive the lady from her expected unconsciousness. Thus her reaction astonished them, rather than hurt them; instead, the lady uttered cries of joy, congratulated herself in a loud voice for the martyrdom of her son who had ascended into heaven and is living with God. Her joy was big and defiant to

jail, jailers, and execution squads. She invited them to join her joy and drink the juice which she brought to her son, so he can break his fast. He doesn't need it anymore for the grace that God renders is better and everlasting.

Document page 4:

So, Umm-Khalid poured the juice cups and offered them to the jailers, jail officers, and those wearing the execution gloves. They could not handle this generosity, and pure joy of the mother who lost her child; it smashed their evildoers' nerves. The men rushed out of the room and women busted in tears begging her to stop because they could not handle it any more. One of them shouted; Stop! Have mercy! What kind of a human being are you? Spare us this suffering!!

Tears gusted in the eyes of those sitting there listening. I quietly asked some of those sitting if this story was documented or if it has been taped and distributed. The answer was no. I was surprised, the minutes this lady had spent talking to us are far more powerful than all of what the Islamic groups put together had said. Besides, it is guaranteed to gain the hearts of all people, contrary to the Jihad movement's literature which leaves an adverse affect, at least by me, for lacking the human spirit. If this lady was a leader of an Islamic movement, even of Jihad nature, I would not have left the gathering before pledging my allegiance to obey and listen to her.

I have suggested to Umm-Khalid to visit the Mujahidin areas in Bari where there are centers for Arabs and video tape the visit, so we can distribute it at a large scale.

Advantages of this information work will be tremendous whether for the Mujahidin in Egypt or Afghanistan.

The suggestion was unexpected, the lady was brave and enthusiastic; yet her son Muhammad was reserved for first: providing security for him. So, I took charge of defending my idea. I told him that she will not need to walk; we will provide her with a comfortable and a gentle horse, as for the security issue, we will provide her with best personal guard possible same as what we provide for a prominent personality visiting the battlefield. And as for the dangers of war, we are all subject to it without discrimination. Our friend Sultan was supportive of my suggestion and Muhammad Shawqi remained hesitant and the hesitation reached the lady. She has been away from Egypt for a long time, her husband is alone there and she has to go to 'Amrah [TN: minor Hajj] before she makes the decision whether she will visit the battlefield or return home.

Finally, the lady left to perform the 'Amrah then returned to Egypt. However, she promised to come back another time to the Jihad land in a month. But I did not hear anything about her afterwards.

This was the notebook I called "Road Experiences". It talks about guerrilla war principles and its applications in Afghanistan. Nothing like that has surfaced in the Arab arena in Afghanistan, and I thought that what I wrote then was important or useful.

Rather, it was excessive aspirations and negligence in cautiousness.

I left three copies of this notebook. One with our friend Sultan so the guys can read it among themselves, one I gave to the friend Abu-Muhammad Al-Sudani who is the best wrestler I have ever met in Afghanistan, but he did not stay long in it and we have never worked together.

There is an improvement in the medical area; friend Muhammad Hasan returned from his vacation and brought three Egyptian doctors with him. One of them to work in the gynecological section which was recently established in the Hospital that Haqqani built ten years ago.

Muhammad Hasan invited me to sit down with the three doctors to talk to them about the current situation of the Afghani issue. I talked to them for about an hour and at the end, I apologized to them if my speech was disappointing to them and to the colorful picture they came with. Though, they thanked me for my candor and said that; this will help them avoid shocks and make them more prepared to face hardships. I assured them that we are capable of achieving victory and we have no excuse otherwise, because the tools are available to us, but the lack of honesty as well as personal and partisan greed might cause a huge disaster in Afghanistan or such.

Friday, March 3rd. We attended Friday prayer in the mosque close to Haqqani's office at the other side of the tracks. After the prayer, I found Sheikh Nasrallah Mansur. He was one of the personalities I enjoyed, benefited from, and always wanted to sit with. First of all, he gives me the time I need to discuss and study everything I want. Second, he sides with me against the Afghani resistance parties and their deviations, and third, I think of the same way out. His work abilities are, of course, many times more than what I have imagined for myself. He is a scientist in Afghanistan, a founding member

Document page 5:

of the Jihad movement years before the Communist revolution, and we always find ourselves in agreement regarding the main ideas of working to get out of the crisis. Sheikh Mansur said that Haqqani attended Friday's prayer with us and that they have talked briefly afterwards. He also told me that he is about to hold a press conference and he will let me know the time by phone.

The press conference took place at 5:00 p.m. in the "Green Hotel" in Sadr area of Peshawar. That is an hour late, due to the reporters' delay; for Mawlawi Mansur is no longer one of the prominent personalities at that time. Besides, he is among those hated by the Western parties controlling the journey of the Afghani Jihad parties. Ever since four years ago, his military significance began notably decreasing until it became limited to Zirmwat region, south and southwest of Gardez Valley. Even there, his military presence began wilting though his cultural and spiritual presences are big. Financial aids and weapons to him have diminished, his unannounced friendship with Iran have only compensated him for very little of what he had lost, but the political damage caused by that was huge, especially in Peshawar's arena which is controlled by Saudi Arabia that held monetary aids and other services medical or educational from Mansur. Not to mention, damaging his reputation among Arab Mujahidin groups and employees in institutions; who are filled with bitter faith hostility against the Iranian revolution that is multiplied by the financial loyalty to Saudi Arabia and Gulf States. The Iraqi War against Iran had been painted in a golden color in the eyes of the Islamic Trend, especially among the Salafis. The Jihad trend was just a new episode more powerful than the Salafi trend in Saudi government.

The conference began by discussing the interim government of Ahmad Shah. He stated that he does not recognize it because it was established through international

meddling and pressures. Those who selected Ahmad Shah are only seven individuals; they are the seven leaders and Mansur insisted that they only represent themselves in Afghanistan.

The reporter asked him, there was a group of Pakistanis along with a European woman.

- What will be your position if Pakistan signs the Geneva Accord? Will you stay here or leave to fight the Jihad war in Afghanistan?

The Sheikh answered them saying: We thank the Pakistani government and people for their support to us, our Mujahidin, and our immigrants. They are still helping us up till now and I hope that they will continue to do so in the future. In the event that they sign the treaty and Iran's doors are open to us, we will receive their support.

I was amazed by the sheikh waving the Iranian card and for some reason I thought that they will assassinate him in Peshawar because of this attitude. For a moment I thought that this will be his destiny, for many have been killed in Peshawar because of their political stands. Rather, unidentified individuals have booby trapped his car near Gardez four years following this conference. Though I still believe that the party who has killed him is the same party I am suspecting but few years late.

The reporters received Sheikh Mansur's speech with disinterest. The following morning, not one word from that meeting was mentioned in the media. I was sad for this negligence, and I went to Sheikh Mansur's office along with Abu-Mu'adh. I talked to him for two hours about the current situation, the parties' position, and Iran's position from the Afghani issue; as well as his personal view on Iran, which he had visited many times, and its revolution.

The Sheikh exhibited boldness and no reservation when he discussed Iran. He said that as one of the Hanafi scholars, he totally disagrees with the principles portraying Iran and the Shiite as infidels. He did not deny religious differences with the Shiite; yet he fully objected the idea of calling them infidels. He admitted receiving financial aids and munitions from Iran but not as much as the ones previously obtained from Pakistan. He attributed that to the war circumstances that Iran is suffering from; yet in spite of those circumstances, the conditions of the Afghani immigrants are better and more disciplined than those in Pakistan. Although Iran hardly received any international aids for its immigrants, due to the international embargo imposed on it. The Sheikh also expressed his admiration for the way they are building their economy despite the war's harsh conditions.

Once again we moved on to discussing an outlet for Jihad work during its current crisis and how the parties in Peshawar are following the footsteps of America, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan; and they will not achieve any Jihad goals. I told him that the reform of the current corruption, which has been going on for years, has to be initiated by the scholars; since they are the moral force which the Afghani people respect and obey. There have been attempts by the scholars in the past to correct the path of the parties, but the leaders in Peshawar defeated; rather corrupted many of these initiatives

Document page 6:

calling for reform. Now that the vision is clear and the experience has matured, will the scholars have a new attempt, the final one, perhaps?

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Mawlawi Mansur has been always excited about the role of the scholars in Jihad; therefore, he is excited about this idea. Furthermore, he took many steps to gather the scholars and held many meetings with them at border locations. He told me that the parties are opposing him and trying to eliminate his attempt before he can start. He then asked me to look into this with Mawlawi Jalal-al-Din Haqqani and that he will pay me a visit in Miranshah on Thursday or Friday of next week to learn about the outcome.

On the following day, Tuesday the 3rd of March, I left Peshawar heading to Miranshah in a private bus. I had a number of Arab trainers with me along with an African American Mujahid who came from Northern Afghanistan and who is proficient in Farsi. The new physicians have left, as well, in an ambulance car accompanied by our old Mujahid friend, Darwish. Traveling this road is fun for me if only there are no harassments at the checkpoint. Yet, some of my friends do not perceive it to be so especially 'Abd-al-Rahman; who decided to fly with his wife to Bannu, and then take the car to Miranshah which is an hour trip. The entire trip used to last six hours, I used to enjoy every minute of it exercising a hobby which I have attended to ever since I was a little kid; that is, admiring the scenes along road trips.

Everything I saw, I considered beautiful and exciting. I have wondered how people lived at every area I pass by: the houses, the roads, the farms, the schools, the mosques, the graveyards, and the shops. In the recent years, I have added a question of a different kind: if we were to fight in these locations, what will the battle be like? I always pictured us in the mountains and the enemy in the valleys, just like the situation in Afghanistan. Based on this I run the scenario of virtual fight in my head.

On one hand, some of the areas in front of me used to excite me in terms of dwelling there. On the other hand, I find it to be a nightmare for fighting. Some areas were the opposite of that, and will not wake up from all of that until the bus stops at its final terminal... though the thinking is still going on in my head.

At five o'clock on Thursday evening, the 10th of March, I sat with Haqqani in the guest room. It was a large square room covered with a layer of inexpensive blue carpet. The evening was rainy and cold; it was bad weather that added to our sense of fear and danger from upcoming changes warning of evil.

I started with the interim government of Ahmad Shah. He provided me with new details which surprised me. He said no one approves of this government and he mentioned reasons similar to what Mawlawi Mansur had mentioned few days ago. Then he told me the inside story among the leaders of the seven organizations during the formation of the government.

During their meeting, Khalis said that in his capacity as the chairman of the organizations union, he demands to be the prime minister of the new interim government. The remaining six refused, claiming that the prime minister has to be other than the presidents of the seven organizations. So, Khalis asked them to entrust him with the responsibility of selecting the prime minister and they agreed to that, but he asked them for a commitment in writing witnessed by the Pakistani officials, and so they did.

At the following session he announced the name of the prime minister he chose, and it was Jalal-al-Din Haqqani!! The attendees were outraged and unanimously refused,

saying: "You know his opinion in us and that he talks against us everywhere, so if he heads the cabinet, the first thing he will do is bring us all for trial."

Khalis became angry and left the meeting in objection to them. The remaining six sat down to choose the new prime minister. Three of them nominated Ahmad Shah, the engineer, and the other three nominated King Zahir Shah. The meeting concluded in a tie vote and no decision was reached.

Another session was held with Khalis being present and resolved the issue with another vote siding with Ahmad Shah who won the prime minister's position.

Then we moved to discussing the role of the scholars in the coming phase. I told him about what Mawlawi Mansur and I have discussed. Haqqani said that the scholars are divided, scattered among the parties, and are scared that the parties might kill them if they maneuver independently.

Document page 7:

Then he corrected himself saying that there will be an opportunity if the Geneva Accord is signed and the parties become weak. Perhaps then, the scholars might be able to move.

Right now, if the organizations' leaders find a scholar who had managed to rally three individuals around him, they will kill him. With this exaggeration, Haqqani meant to illustrate the amount of fear by the organizations' leaders of the scholars' movement, their discrimination against them, and easily shedding their blood.

As for Pakistan's position on Mujahidin in the coming phase, Haqqani said: "Pakistan had given them the bad news that the weapons and ammunition supplies will be very little." Though Ojra's storage was not bombed yet, which indicates that keeping the military aid from the Mujahidin was a determined policy; even if the bombing of Ojra^a storage did not take place. But the bombing sped up the execution of the policy and made the banning quick and sudden.

Besides, the Pakistani government will not constrain the Mujahidin's movement in the tribal areas adjacent to borders. They can purchase and transport food and military products and build offices according to tribal laws and depending on the kind of relationship they have with them. As for the international monitoring of the weapons' activities, it will not go past the city of Bannu.

Moreover, the Pakistanis have offered to help him with the training issue and told him: "Choose the land and we will provide you with instructors and equipment."

Finally, I expressed to him my willingness to work at the magazine which he wants to issue; since the Islamic work in the coming phase will have a special significance, he said that he is still looking for the right people to do this work. Then he offered me work at the administration office of the new force he is about to establish. I told him that Abu-Mu'adh can do that because I am busy with the operations' program in Bari.

The following day, I introduced him to Abu-Mu'adh for the first time and he helped him with his work for a period of time.

I went with 'Abd-al-Rahman to Miranshah's market to look for our old friend 'Abd-al-Rahman Jarbiz. He had a small shop in which he worked with his brother. 'Abd-al-Rahman was not there so we left him a message with his brother. Before long he came to see us at the house and it was a warm meeting; for 'Abd-al-Rahman

considered himself a part of our group, and we were attached to him. He was extremely polite and had refined manners, he was bashful and humble to the extent that made us nervous about unintentionally insulting him.

To our advantage, such noble young man was respected by his tribe “Gardez” especially their most famous leader Mali Khan”; who is our friend of ours as well, but we feared his impulses and ambitions. ‘Abd-al-Rahman has warned us about him and asked to be the go-between us and him. Because if Mali learns of our extensive agenda in the region and that we will stay in it for a long period of time, he might demand rent from us; for everyone craves after the Arab money.

We began gathering some of the Afghani young men, who have worked with us in the past, in an attempt to form a permanent Afghani force.

Gradually, we began collecting the weapons needed. We had one part of them stored since past operations and the other part we were taking little by little from Haqqani’s storages. We were taking them under our trust, sometimes I would sign for their receipt and other times ‘Abd-al-Rahman would.

Two of the new Arab physicians entered Bari with us to open a medical center. We used to consider it the advanced medical center for our new medical project. They no longer have to cross the borders to obtain medicine for regular diseases. However, during battles, the presence of a physician in the area brings comfort to the hearts of the Mujahidin.

Winter was not over yet. Rain and low clouds arrive every once in a while at nighttime or during the daytime. We continued going around in the area enthusiastically and quickly at all times, to study our current situation. In addition to the old and new government locations, any additional mining by the government or the Mujahidin, the new and old groups currently present and their preparedness and armament, and leaders of the present groups; the good and suspicious ones among them, where are they now and what are their activities?

Document page 8:

This was a routine job for us but not to the extent where it lost its appeal or our enthusiasm became poor, or even lost our sensibility to the beauty of the nature surrounding us; which acquired a dress of sadness and purity from the clouds and the rain.

On Monday, the 15th of March, I wrote this paragraph in my diary: “The clouds landed over our heads, the rain is continuous but not heavy, and the visibility is very poor.” In the afternoon, we proceeded towards Mali Khan Center to scout the area. We found nothing worth mentioning due to the excessive clouds, yet the scenes were extremely romantic.

The following day was filled with exciting events and the conclusions which we arrived at. Also, the initial features of the upcoming reverse plan have surfaced.

We didn’t have watches that show the time and date then; therefore, we used to ask each other and take liberty in determining that. Thus I noticed that the dates I have were not accurate.

So let us read and look into the events of this day which I hope that it is Tuesday, March 16, 1988.

They ordered us the car with the radio set and we went to the same place of the day before. We glanced at the enemy locations over the mountain of Torgar and other mountain sites along the two fronts, then the airport behind it. The visibility was excellent after the rain stopped in the night hours. The sites were still the same since three years.

The work possibilities were extremely good because:

-) The government forces did not increase much from what they used to be.
-) The availability of a large crowd of men and weapons in Bari.

We decided the following:

1. The big operation will be before Al-Fitr holiday, where the Mujahidin disappear and it becomes hard to gather them again until the year end.
2. Contact Peshawar to get a new remote control and agree with Abu-'Abdallah on the big operation and its financial and manpower requirements; 50 Arab young men to break through Torgar.
3. Also, go to Miranshah to bring the rest of "Fathallah Battalion" members. It is the name we gave to our Afghani group; their agenda is to be concentrated in Tawdah Chinah in preparation for bombing the airport at night. The planes used to land at night time if they face bombing on the airport during the day. There were no thoughts about airport bombing during the nighttime.
4. Forming a reconnaissance group specific to Torgar Mountain and to be led by our friend Shafiq.
5. Forming 5 break-in groups consisting of Arabs, to capture Torgar and put it under the supervision of Abu-'Ubaydah (Sultan) in his capacity as general coordinator for work in the area.

The car arrived at noon time, we prayed then left with 'Abd-al-Rahman, Mu'adh, and a member of our Afghani group; who is showing symptoms of Malaria.

We crossed the mountain range separating Bari area from the outset of Garbez adjacent to the entry of Gulam Khan; which is a valley crossed by streams at times and spring waters all year round. Where the valley meets the mountain, there is a relatively vast field with huge magnificent rounded tree in the middle of it. It is hard to believe that this perfect circle shape is spontaneous and no artistic hand continuously attends to it. We used to call this masterpiece; "the queen of Bari trees" and just like other Mujahidin groups, we used to lay in its shade and nap for sometime; especially if the trip was on foot. Its appearance was alluring and inviting to lie underneath it after a fight or before we climb the twisted road above Bari Mountain.

This time, as we came down the mountain we saw a number of "Bureau" cars; which only important people ride in them. Those cars have surrounded our beloved tree; the queen of trees. It was not hard for us to know, just by looking at the faces of those crude people, that they are Pakistani intelligence officers dressed in Afghani clothing with maps in their hands and some were looking at them. Immediately the smiles left our faces, especially the faces of Arabs among us. Few trucks passed by quickly behind the tree, on their way to one of the mountain passes to join other trucks. Also, we saw a multiple rocket launcher system vehicle, for higher gauges; such as the Russian BM-41 launchers. We knew that they were the Egyptian made missiles, Saqr, and that they arrived to be tested against the city of Khowst.

I wrote the following, with some liberty, in my diary: “The speed in which they moved, predicted that the launching operation is imminent”.

We did not stop; rather, we continued to move. The vehicles crossed Shamit Hill and as soon as they went down the steep twisted road, we saw

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In the valley below us there was a festival similar to the one we left at the “queen of trees”; except this time we saw Haqqani’s huge car, a number of his men’s cars surrounding him, and four covered trucks surrounded by few members of the Pakistani intelligence. We got off to greet Sheikh Haqqani; he had many Pakistani officers and Staff officers surrounding him at the site. It was easy for us to make the distinction, except that one of them surprised us by taking out a camera and snap a picture of us with Haqqani. Another one approached us and began to ask us questions just like detectives do. He was interested in Abu-Mu’adh and asked him: are you a physician? They certainly felt our coolness towards them and our disinterest in talking to them or looking at them. Soon enough we walked away angry that they took a picture of us. ‘Abd-al-Rahman asked me with excitement; is the camera with you? I said yes; he took it from me, got closer to the Pakistani officers and showered them with picture shots. Then he moved on to take pictures of the equipments and the cars. The officers started yelling and asked him to stop yet he ignored them. Some of them ran to Haqqani asking him to intervene, they knew that these were Arabs working with Haqqani. Before Haqqani got involved, ‘Abd-al-Rahman put away the camera and proceeded towards me in a strange provocative calmness. I kept myself from laughing although I began to feel worried and embarrassed.

I was worried that we put Haqqani in an awkward position and felt concerned because I know my friend ‘Abd-al-Rahman’s love for confrontations and if it wasn’t for his deep love for Haqqani, he would have responded to his basic instinct of guerilla war. Before leaving the place, we agreed with Haqqani to meet with him at eight the following morning at his home in Miranshah. He said: he will return after evening prayer following the completion of this program.

We had two houses in the city near the big hospital, the one which Haqqani established, and our new and old physician friends lived in them.

Both houses share the fence with the hospital; therefore, one of them overlooks the wide street which overlooks a big cemetery on the other side. A huge grave yard full with flags and banners decorating the tombs of the martyrs, and we have many friends who beat us to there.

The other house overlooks a very narrow and filthy lane, with long ditches along its sides carrying polluted water from the other houses to the main street; which is a wide dirt road that allows pools of polluted water to stand until they evaporate in the sun, or will get carried by the streams which often run through; restores the environmental balance and forces a temporary state of cleanness.

The house overlooking that wide street was our main center and in one of its rooms, we set up an average workshop for mechanical and electrical works. Projects to develop Katyusha missiles 107 mm gauge have emerged from that workshop and with our

brilliant ideas transforming to them into new missiles such as “Madbuli 25” and “Awadayn S. S.” If it weren’t for the very little time we had due to being busy with too many other things, and the unexpected martyred of ‘Abd-al-Rahman; one of these innovated missiles could have exploded pronouncing us martyrs all at the same time, and all will be relieved: the Arabs, the Afghanis, and the Soviets.

In the event where the key to the house is missing, it was possible to enter our house through the adjacent hospital fence; therefore, we were not surprised to find my son Walid inside the house. It was twice the surprise.

How did he enter the house? How did he leave the camp? He was in the training course of “Abu-‘Usama” in Worsuk.

Walid said: he left the camp when many others have done so, and because he was embarrassed of me he didn’t tell the real truth. The fact of the matter is that most of those who were at the camp, including him, could not stand the sever training. Walid was the youngest among them; his interest in the course was childish, he even participated in all the boxing and wrestling rings. He took few lessons on the hands of the new Americans in Peshawar, but they didn’t help him much. He received countless punches and falls in the camp, yet he would get up and participate in a new fight.

I ordered him to return to the camp immediately to complete the course. I knew how hard this would be; because Abu-‘Usama will not permit him. Though, I was hoping that he would at least allow him to join the next course.

We headed to the Arabs’ house at night and asked them about the news from Peshawar. We learned that, there is a serious trouble; Sada Camp was closed and Dr. ‘Abdallah ‘Azzam gave a speech at Worsuk Camp and stated that it would be closed at any minute.

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The reason for the closure of Sada Camp is; the Pakistani Police prevented the Arabs from passing through the camp area leading to “Ayy” in Afghanistan.

I learned from Haqqani that the reason for the behavior of the Pakistani government was that; while inspecting the luggage of some of the Arabs on the road, they found hand grenades with them. They took them to jail, and began forbidding the Arabs from passing through. As for the threatening and warning to close Worsuk, which happened a bit later, was not caused by the Pakistani government. Rather, it was because of order from Abu-‘Abdallah and Dr. ‘Abdallah, because of the previously mentioned politics. Mainly, Abu-‘Usama’s attack on the Afghani leaders and parties and calling on all the young men to return to their homelands after the training, etc...

No one knew the real reason for closing down the camp in Peshawar, it remained a secret; I learned it from Abu-‘Usama when I met him a year later.

The closure of “Sada” and the immanent closure of “Worsuk” left Peshawar youth in serious confusion in regards to the future of Jihad in Afghanistan, and the possibility of their continued future assistance in light of a settlement which seemed terrifying and vicious.

Walid left us heading to Peshawar in the early morning of the following day and from there to Worsuk Camp. I went with ‘Abd-al-Rahman to Haqqani’s house and in the guest room we found Mawlawi ‘Ajab Nur from Waziristan. We have not seen him

for a long time so we asked him about their group of Mujahidin led by Samir Jul and Mawlawi 'abd-al-Halim and others.

Soon enough Haqqani arrived. As always, we have prepared our list of questions so we can get done quickly and give a chance to the many leaders and tribe men; who are waiting to talk to Haqqani.

We presented our questions one by one and remained focused, and so were his answers:

Q: Is there a set date for the border closure?

A: No, there is not.

Q: What is the story with the settlement?

A: Failing, so far, each party is adamant about their opinion regarding the upcoming new government in Kabul.

Q: What about bringing our families to live in Miranshah after the settlement; so we can participate in Jihad?

A: We will purchase the land adjacent to Manba' Al-Jihad School... you agree and decide on your needs as well as the number of families coming

Q: After closing Ayy road, will Miranshah's road close?

A: The closure of Ayy road was not a political decision; rather the incident of the three Arabs who had hand grenades with them.

Q: The Dragunov sniper rifles were distributed to the Mujahidin without properly training them, and they are about to use them in the battlefront. Can they be collected, properly train the Mujahidin on how to use them, and send them to the battlefronts on defined missions? Also, can we obtain some of them?

A: It is not possible to collect the rifles; we have given them to people with stature in leadership position and they will be upset about the collection or training issue. I will give you an old Dragunov and instruct the storage keeper to disburse a new one to you.

Q: Does your next plan for Khowst include the seizure of Torgar Mountain?

A: We have a plan to attack Torgar in Ramadan and we will discuss that with Abu-'Abdallah; so what do you think?

- No objection and our plan will be prior to that; yet it is important to include all the parties in order to safeguard the mountain or heavily plant it with mines to prevent the government from getting to it.

During the conversation, Mawlawi Nasrallah Mansur arrived; and as we were leaving, he asked me not to leave Miranshah before he meets with me to discuss the public opinion; so I agreed.

At noon time, Sheikh Mansur had a meeting with a crowd of people who have gathered in the court across from the hospital where we live. He was talking about Ahmad Shah's government and the upcoming settlement.

The meeting lasted until noon and we were unable to meet with him for the rest of the day, due to his busy schedule and his considerable travel.

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I was unable to meet with him another time until few months later when he visited me at my house in Islamabad to offer his condolences for the martyred of my son Khalid.

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Today is Thursday the 18th of March. Mawlawi Mansur have not called us yet, and in the afternoon we contacted our friend Sultan in Peshawar by phone, to inform him of the equipment needed for the operation and to ask him to come. Though he surprised us with the news that; 'Abd-al-Rahman's mother has arrived in Peshawar and looking for her son. That means; he definitely has to see her and we will have to go there.

'Abd-al-Rahman was expecting his mother but not so fast. After negotiations through letters and after he had refused to go to Egypt because he is busy, he asked her to come to Peshawar and gave her the address and phone numbers in Peshawar through which she can reach him.

Up until a few days ago, 'Abd-al-Rahman lived in Peshawar then moved to Miranshah because of our program in Bari.

A correspondent of the famous French magazine "Paris Match" arrived in Miranshah to meet with Haqqani and I was supposed to be the interpreter for both of them. The French correspondent is originally from Tunisia but he is not a Muslim, he was a military correspondent at Iran-Iraq war front.

A lengthy discussion (in English) took place between them regarding military issues and his focus, as it is the case with foreign correspondents at that time, was on the Stinger missiles as if he believes that every Afghani carries a missile or more in his pocket.

Though, when I told him that this type of missile is rare and that I haven't seen it yet; he was surprised.

Then I asked him about something that puzzled me about the Iraq-Iran war that is; how did Iran manage to resist for all these years when they didn't have air force?

He, as well, was surprised for the same reason; he added, stranger than that is the Iranian land forces especially the infantry forces were fighting with unusual courage and rush upon death with indifference.

I told him that the religious incentive in war is more important than planes and Stinger missiles, and that Russians were actually defeated in Afghanistan before anyone heard of these missiles.

Haqqani arrived and the press dialogue lasted until the evening and was resumed after the evening prayer and ended at ten at night. During the discussion, Haqqani opposed to what is taking place in Geneva and said: the actual conflict is between the Mujahidin and the Soviets; whereas the Pakistani government and the government of Kabul are doing the negotiations in Geneva, and neither government is a chief party in the war.

He added: The current government of Kabul has caused the death of one million three hundred thousand Afghanis; therefore, no one will approve of it staying in power under no circumstances. Also, Jihad will continue until the Russians are out (which is not a definite thing up till this moment) and until the fall of the Communist government in Kabul. Consequently, the five million refugees will not be able to return to their homes under the gunfire and the shelling. Furthermore, we had news from Geneva that some are demanding to stop all aids to Mujahidin; whereas no one is asking the Soviets to stop supplying the government of Kabul with arms which means; they are working on handing Afghanistan over to the communists, said Haqqani.

We had a quick trip scheduled to Peshawar and Islamabad, 'Abd-al-Rahman flew with his mother to Bannu, and from there he will head to Miranshah. Sultan will be arriving shortly after us to personally supervise the required preparations for the

operations; in his capacity as a member of the military committee or he could perhaps be the actual chief.

On the way back, we were stopped by the militia checkpoint in Bannu and were thoroughly searched for half an hour. After too much pleading, they let us cross. In Miranshah, we found that 'Abd-al-Rahman was still there and that he had moved with his wife and his mother to our house nearby the hospital. I thought that this will make her happy; the house is big and has a small garden with flowers and vegetables. But, a mother who came from Alexandria to visit her youngest son; who lives in tribal areas was unexpectedly unpleasant.

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The mother was unhappy that her son is staying in this strange land and wanted him to return with her. Besides, she had found him a bride back home; who is a member of the family. Though, she was shocked to learn that he had married an Afghani woman. 'Abd-al-Rahman in turn, will not return to Alexandria before the Afghani issue materializes militarily, with the help of Abu-Walid, that is me. Furthermore, just like his best friend, he expects nothing in Alexandria but prison, torture, and finally the hangman's rope; so why should he go to begin with?

As for his Afghani wife, he is happy with her in general; besides, no woman but an Afghani has the ability to endure the harsh living with an Arab Mujahid; living like a monk in Khowst mountains and a hermit over Bari heights and inside its passes and caves.

Furthermore, before he left Alexandria he refused the idea of marrying from the girls in the family; because they were not committed and there is no reason why he should change his mind now. It was a useless discussion in spite of 'Abd-al-Rahman's concern to keep his mother happy during her visit which did not seem to be a long one. Yet any attempts by 'Abd-al-'Alim, his friend from Cairo, to keep the virtuous mother at ease; were fruitless.

It became worse, unpleasant events made the mother upset and further scared. On the way to Miranshah and at the exit of Bannu city, the militia guards noticed the strange clothing; which 'Abd-al-Rahman's mother was wearing. She must be a stranger to the area and that she belongs to a planet that is unknown to Earth. She is wearing a black coat and a head cover which they have never seen before. They made her return back to where she came from. So she returned with her son outraged and angry at those savage people who have no manners.

'Abd-al-Rahman tried to calm her down and said: "That guard made a mistake and they will try again a couple hours later when the guards change shifts." Sure enough the guard was replaced but the tragedy repeated one more time. Once again they returned to Bannu and it became night time and they had to spend the night there, but there were nothing but the hotels.

It was a dark night for the Alexandria lady. The bed is nothing but wooden posts tied with fibrous ropes, mattresses and covers that had the color of mud with shiny oily spots smelling like body odor. In addition to that, mosquitoes and such which make up the main components of the walls and the mattresses' surfaces.

As for the son, nothing was out of the ordinary; as for the mother who spent the entire night standing, she left no chance for her son to sleep or to even explain. But he made a phone call to Haqqani's office in Miranshah and Peshawar and they sent his mother a chador to wear and a prestigious car to take her to Miranshah along with armed guards to accompany her.

'Abd-al-Rahman thought that such show off to Haqqani's capabilities will help fix his status in his mother's eyes; a minister in Egypt does not have the resources to ride such car, and the armed guards of strong Mujahidin carrying machine guns and RBG launchers might not be available for the mayor of Alexandria himself. Rather to the contrary, the mother was frightened by the look on the guards' frowning faces. She sat for the entire trip clinging on to her son's arm with her eyes popped, and refrained from talking.

As soon as they entered the villa in Miranshah she exploded screaming at him: "who are these thieves whom we were with? I have just realized that you are working with a gang headed by this guy who sent you the car and the armed men."

She wept and cried over her son's wasted future; after she had worked hard raising him and educating him. Here he is now working with a thief gang in Afghanistan. She insisted on not returning to Alexandria until he goes back with her.

The guy from Cairo, 'Abd-al-'Alim, volunteered to calm down the situation. He was kind and polite, though he was not as successful in calming her down as he was allowing her to vent her frustration. The short of it is, she was not impressed with anything she saw; even this villa in her eyes was nothing but a wreck, and her son's wife is nothing but an animal running loose in the house. She is nowhere in comparison to the girls of Alexandria who are so beautiful and especially those of well known families, etc.

The visit complicated 'Abd-al-Rahman's life and added to his problems at home, and he was only able to stay with us at the battlefield for short periods of time

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then he rushes home before things heat up between his mother and his wife fortunately, neither one understands the other one's language; even though facial expressions and words that come out roaring will reveal hidden emotions.

'Abd-al-Rahma tried to satisfy his mother in every way possible; so he bought her the best he can afford from textiles, clothing, and gifts for the family members. He provided her with the best food and fruits he was about to make some progress if it was not for a significant relapse; which he had nothing to do with it yet it was the straw that broke the camel's back. One evening following the evening prayer, as 'Abd-al-Rahman and his mother were sitting together with fruit plates and tea cups between them, and while his mother was playing with his little kid; whom he called Ibrahim after his uncle's name so he makes his mother happy. All of a sudden and as the Afghani wife is doing her best to serve them and to show her mother-in-law, who came from Egypt, the true Afghani hospitality; a number of massive explosions roared outside amidst the quiet night. The reverberation from the explosions bouncing back off of the nearby mountains made the noise twice as loud and the mother screamed horrified. What made her extremely petrified is when her older son, 'Abd-al-Rahman took his machinegun and his ammunition bag and rushed outside to the street. He expected an armed attack on Haqqani's office which is located on the other side of the hospital.

Few bullets went up in the air then loud voices coming from here and there. Soon enough everything became quiet just like it was. Few hypocrites fired a couple of bullets in the direction of the hospital from the graveyard; but they were so far to the extent where they exploded in the air and never reached the hospital's outer wing. Everything ended the same way it began; though, a problem started in 'Abd-al-Rahman's house and did not end until the morning hours.

The mother put on her black dress, her black coat, and the black head scarf; it is a field, though it is the field not the battle field.

She sworn a thousand times and by all her loved ones that she will not sleep but in Alexandria. She claimed that she can see clearly now, her son is a member of a dangerous gang led by this man with the weird name; Haqqani, and that the other gang, the hostile one, was the one who threw the bombs that night to take revenge in a criminal gang war. Her son lost his mind and not his life; yet she will return to her homeland, she has a husband and children who need her and she is asking God to compensate her for this son who became astray.

It was a long and miserable night; no one in the house had actually slept. In the morning, 'Abd-al-Rahman asked his mother to wear her Afghani Chador so she can cross the checkpoints, she agreed and 'Abd-al-Rahman joined us in Bari after his mom flew onboard the first flight back to Alexandria.

The mother considered her son dead and that he will never return to her again, and 'Abd-al-Rahman felt that Afghanistan took him farther than he could imagine and that going back is impossible.

He had worked previously in fishing boats and still recalls the sad view of a ship cutting through the waves, while the beach is gradually disappearing and no one is certain of returning to these houses which were left behind the grey waves. Will the ship return loaded with fish and ample profit? Or will it disappear along with its men in deep dark sea? No one knows.

At nine o'clock in the evening, we headed in a car towards Bari from Miranshah. With me were 'Abd-al-Rahman and three more Arabs, as well as Shafiq Al-Madani who became a main member of the team. We heard a rumor about an attack on a government site in Bari by the Mujahidin and that they have seized it. Furthermore, Mawlawi Fadl-al-Raman, prince of the Pakistani Mujahidin group, is getting his men ready to launch an attack on Raghbali Mountain north of Awr on the way to Mani Kandao. I left a letter with Abu-Mu'adh, in it I ask 'Abu-'Ubaydah that our offense group participates in that type of attack as a kind of training. In return, Fadl-al-Rahman's men can participate in our upcoming offense attack project. Generally, they have more discipline than the Afghanis.

At night, we arrived at our center in Tawdah Chinah by the stream across from a huge rock bottom of the mountain at the valley slope. It was an excellent location for a rear camp and a guarding point controlling a four way mountain pass crossing.

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A group from Garbez tribe led by our old friend "Muhammad Amin, who is a friend of 'Abd-al-Rahman Garbez, had camped with us at the same location. Amin told us that the Pakistani government had supplied them with a missile launcher 122 mm gauge, along

with plenty of missiles. However, the Pakistani government has issued orders not to use these missiles against the airport. Immediately I realized that we will not be able to work against the airport as well; even if we use the old missiles of the 107 mm gauge. Also, I was able to understand why they were hindering our operations against the airport in the past; and the reason why ever since our successful program in 1985, we were not able to repeat the experience in spite of our far more advanced capabilities. So, the area is mysteriously blocked before us; especially from the airport side. At that moment I became certain that; as long as Pakistan is giving orders, even at the junior leaders' level such as Muhammad Amin, it is capable of opening up Zadrán Road before the Soviets; for both sides of the road have same level leaders. At the end of my daily journal for that day Friday, the 25th of March, 1988 I wrote the following: Our entire project is going against the tides; on the morale side, there is willingness to continue until the end and it is a fact.

In the following days, the Mujahidin used "Saqr" missiles in bombing the city according to the orders and the program prepared by the Pakistani Intelligence. From our location in Tawdah Chinah, the arrangement was that; a group will come every 15 days along with 50 missiles the launch at the city as they deem within that period. Naturally, no group was firing that amount; rather, they were cutting down a little so they can sell to arm dealers. But, our favorite location in Tawdah Chinah became a military target for the government forces. The heavy mortars above Torgar made it a permanent, around the clock, target. Furthermore, the planes were able to hit the site with many missile launchers; but the curvature of the valley prevented casualties. Rather, the result of the bombing was; two blue pools benefited the Arabs and the Afghanis in swimming and washing their clothes.

The place was extremely dangerous for us. We were sleeping in tents set in a narrow mountain pass that did not provide us with any protection worth mentioning. At night, the mortar shells were falling near the tents' tops along both sides of the narrow pass. We moved west towards a new mountain pass about one kilometer away. The mountains around us were covered with many of the shrubs that Bari is famous for.

The place was abundant with water and hard to be noticed by airplanes, and since we didn't use it for shooting, it remained completely unknown to the enemy until the day we had a pessimistic visit by some residents of the area who were looking in all directions as they crossed the wooded hill in front of us. Then everything went exactly as I expected it. We sent them two of the Afghani young men with us to ask them about their identity and their destination; they said that they were from the area and they are on their way to Mali Khan Center.

We were not able to do more than that because any investigation will result in nothing but tension with the Mali Khan and area residents. What will take place since these are either spies from the area residents or outside the area; the area residents will realize that from the questioning and will not tell us the truth. Instead, they will accompany those people to a far away place and agree with them on the appropriate award in exchange for saving them from death.

We had spent about two weeks in the area and the number of Arabs among us was unusual. The news had definitely reached the government and it had to locate us on the map in order to kill us using necessary means. Since we have left Tawdah Chinah site to a location no one knows if it actually existed. They had to send people who will not leave

a stone unturned looking for them. I used to think so until I saw them and recognized them right away, but what good is that!

The planes arrived the following day and bombed the long mountain pass from one end up to one meter from our tents. They continued the job daily; but the heavy mortar shelling from Torgar had surprised us many times with high precision shells. One of them fell few meters away from me; I was sleeping under a tree and looked at the direction of the smoke, 'Abd-al-Rahman Garbez was sitting there. I panicked and jumped looking for him; fortunately, he moved from his place only few minutes before the shell fell down.

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Later, we found around us one mine shaped like a butterfly; but we were not looking for more. Also, we found a kind of aircraft bombs which we have never seen before. It was about one inch in diameter and eight inches long; the bomb had wings, had elegant and beautiful appearance, as if it was an artistic charge. We collected few of them away from the travel path and exploded them afterwards.

Once again we abandoned our plan to bomb the airport, when we felt that this will cause tension with the area groups; who have received orders from Pakistan not to attack the airport with Saqr missiles.

But we became busy scouting the area around "Torgar" mountain to define the types of weapons needed to perform the job and their locations. We put off exploring the mountain itself temporarily until the arrival of Mannan's group who are experienced in climbing the mountain from the various sides and subsequently know the boundaries of the mine fields; which is the most dangerous part of the entire process.

Scouting the mountain itself aimed at defining the offense paths and opening gaps through the mines, or looking for mine free paths behind the mountain.

The most significant change in the region was; the capture of "Zirmanki" mountain west of Torgar Mountain, by the government forces; which is an added protection to Torgar. The western end is the shortest way to the mountain top; where the most powerful defensive locations lie along with artillery to the east of the summit. The face of the mountain plunges down a little bit and extends for 300 meters to the east. We thought that it has nothing but attached trenches and further east, one fortified location surrounded by few minor locations.

We had a preliminary image of the required artillery and its locations. Our main focus was for 82 mm gauge mortar or a number of recoilless guns of the same gauge.

A number of heavy machine-guns, 20 mm gauge, and mountain machine-guns 76 mm. gauge were in the area and Dad Mir's group had the lion's share of all of that. So, we consolidated our relationship with them. They were in one of the sweeping mountain profundities south east of us. They were a formation of "Sayyd Ahmad Jaylani" group, they were the group we found there, extremely nice with profound ethics. They greeted us with zeal so we revisited them and sent our Arab groups in successive rounds to visit their locations and get acquainted with the weapons over there. Later we agreed with them to train our members on the heavy machine guns and the artilleries they have; they welcomed that a lot. We dedicated one of our Arab members to associate with them and supervise the training of our guys by them. This person was "Abu-Amina", the Algerian. Then we probed "Dad Mir" group's willingness to work with us on joint operations

against the enemy's mountain posts. They agreed without hesitation, but we never told them about our intentions towards Torgar.

Haqqani's anticipated operation against Zirmanki was a good introduction to the success of our plan for Torgar. I estimated that our plan might be delayed until mid Ramadan; but if Haqqani's operation deemed to be successful, and we reach an understanding with "Dad Mir" group; provided that, "Abd-al-Mannan" nomad group is an integral part of our members in the area. The enthusiasm generated as a result of that will motivate the Mujahidin to stay in their sites and we will be able to complete the agenda before Al-Fitr Holiday.

Our Arab group was eagerly busy in various activities in preparation for the operation which they intimately know its purpose that is; capturing Torgar. As for our Afghani colleagues in the same group, they knew nothing about this intent except that we are preparing to strike at Torgar by mortars.

Though, confidentially along with 'Abd-al-Rahman; we were discussing the next step provided that we succeed in capturing the mountain. We were thinking as follow:

- As soon as we capture the mountain, we hand over its defense to "Mannan's" group who had previously expressed his willingness to do that; besides, he is capable of doing it; rather, he is the best to do that among Afghanis.
- We move our Arab offense, with support from the available Afghanis, directly towards the airport and through the shortest routes. We were factoring in the negative mental effect of the capture of Torgar upon the enemy forces. Besides, the prominent location of that mountain qualifies it for providing the artillery support required for our next move.

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- Upon arriving at the airport, we spread out in the heavily wooded arable area along its northern edge and from there we attack "Takhta Bek" castle; which we didn't know its name at the time and our information, as well as, Afghani maps' signs indicate that it is the post for military and civil command and is three aerial kilometers away from the runway.
- Our move to the airport will transfer the battle to the city center, and will place any military location remaining on the mountains behind us at besieged locations; especially when Torgar's capture will be achieved through massive artillery attack at the enemy's front line in the mountain along the eastern side of Torgar.
- This quick and sudden transfer will encourage the Mujahidin to attack governmental locations facing them motivated by the potential acquisition of the spoils of war in light of the confusion and breakdown of the governmental forces.
- If we were able to move the artillery on top of Torgar we will go down the mountain and use it in our attack on the airport.
- We will prepare a vehicle mounted missile launcher "MB12" and provide it with about one hundred missiles at an advanced location. The vehicle will proceed to the nearest point possible to empty its load at the airport installations at the northern edge; which our missiles were incapable of reaching previously. Hitting these installations has two benefits, the first one is: put the airport out of action for the longest period possible. The second one is: to facilitate our attack on it. This is

a stand alone item even if the attack did not go forward beyond Torgar as we have mentioned.

So, we were going to go ahead with the agenda along with the groups cooperating with us; that is an artillery attack at the mountain's defense line of Khowst. Then in midst of all the shelling; which we have dedicated an unusual force of fire over Torgar to swiftly attack it then go down to the city towards the airport and attack the city center.

The adventure was over two items:

1. Torgar's breakdown and our sudden attack at the airport will prompt a state of tremendous confusion and consequently a breakdown of the enemy forces whose morale is low.
2. The Mujahidin forces who are busy with artillery shelling, will switch to advancing to capture governmental locations and loot their arms and plunders.

The inactive groups will be ready to loot the spoils in no time, as usual. This is useful because, they will proceed towards the remote axles that have not been included by our attack or the attack of our friends, the artillery shelling groups. This way the troubled plot will expand before the communist forces and we will see the substantial agreement between our trap and the plan implemented by Haqqani after seizing Khowst in March of 1991. He even selected the same axle in the beginning, to advance from Torgar to the airport from the western end of Torgar. But the lack of the surprise element prevented him from using that road and he substituted it with another axle; which created an unexpected surprise at the time, and we will see that in its place. Yet he headed towards the airport then "Takhta Bek" and the rest of the city afterwards. This trip of his lasted only fifteen days.

Let us go back to another round of the notebook papers which I was carrying in my pocket during those days.

Today is Friday the seventh of April, 1988:

Early in the morning, I went on a patrol with Shafiq, Sakhri, and Abu-Mahjan; the Yemeni, for the purpose of scouting locations where we can dig caves to store the ammunition at a suitable place for the operations; especially those of heavy weapons. We proposed two locations then we proceeded towards Torgar with fear of the mines. We selected proposed locations for the launcher's operation against the airport, and perhaps we might need these locations for firing at targets behind Torgar; especially "Shahid Kala" site. It is a village that is used as an administrative base of Torgar and has mountain artillery battery of 76 mm gauge; according to our information at the time. We decided to travel in the afternoon to Miranshah to rush Sultan in preparing the expedition's requirements. Right before the departure time, a big delegation of Arabs came to visit us. They were ten, among them; 'Abd-al-Rahman who has been away from us for a long period of time. He bid farewell to his mother who returned to Egypt after her disappointing and stressful visit. 'Abd-al-'Alim, from Cairo, accompanied her back; but this time he is carrying with him one of his dream projects, it is a magazine by the name; "Global Jihad" and is asking me to write in it. After hours of pressing on his side and getting away on my side, he released me in exchange for giving him a letter to my family in Islamabad to give him my archived old articles so he can take what he likes from them.

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We cancelled the trip to Miranshah and sat down to listen to the comers' news. At the first part of the night, I sat with 'Abd-al-Rahman, Shafiq and Sakhri at the guarding shift to divide the young men into groups and send them on patrols to get to know the area. Saturday, April 8:

We began moving at eight in the morning. I headed the procession on foot along with 'Abd-al-'Alim. We talked about various subjects among them; bringing the families inside Afghanistan for a limited period of time so they get used to its atmosphere, because we might have to stay in it if we want to continue Jihad. No one knows the Pakistani government's attitude towards us; it might not allow us to even live in Miranshah. On the way, we met a convoy of Arabs and Afghans that was carrying luggage for us. We were on the way to a center behind the Commandoes' chief "Mali Khan". The road can be paved for cars and that will help our work a lot. We decided to include that in our plan and this road can be connected to a branch leading to Dad Mir Center; if that happens, then the primary main centers will be connected together and cars can easily get to the front lines in the next battle.

We were excited about the idea and decided to go forward with it at the first chance after consulting with "Mali Khan" and "Dad Mir" group. As for Haqqani, we know ahead of time that he will welcome the idea.

After a rest break at "Mali Khan" Center, we resumed the long walk to "Id Jul" Center. Abu-'Ubaydah (Sultan) had already sent a group of Arabs there led by Abu-Hanafi known by "The Crane"

What Abu-'Ubaydah himself had mentioned to us about this guy, prompted fear of him in our hearts; so we avoided meeting him. We were displeased that Sultan appointed such person in such a sensitive location which enables him to watch all the movement in Bari. The strange thing was; he never informed us about that group, its mission, and the personality of its leader etc...

As a matter of fact, all those; whom Abu-'Ubaydah had sent us, were given detailed orders which made it very hard for us to lead them. The thing that is very confusing to us and to them. So, each one of them will have two leaders giving them orders. Also, sending individuals to us or recalling them was taking place without giving a prior notice to me or to 'Abd-al-Rahman; contrary to our previous agreement which commands not to move any Arab member from the battlefield until the end of the operation.

We found our friend Sultan with our administrative Abu-Mu'adh, we talked for a bit and felt an unusual coldness from Sultan contrary to his fun nature. At that time, I concluded that he is not comfortable dealing with us in that operation. So at the same time, I decided to ask him to appoint a new leader for the Arabs in Bari and relief 'Abd-al-Rahman and myself, and that we will continue to help that leader if he so chooses.

We made an appointment over the phone to meet with Haqqani the next morning. Sunday, April 9, 1988:

We arrived at Haqqani's house before eight in the morning and discussed with him the current political situation, and the news in the newspapers stating that; Geneva accord will be signed next Friday. We also asked about the current situation of the military operations and the position of the Pakistani government after the signing and the armament supply.

Sheikh Haqqani said: we were not notified of any change in Pakistan's stance, and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud asked that he meets with me and we will try to arrange for that. I suggested to him to send him a letter through us if he has no direct contact with him. He said that he will do so through Mas'ud's office in Peshawar. At that time, it occurred to me that Mas'ud wants to arrange for military operations with Haqqani; therefore, the best axle for joint military operations that the Arabs have will be with this coalition between Mas'ud and Haqqani as the best military leaders inside Afghanistan, in my opinion.

But the bomb of the meeting was; when he said that he is going to Sarana within days because some of the people of "Mani" area located among Sarana, Argon and Shamal. Those have received arms and money from the communist government and announced that they have united with it and that he had sent who will take the weapons from them. He added that: it is imperative to strengthen Sarana and Zadran Road posts before bearing down on Khowst.

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So, he intended to secure the tribes' situation and fortify Zadran road to insure that the communist forces will not execute a land supply operation to the city of Khowst; especially if the Mujahidin intensify their hits against it and threaten to invade it. It was a reasonable thought but our plan is no longer solid, and he said that our plan to maintain the main mountains; such as Torgar, troubles him a lot because the Mujahidin are defiant and do not stay for long period of time at the posts.

Haqqani added that, the current combat method will continue in the coming phase as well. Some circles were spreading rumors that; the settlement phase, the return of the Mujahidin, and the participation in government by Peshawar parties and Kabul government, make the next combat phase; the assassinations of communist symbols in the country and eliminating them without open war. I believe that the source of this scenario is the American Intelligence. I have heard something similar two years ago from Pakistani government sources; especially the Strategic Studies Center in Islamabad during some of its lectures and publications.

As for the return of Zahi Shah to the country, he said: if it happens, it will divide the Mujahidin; there are three organizations that support the king openly. As for the return of the refugees, it is impossible as long as the fighting is ongoing.

The Soviets can not stop their military supplies to the government of Kabul; otherwise, it will definitely collapse.

We don't have sufficient information about the military force in Khowst.

The Pakistani government is asking the Mujahidin to free Khowst and take it as a base for them.

Note: This is specifically the opinion of Zia ul-Haq and we have discussed that earlier...

Sultan was present at that meeting with Haqqani. After we returned, we resumed discussing the general situation and our next operation. Sultan showed a noticeable change, he expressed doubts in our operation and its advantage and he warned me about losing this operation; because talk against me will increase and he wondered about the guarantees for the operation's success.

I felt that there is a new campaign against me and against the operation among the circles of Peshawar. That affected Abu-'Ubaydah and reflected on the way he treated me and 'Abd-al-Rahman. I asked him to appoint a new leader to the operation and the Arabs in Bari. He agreed without hesitation the thing which confirmed my doubts.

The thing which we couldn't realize during that miserable discussion is that the ammunition stores in Ojra Camp began exploding in [Illegible] from the prominent disasters of this world.

Monday; April 10th 1988:

I spent part of the night talking to 'Abd-al-Rahman about the new developments... The tribes' move from the "Mani" area affects our agenda but doesn't prevent it. Things like that happened before and they were eliminated ... perhaps those believed that Haqqani became weak after the battle of Zadran ... But he is capable of proving the contrary; his forces are still intact and in need to prove their worth after last winter's defeat.

But the biggest problem in our opinion is the change in Abu-'Ubayda's attitude, and of course, the military committee in Peshawar. It seems that the influence of Sayyaf's followers is still strong. Even under the latest arrangements that motivated Abu-'Abdallah to lead the Arabs, there is a chance to destroy the Soviet Forces on Zadran Road and here they are blowing the opportunity to capture Khowst before the withdrawal of the Soviets from the country. Even if the operation will not end up in the capture of the city; yet, capturing Torgar, placing a continuous threat to the airport, and weakening the southern defense line of the city are considered a sure victory. Especially, when the entire world remembers the name Khowst and gives it more attention than the capital Kabul. That is after the fake press campaign which accompanied Zadran's expedition.

We then agreed on leaving the top leadership to any person appointed by Peshawar's military committee; for that is better in terms of being faithful to Allah in work.

But in this case, executing a huge plan; such as attacking Torgar, without developing it afterwards, is considered significantly dangerous for Arabs here. The entire operation depends on our old relationships with the groups and the leadership in the area and moving those without this background is a tough matter; because not all of them are at the same degree of seriousness, some groups will only move to loot the spoils.

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Some of them will participate nominally, and so on until we arrive to the groups that can break through the mountain with us then hold on to it or proceed with the attack towards the airport.

And if the Arabs are defeated in that location, even after we leave the leadership position, they will hold us responsible for a losing plan; which we got them involved in then we left.

Sure enough, we sat with Abu-'Ubaydah in the morning and I asked him to appoint a new leader, who will restrict himself from that point on to the preparation for annoyance plan in Bari area and abandon the big operation.

Sultan smiled like a winner and asked me: are you afraid of action?

I told him, I am not scared of the action but the Arabs are not ready to accept hit and run; I mean, they are fond of frontline battles and defending stationary posts; just like what happened in "Ayy" battle. Besides, the Arabs will not bear any defeat for their lack of continuity or the ability to make use of the mistakes.

The strange thing is that we are a year away from the biggest defeat that the Arabs had seen in Afghanistan in the battle of Jalalabad; which cost them, at least, three hundred casualties.

Sultan showed some lenience after his previous coldness and said: "Continue what you are doing until I consult with the military committee and we bring a new leader."

We left the Arab office, we received today's newspaper and it was loaded with Ojra camp news and its horrible explosions; as well as, news of hundreds of dead and wounded in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. I felt worried about my family and thought about traveling to check on them. I changed my mind later on; provided that what happened is history and over with and by my going I will not change anything. I asked God for His protection.

My morale was low and I saw that everything was going against my wish, and that the worse thing is the thing that takes place always. A series of big and small incidents occurred repeatedly to push me towards deeper depression.

Here is our friend Abu-Mu'adh sitting with our friend 'Abd-al-'Aziz to explain to him, as usual, a vision he saw yesterday and it was a nightmare full of [Illegible]

Our car left to Bari without us, perhaps the driver thought that we are staying in Miranshah today. I rented a car along with 'Abd-al-Rahman to take us to "Tawdah Chinah". I was optimistic because Na'im was the driver; but it was a matter of few minutes until Na'im had a fight with another driver who bothered him while driving. Na'im got off to use force against the other driver; but he returned to us with his nose bleeding. He wanted to take one of our guns to kill his opponent.

We hardly prevented him with the help of some good guys who broke up the brawl then we resumed our trip and everyone was tense.

Tawdah Chinah was very far this time around... The road is bad and there was intense shelling ... Therefore, Na'im stopped his car and asked us to proceed on foot and so we did.

We arrived at our center across from the black rock at the 4 way crossroad of the beautiful narrow valley. But there is no trace of this beauty now that it is night time, and we are exhausted mentally and physically. Furthermore, our brother Muhammad Amin had fired two missiles at the city and Torgar's mortars along with a number of artillery from the city with disgusting accuracy began destroying our place. We snuck to the side mountain pass where we have two tents; I threw myself to the ground without a cover, prayed both the afternoon and evening prayers, combined yet short. I laid myself on the ground without a cover while the mortar shells are dancing around our tent in a circular motion. I couldn't care less for any of that and went in a deep sleep. I woke up frightened after midnight, the shelling had suddenly stopped. I asked the guard outside the tent: what happened? He said: nothing, the shelling had stopped.

I went back to sleep even without the artillery shelling; is it challenge or is it disgust? The number of Arabs at Tawdah Chinah had increased with looseness of the leadership issue. Our brother Sultan is constantly interfering as we have mentioned, and I have gradually pulled myself out of the leadership issue and put most issues in 'Abd-al-

Rahman's lap. This relieved me a little yet complicated the problem more. It is known by the seniors that I am the one in charge of the site; but they see me giving no orders to anyone. Then, Sabir, the Egyptian, arrived; he is from Sa'id has blue eyes, blond, and big. He is good hearted, patient, has a fatherly spirit, and he is one of the Arabs known for being an expert in operating mortars.

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He joined us and Abu-'Ubaydah put him in charge of the mortars along with his private crew; he is their immediate supervisor. This way, the work became even more divided and the orders more conflicting. Yet, Sultan was not content with that; he pumped more Arabs into Bari at 'Id Jal Center and asked them to prepare for an operation at Zirmanki mountain. The person in charge of this new pit was Abu-Hanafi "the crane". "The crane" had not proven any military ability or the opportunity did not allow for that since his arrival in 86. He witnessed a part of Awr battle at the time. But his sense of humor might prevent him from assuming a leadership role in a military action. Most of those who know him laugh just for seeing him. He has a tremendous capability of making people laugh, and if the communist forces on top of Zirmanki mountain understand Arabic; "the crane" alone, would have been capable to throw them to the ground and throw their weapons with their eyes watering up from laughter.

Neither Sultan's conduct was right, nor was he successful in his choice of people. "The crane" told us later how he participated with a group of Mujahidin in a siege and attack attempt on Zirmanki from the rear. The enemy discovered that they were hiding in a deserted village and fired at them. A bomb exploded at a far distance from "the crane" but its pressure force threw him forward and he came squatting taking the group leader and the rest of Mujahidin down to the ground with him.

"The crane" also told us about a comedy play that made us laugh; but he did not tell us about a battle.

The Arab confusion began creeping on Bari's land which was quiet. It began acclimating with the Afghani confusion. Now we are between the jaws of death; Arab confusion and Afghani confusion. 'Abd-al-Rahman and I felt responsible for what was taking place. We were the ones who recruited the Arabs and brought them over to this place for the great battles and conquer, and here we are in confusion. We were thinking about crossing this stage to the safety zone without any casualties, with as much benefit as possible to the new young men and in spite of all the confusion. The area is becoming more dangerous with the new missiles continuing to fire at the city. The mud raids and the artillery shelling have increased. We were very close to the desired target; yet we became the target. We were certain after few days that there is a precise surveillance of our tents at the unknown mountain passes which we have entered. The guided shooting was evident from its gradual approach until it exactly reaches our place. This was repeated many times, but God had saved us. Then the aircrafts quickly found us; in spite of changing the location and adhering to safety and hiding precautions. I suggested that we have a rear location in one of the old caves; either by "Samir Jul" or the old center which "Mannan" had, among the bushes and near the fresh water spring

and we would not come to Tawdah Chinah and what's behind it, except for reconnaissance or firing when we establish a plan for it.

Sure enough we take few steps but no one was encouraged to go backwards and my requirements began to be taken lightly, of course, for being in contrast with courage. For the purpose of efficiency, we have sent a great number of patrols to explore the area and get to know the enemy's close locations. Then we listed down two items in the small operation and scrimmages. The first and most important one is; the attempt to destroy the artillery over Torgar, we were uncertain if it was within the actual range of the 82 mm recoilless gun.

The first item is; hitting the gun battery [Illegible] at the western edge of the airport, which we have watched as it is one of the enemy's new positions.

Our patrols were exciting and exhausting at the same time; especially when the month of Ramdan had come upon us. Our suffering was doubled and so was our enjoyment of this marvelous work.

Through a close-up lens camera, I took successive shots of Torgar Mountain to form one panoramic scene. Sure enough, we were able to get a complete picture rich in the details of Torgar, the ditches facing us and the tank which is situated on its northern summit. The beautiful colored picture, the illustrations written on it in blue pen; on ditches and weapons, what the guys' appetite for attack; yet where do they come up with leaderships which will lead them to victory?

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Jalalabad looked like a massive tomb, and it was a matter of few months until most of those disappeared inside the earth and we had the biggest defeat on the Afghani land.

Monday 4/ 18/ 88 is the first day of Ramadan 1408 of Hegira, according to Pakistan's viewing. On that day, I began fasting with 'Abd-al-Rahman; for our desire to contradict Saudi Arabia, and because the area which we are at didn't view the crescent yesterday. 'Abd-al-Rahman stayed in Miranshah because his son Ibrahim was sick. I returned all alone to Bari area at "Samir Jul" center and preceded on foot towards our new center in the deserted mountain pass, we called it "Sabir Center". I met Sakhri who told me that some of the guys began to feel boredom.

So far, there was no reason for boredom; our patrol is still active in the area. Sabir and his group prepared a location for the mortar behind the mountain facing Torgar. It is a long mountain. We decided to put 8 mortars along its stretch; at least, at the attack on Torgar. As for the operations of opening new roads and repairing some of the worn out ones; they are progressing actively under the leadership of the young man, Hammam (Abu-Anis). We were trying decrease the density of the Arabs in the advanced area; which begins from Sabir center and takes them back to Mannan's old center, next to the fresh water spring; which we called "ketchup". Perhaps, that's why they felt boredom and because the battle is not instantaneous like the Arabs, who hate the battle preparation period, prefer. They always like to combine both phases in one and the battle takes place at the preparation phase.... and the preparation can take place during the battle.... and it is not strange that we leave Afghanistan with such modest military record.

Tuesday, 4/19; the second day of Ramadan of 1408 H:

‘Abd-al-Rahman and others arrived. He told me that Sultan returned from Peshawar and that we have to go to find out the decision of the military committee in Peshawar.

We returned to Miranshah by car. Before and after the evening [TN: evening prayer] we met with Sultan. The summary of what he had mentioned was; that the military committee is evading any definite answer about Torgar operation, and same thing for appointing a new leader for the area. Yet, Abu-‘Abdallah endorses the operation and insists on defending the mountain after it is conquered.

I told Abu-‘Ubaydah: at any rate, I will not be responsible for such act and that our casualties will be high; besides, defending the mountain is the responsibility of the Afghanis, they are more capable than us to do so.

Our presence was essential for coordination between the artillery and the infantry forces; also, for the infantry’s handling of mine fields and opening gaps through them; a job that is similar to blasting Bangalore, and there were a number of them available in the area. In addition to that, our presence was essential for the operations of manual preparation and organization before the battle.

As to defense, it means remaining under continuous air and land shelling for unlimited periods of time; which is a job that certainly requires alternation of forces to give a chance for rest; whereas all the reserve we have left is the artillery crew and a limited number of administrative individuals.

We went back to the same point with the military committee and no issue was resolved; even though, the disarray at the Arab front in Bari is building up and the risks are mounting up due to the firing of Saqr missile and the communist forces’ response to it.

Wednesday 4/20/88

Today, we are searching for a tractor to dig up the road. We are trying through Haqqani’s office to find one at one of their centers that we can borrow. We found among them a skillful driver who is well known for digging roads, he is “Wali An”; who is famous by, the “mountain conqueror.” But what can he do without equipment?

Today also, we will get a car that we can permanently keep with us at the battlefield.

At another meeting with Sultan he told us, cited from sheikh Haqqani, that the United States and Israel demanded Pakistan to close all the Arab camps. Because one of the individuals arrested in operations in Israel; had received his training here, and that Israel had threatened to bomb Saudi Arabia for that reason; provided that Saudi Arabia finances these camps.

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Thursday, 4/21/88:

We left at dawn in our private car. A large number of Arabs were with us; Abu-‘Ubaydah had sent them with us to various locations. Some of them to Bari with “the crane” and others to Sabir Center which became over crowded. We were forced to distribute the rest over to rear centers in “ketchup” to “Samir Jul” caves.

Most of the arrivers are guests; some of them came to visit friends and others to check out the situation. If they like what they see, they will extend their stay.

Thus, the confusion became beyond my tolerance level; but the new leader did not arrive, and perhaps he might not arrive at all and the situation will remain as such; until a disaster strikes, or the part will be over and people will return to their homelands when they decide to do so.

Worse than that; all those in the front area consider me the leader, in spite of the fact that most of their leaders are either from Peshawar or Miranshah. Meaning that; I am responsible for what had happened, in a way or another, and that is true; so, I decided to put an end to this comedy.

We took Awwal Din from Mannan center and took several rounds in the area; but his main mission was to go up Torgar with us. Our aspiration from this risk taking task was; that we discover gaps in the mine fields which the enemy uses. During our long surveillance period of the area, we have suspected the existence of such gaps; when we saw a young officer next to the tank, going for a long stretch down the mountain and returning. With me there were, Shafiq, 'Abd-al-Rahman, and others. We held a conference at the surveillance point and we imagined, at the time, that we have found the key to the problem. It is possible that this whole area is the depth of the mine field, and what we saw was a code they use; but for what?

We did not see the officer doing anything different except that he hunkered down for a bit and left; so is he taking care of a bodily need? It is not possible to do so from the side which faces the Mujahidin, the other side of the mountain is more suitable for that. Any how, there is a gap on the mountain under the tank. That is a great possibility but needs more verification. If we go with Awwal Din on a reconnaissance soon, we might verify that or find something better.

This was a little bit before the month of Ramadan; but I have changed my mind now and told 'Abd-al-Rahman advising him. I knew that I was leaving the site and perhaps before the operation because of this chaos, not to exhibit capability to carry out the operation during the month of Ramadan; many of the Mujahidin began going back to their homes, even Mannan's group has few members and they can not be called upon to fight during the month of Ramadan.

Furthermore, the Arabs can not carry out the war on their own and with Manna's presence; our current situation does not even qualify us to stay in the area. We are subject to casualties without being capable to do anything; the head count is larger than needed, and our front has been transformed to a guesthouse; just like the houses in Peshawar, and we have no control over anyone here. Therefore, I give the following advice:

1. Postpone the operation of Torgar reconnaissance with Awwal Din until after the 'Id holiday; in order not to spread the news among the Afghanis, thus the operation will be exposed and the enemy learns of our intentions. The period between this mission and the actual mountain attack should not be too long.
2. Keeping one mortar crew with Sabir and pull the others to Samir Jul caves; they are not very far. Besides, it's vast area, its beautiful location, and the availability of water; makes it a nice resort for the brothers who have the desire to acquire the reward and stay at the battlefield during the month of Ramadan.
3. After the Fitr holiday, we have to sit down and reexamine the entire project. Without organizing all aspects, there is no need to carry out such a risky operation such as the one we are thinking of.

For ‘Abd-al-Rahman and others like; Shafiq, Sakhri, and Abu-Anis; the idea of backing off was not accepted. The guys prefer operations during Ramadan and they will not be happy to stay behind in the tents. Among the excuses they have; we can use more than one mortar and give the opportunity to everyone so they can participate in firing at the target as a way of annoying the enemy.

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Then they have discussed with me and among themselves that the area lacks a leader. I felt the fingers pointing at me so I decided to leave immediately; in order for the problem to be more defined and Abu-‘Ubaydah will take a definite decision in the leadership of the battlefield and I will not be responsible without being assigned a responsibility. On the evening of that day (Sunday 4/ 24 corresponding to Ramadan 7) my small suitcase was ready for departure, I decided to leave quietly so I do not stir any noise. I knew that they will seek to please me and comfort me. This was not the intent or the solution to the problem I see before me.

This narrow mountain pass became overcrowded with young men without field leadership or operations’ plan. Their orders come from Peshawar or Miranshah from the military committee who does not believe in the operation, and has no idea yet about what it wants to do; be it in Bari or Afghanistan as a whole.

The young men are accompanying me by the tens and hundreds and there is no plan to accommodate them or even the capability to do so. What is more dangerous is that; no one exactly knows about what is required from these young guys; who rushed with so much enthusiasm and naivety, as well, to Afghanistan for the purpose of Jihad. What do we demand from them now and tomorrow, in Afghanistan or other than Afghanistan? Whom are we going to fight, with their help? Why? Who will lead them? Where? How and when?

Puzzling questions; but the leaderships of the Arabs in Peshawar have closed their ears and leveled off matters under the slogan: “Trust in Allah... Let the nation wake up.” But, what comes after the awakening? Is it an uprising against the miserable situations that control us and the entire humanity? Or is there a longer nap after the awakening? it will be just like the serenity that precedes death!

I was about to leave when ‘Abd-al-Rahman came along with Abu-Anis, Shafiq, and Sakhri masked in sweat. They put down their weapons in a hurry for they are late for the prayer. They began performing ablution at the clear water stream which runs under our feet in the mountain passes. I was looking at them, was with them physically; but my feeling of anger and sorry for myself and for them had overwhelmed me more than any other feeling. I looked at the two tents on both sides of the narrow mountain pass; this is Sabir’s center. To the right there is one tent which I sleep in, I share it with others. To the left, Sabir’s tent which is extremely crowded; next to it is a bower that has pots for cooking and some rice and potato bags.

The potholes on both sides of the valley warn of danger, aircraft bombs and mortar shells “Garny” coming from Torgar. This center of ours made it to their maps; this makes me upset, it is the ugliest thing that spying is the number one craft in society.

These wonderful guys make me upset as well; they insist on staying not for any military advantage of the place but for achieving the extent of; “trust in Allah ... and nothing will be inflicted on us but what Allah has in for us”

We became just like the Afghanis in this regard too. Perhaps we are alike even before we have met them. The commander’s responsibility for his soldiers has vanished behind these slogans.

At such an insignificant location, many can be unjustifiably killed; neither the commander will ask his soldiers to change the location, nor the soldiers are willing to take the risk; by moving under the barrage of bombs to another location that is few meters away.

I picked up my suitcase and my gun and my back faced Sabir camp, as if I was bidding farewell to the home I grew up in. No one noticed me; I was occupied in my thoughts or my sad feelings. I started my program early on Monday. Shower, washing the clothes, then cleaned the gun and visited Abu-‘Ubaydah. I went to the house of the Arabs, everyone was still sleeping. There were guests that I did not wish to meet. I returned to the house, collected my belongings and my gun. I asked my Afghani friend “Sadiq” to find me a car heading to Lijjat from Haqqani’s office.

Sadiq was successful in finding a car from Haqqani’s office; I was the only passenger in it. In my bag was a book that I wanted to spend my time reading; it was titled “The German Leaders Speak Out”. It is a unique book in its subject which discusses the military views of the senior army commanders of Nazi Germany concerning the German Army performance in that war and the reason for their defeat in it. The author is the famous military expert; Basil Liddle Hart, who enriched the book with his opinion and deep analysis.

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Most likely, he occupied the top of the black list in school and perhaps the Libyan embassy as well; because he continued to be a permanent target for physical and mental torture. He was lucky to escape this abuse when a Soviet bomb from Ghowr saved him, and perhaps his school was even luckier with that.

I left Islamabad feeling angry for Khalid’s intentional disappearance, and his mother had conveyed that to him. He was very upset and left after me and kept looking for me in Peshawar close to midnight until he found me in one of the houses. We were in a meeting; I refused to meet him and continued to treat him with unfriendliness and sometimes with rudeness until the day of his martyrdom.

He tried to please me all the time and he was as diligent as he can be in his training course in Awr. He continually asked those around him; “will he be pleased with me that I completed the course?” He decided to complete his course without traveling to spend the holiday with his siblings and his mother in Islamabad. All of this to make me pleased and happy with him; yet, he martyred the day before the Adha holiday without him seeing a sign of that sublime fatherly approval.

His martyrdom was a definite proof that convinced me that I am a worthless father, and that the last thing I am aware of is my children’s feelings and problems.

The university road in Peshawar is one of the city’s best roads in terms of specifications, and the area it runs through which was previously arable. The road starts branching of

from the airport road which goes through an old military area, most of its buildings date back to the British occupation of India. As for the university road, its good quality specifications end with the end of Peshawar University's buildings. After that, Khaybar road begins; which goes up to 80 kilometers inside the Afghani land, at the famous point of Torkham passing through the historic Khaybar pass; which witnessed the invasion expeditions from and to India since the beginning of history.

Along the university road and its branches lied most of the offices and the guesthouses of the Afghani organizations and government institutions. Finally, the Arabs arrived to compete with the Afghani presence and its international companion. The clandestine and public Arab houses spread on both sides of the university road and its side streets. When these places became crowded, all the previous activities spread to the new neighborhoods in the area of Hayatabad; located to the left of Torkham road and at its very beginning, separated from it by the railroad track; which the British occupation had left behind. The occupation that left the area physically, but its spirit remained perching on the Pakistani government's spirit; which can not live without the sovereignty of the West and its sweat torture. The westernized elite have been ruling Pakistan ever since its independence. But, they are ruling from under the western thumb and refuse the idea of moving away from under it.

'Abdallah Ward road; one of the famous side streets of the University road and at its junction with the occupation's railroad track, lies a huge center for an Arab assembly at the time and one of our friend Jalal-al-Din Haqqani.

Since the main destination for the Arabs is our project in Khowst; thus this office of Haqqani became an active office for the Arabs. Added to that, our Sheikh; Abu-'Usama, taking a residence in one of the rooms, to have a life for himself away from the Afghani parties or the Arab offices with their various trends. We realized that this carefulness to remain neutral did not help Abu-Usama much; he was kicked out politely by Abu-'Abdallah and sheikh 'Abdallah 'Azzam.

The first one was selected as a leader of the Arabs and the second a leader of Al-Sada camp in addition to, Wa'il Halidan (Abu-al-Hasan Al-Madani) who was elected as a commander of Peshawar area. it concerns people that are in charge on both sides I was like others in my national group; we heard about the result of this council meeting place, and its stipulations applied to us though we have not participated in it or even heard about it being held.

At any rate, all we were thinking of was a big battle in Khowst; transforming the political withdrawal of the Soviets to an uncountable military defeat. The Arabs were with us and their leaders were our friends; so it doesn't matter what happened at their shelter.

Abu-Usama had left to his new camp in Worsuk and his course was about to begin in few days, and to be exact; next Friday, March 3rd. This was good; for he is a man that is disciplined and strict about order. He could have not tolerated the state of chaos that we found in that house. The Arabs' disorder and the Afghanis' disorder; it even became a miniature of one of the battlefronts which have gone wild.

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Then I agreed to postpone my travel until the following day, so I can accompany Sultan and Abu-Anas to Peshawar. At a later time at night, Abu-Anis arrived from Tawdah

Chinah accompanied by 'Abd-al-Rahman and Shafiq. They came specially to find out if I left the camp when I was angry at them? 'Abd-al-Rahman stressed that he did not expect me to leave the camp and that he was getting ready for praying and was surprised and shocked that I have traveled after leaving the place.

I felt embarrassed that they have gone through all this trouble and came at this dangerous time. It is not favorable to move during the night through the borders in the tribes' area. I denied being angry and told them I wanted to meet with Abu-Usama; because he had sent for me, this was true, and I will leave to the Emirates and return before the holiday to discuss Bari's subject one more time.

I asked 'Abd-al-Rahman not to attempt going up Torgar again; so the news will not spread among the Afghanis and the enemy finds out that the Arabs are thinking of working against Torgar and eventually double their precautions.

One more time I reiterated my advice to pull back the Arabs to the rear centers at Samir Jul caves.

'Abd-al-Rahman and I were able to read each other's mind. He knew that I am upset and that I left the camp in protest. I could read in his face that he was angry; because I left the work that we have long dreamt of. He would have preferred that I don't leave him by himself in the midst of the confusion, with new young men who for the most part are inexperienced.

We have found a rare group of Arabs that we have gotten along with them, as if we have been together since the beginning of Jihad such as; Shafiq, Sakhri, Abu-Anis, and Dhabihallah. Also, there are wonderful young men whom we can attract to our side such as: Sabir and Hamdi; they are from the Jihad Organization. After Allah had answered our prayer and embraced us with people like them, you leave and leave all angry, you leave me all alone after we were inseparable for good or bad?

I was seeing this and much more in his exhausted facial features; which was unusually frowned, even when he comes across the harshest of conditions, those moments which break hearts and break down mountains.

For a moment there, I was about to cancel my trip and return with them. I was feeling guilty to leave them in such circumstances; but my stay will help the comedy going, and I will be the one to cover up all for overstepped boundaries. My travel will force Abu-'Ubaydah to remedy the situation of which he is the primarily responsible for its damage. It was crucial that I leave so the situation gets restored. I will definitely return after the 'Id and will participate in the operation with them. As long as those will be participating in it, I will not leave them; even if the battle was a losing one and we all get killed.

After the dawn prayer, Abu-Anis stayed and Shafiq greeted me and then 'Abd-al-Rahman; who bid me the final farewell. I never saw him after that.

I was not able to find Dr. 'Abd-al-Mu'iz in Peshawar, and left to Islamabad on the same day; having in mind to continue the trip to the Emirates and return before the 'Id to follow up on Torgar's project with 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Yet, I was surprised by a domestic revolution carried out by the wife and the children for the purpose of staying with them until the end of the 'Id days. Then they confronted me with a long list of unreasonable acts I have committed against them by not spending such blessed occasions among them.

The give and take battle between me and them continued; they were using the guilt, blame, and sometimes crying techniques and I was using the techniques of rosy promises, waving of gifts, and sometimes cracking jokes to lessen the intensity of the confrontation. I remained firm if it wasn't for the developments which weakened my position until I lost the fight and consented to the family demands under one condition that is; I leave on the fourth day of the holiday and so it was.

As for the developments, they were the arrival of Abu-Hafas and Abu-Jihad from their secret training courses in Shahi Kut; then, the arrival of Sultan from Miranshah followed by Abu-Mu'adh; the administrative director of Torgar project. All of those have families that settled in the capital Islamabad. Soon enough, some bachelor guests have attended courses which have nearly ended; in Afghanistan or at the border.

On their way back, Abu-Hafas and Abu-Jihad, met our friend 'Abd-al-Rahman in Miranshah and from their conversation with him, they realized that he is very angry from their behavior with him and I; when they stopped by us in Miranshah's house during the embark upon Shahi Kut.

They said that they were surprised by this anger that is unjustifiable in their opinion.

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What happened is an ordinary matter that does not call for that.

I realized then that when a young man joins a secret organization he gets infected with a state of superiority and a feeling of supremacy. He finds a natural right in what follows it from over stepping people's rights and the feelings of others; who have to receive that with open arms.

There was no use in expanding the disagreement or keeping it going; so, I accepted their opinion in all its faults. Abu-Jihad asked me to write a letter to 'Abd-al-Rahman telling him that the issue has been settled; because 'Abd-al-Rahman linked his opinion to mine. Thus, I wrote him a letter about that, and Abu-Jihad said that he will take with him to Miranshah.

The problem has been settled seemingly; yet truly, it remained present between us. Rather in the heart of the Jihad work itself. Some organizations or some trends inside the organizations take on the personality of God's chosen people; so they look like ignorant people who are dressed differently.

After years of these events, I still notice that; even at the combat front, being in the same ditch does not help in creating a unity in the feeling between the two groups.

Those who belong to the organization perceive themselves to be better than those who are not like them; yet are with them in the same ditch. Sometimes; rather most of the times, they are wrong.

They see that ignorance inside the organization is better than education, qualification, and ability if you are outside it. Or just as my brothers in Al-Sunun Movemnet put it; "destroy with my own hand and not to build with your own hand" Meaning; we accept destruction if it is on the hands of the organization, and we do not accept reform and construction on hands outside the organization. It is an absolutely true philosophy based on what I have seen and lived in all these years, and by all the organizations I have witnessed; be it Brothers, Mujahidin, Jihad parties from Afghanistan, or the "Taliban Movement" from the Afghanis, etc... etc... etc...

The most important thing is that the problem between us and our organization brothers has been resolved, and in celebration of this happy occasion; they asked for more of the equipment we have, or the most important piece of equipment we have; that is, the remote control; because, they want to run few experiments on it according to Abu-Jihad. And in order not to spoil the reconciliation, I agreed to this peacemaking condition. I wrote this to 'Abd-al-Rahman. Abu-Jihad promised to return the machine as soon as they are done. It seems like up to this moment, they are; neither done using the machine, nor all the other things that they have borrowed from us; technical equipment and even the maps specific to Khowst. None of it has been returned; it is the holy tariff which the ignorant have to pay to God's chosen people.

If there was anything positive that came out of this, it would have been that it gave me the opportunity to get out of nowhere to write the last letter I addressed to 'Abd-al-Rahman. It was an opportunity to cool off things with him after he left the battlefield. I have promised him to show up after a quick visit to the Emirates.

I advised him to pay attention to the airport, Khowst Airport, and I wrote to him at the end of the letter the favorite poetry line of his; which he was repeating upon the bombing of the airport... He used to say "My heart longs to the airport ground"

I found this pleasant thing among 'Abd-al-Rahman's papers in our workshop in Miranshah and I still have it.

I left to Abu Dhabi the fourth day of 'Id. There I spent beautiful ten days with friends and old colleagues. I bought a number of new books as I do in every visit. On the evening of Monday, the 30th of May; the plane took off from Dubai to touch down Islamabad's runway at three on Tuesday morning, the 31st of May. It was a pleasant surprise to find the family waiting for me at the airport. I did not expect them to go through the trouble, and what made the reunion more pleasant that morning; the wonderful spring. We spent the trip from the airport to the house in our microbus, which we consider our second home, asking about how the friends and family are doing and the type of gifts; as if the holiday is not over yet.

But is it possible that life is deceiving to this extent? Is it possible that at the same time it provides me with these wonderful moments of this warm family meeting, in the beautiful surrounding of dawn that is full of the scent of 'Id, along with the joy of return, and meeting the family; which fills my heart with happiness.

It is the same moment I encounter the biggest personal disaster, one that I have never seen anything like it ever since God gave me life until this day. Yes, unfortunately the peak of happiness is the same peak of disaster...

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The same moment in which the airplane touched down the runway of Islamabad's airport; the foot of my friend 'Abd-al-Rahman had tipped on an anti - personnel mine near the summit of Torgar. A huge blast sounded, lifted him in the air, and threw him more than ten meters away.

His injury was considerable, he lost his left eye, his spine cord smashed, and he kept on bleeding for two hours then his soul ascended to its creator.

What was taking place in Bari during the hours I was suspended between the sky and the earth, in an airplane that took off from Dubai on its way to Islamabad?

Bari had been very quiet during Ramadan; the Saqr missiles program sponsored by the Pakistani Intelligence, had come to a stop. Most of the Mujahidin returned to their villages behind the borders. 'Abd-al-Rahman, Sabir, and the others; that is the remaining Arab youth, have pulled back to Samir Jul center of the spacious and well-fortified caves at this time of every year, are vacant and risk free.

The government forces are no longer fighting; but the hypocrite spies are willing to spread mines, or plant quick and fatal traps.

Approximately two months ago, 'Abd-al-Rahman was riding in a car for Mannan's group. They were on their way from Bari to Miranshah; their car went over anti-tank mine, it ripped the car, two of the Mujahidin were killed, and 'Abd-al-Rahman received few bruises and his ears kept on ringing for a month.

So Bari's charming calmness might mean the approach of quick and sudden death, and so are most of the Afghani battlefronts.

After the 'Id days, 'Abd-al-Rahman began one more time to send the patrols out. He placed Torgar under surveillance again.

During the surveillance, 'Abd-al-Rahman noticed that one of the officers was very close to the tank then he went down directly and crossed a relatively long distance until he arrived at a verge of a sharp edge of the black rocks at which the public road coming from the top ends. But there is a bushy mountain edge coming from the bottom of the valley towards the bottom of the black cliff.

We were thinking about the same road before, when we saw their people going down from the direction of the stream crossing some distance in its direction without reaching it.

At the time we said; if this gap reaches the edge of the cliff, let's attack at night through it. We make a ladder bigger than the bamboo wood to climb the cliff.

But, is there a possibility that mines exist along the road connecting from the valley to the bottom of the cliff?

The possibility was slight because the cliff is considered a natural barrier against any advancement towards the summit; so trapping this road with mines is considered indisputable.

'Abd-al-Rahman saw the dream come true before his eyes; so, he decided to settle the matter immediately and answer all the questions. He knew that I was arriving on Friday. And he wanted to make me, the military committee, and Sultan faced reality.

The road is open to Torgar; so let's attack immediately and seize the mountain, let us hold the key to Khowst in our hands.

So, he quickly decided to climb the mountain and get to the same point from which the communist officer had moved to the bottom of the tank.

No one will have any excuse or a question after that. This time, he will go up all by himself to prove that the road is clear. The next time he will be heading a battalion of Mujahidin; Arabs and Afghanis.

'Abd-al-Rahman was aware that he will need a considerable amount of time to complete the mobilization operation required for the attack, individuals and ammunition. And if the Afghanis learn that he had discovered the safe road to the top of Torgar; in no time, the news will undoubtedly reach the communist forces of Khowst.

Therefore, 'Abd-al-Rahman decided not to inform the Afghanis, not even Mannan's group; the closest friends and allies.

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'Abd-al-Rahman prepared a patrol of Arabs and before the designated day for the movement, he went to Miranshah and said farewell to his wife and son. Though he was confidant of the operation's success; yet he was sad. Perhaps he felt that his closest friends had abandoned him at a time when he didn't expect him to do so. Although he knew I was coming soon; but he was talking a lot about martyrdom and expected it to be imminent. He discussed that with the wonderful new friends; Sakhri, Shafiq, Abu-Anis, and Dhabihallah. We never talked in that tone. Most of our discussions were about the operations and issues pertaining to it. Even martyrdom discussions were brought up with joy; as if it is a requirement of the operations yet it is never prepared for. Therefore we used to say: we are a group of [IL] who doesn't want to go.

The guys who were around him said; he was sad for the most part of Ramadan until the day of the operation.

On the afternoon of Monday; May 30, 'Abd-al-Rahman headed a group leading them from Tawdah Chinah through narrow valleys with fresh water streams running through them; and through the twisted passages located within a short distance from Torgar's eastern edge, in the valley that separates that mountain from the one facing it; the one we used in the surveillance of Torgar. We used to call it a funny name; "the fitness mountain" because climbing its top requires superior fitness.

In the moonlight, 'Abd-al-Rahman and his group approached the beginning of the slope leading up to the black cliff and very slowly they began going up. After crossing a distance, he left one group to protect the road behind him and went up with a small group which included; Sakhri, a young man from Bahrain called; Al-khal and Abu-Anis.

They continued going up until they reached the black cliff; so, they rested to catch their breath. They have realized that the enemy is closer than what they have imagined; their voices over the top and the sounds of the soldiers coughing in the ditches were coming down to them as if they were right next to them.

It is crucial to climb over the cliff, decided 'Abd-al-Rahman, he himself started; no one in his group can compete with him when it comes to strength and physical fitness. It was not an easy matter; but he succeeded in it. Later Al-Khal followed him, and Sakhri came last. His machine gun slipped off his shoulder and hit the rocks with force sending a loud sound. The group thought that the whole world had heard him; so the guard shouted from the summit top near the tank, he also had a voice that is closer than what you can imagine; Stop, stop. Who is there?

Then, thirty straight shots swept the area around them. The scary guard, emptied his gun in the direction of the sound; and a noise came to pass.

'Abd-al-Rahman and the guys piled up face down among the rocky hills and waited until the noise settled down.

The guys realized that it was impossible for them to get down the cliff; they will definitely fall.

‘Abd-al-Rahman whispered to them: “we will walk along the edge of the cliff then we will go down the usual side of the mountain. There might be mines there, I will begin moving towards the west; but all of you stay within few meters distance away from me.”

‘Abd-al-Rahman looked behind him, when he became confident that they have gotten far enough; he stood, made his first step with his right foot, flew up in the air, and fell far away in a leveled area filled with grass and few bushes.

The three guys became mentally impaired; is ‘Abd-al-Rahman lost?

The expected the enemy fire hailing over their heads from the top of the mountain; they held fast to the ground becoming closer to the rocky projections.

The strange thing is that the enemy did not open its fire; instead they heard ‘Abd-al-Rahman’s faint voice calling: “Sakhri, Sakhri; the ground is mined.”

He replayed: How could we leave our brother and go?

The dark skin, slender like the African spear Sakhri, proceeded to cross the death barriers over to my friend ‘Abd-al-Rahman. The moon began setting behind Torgar but it was not very dark; rather, the moon’s indirect light was enough to walk with caution. But as long as the mines are buried, there is no way that Sakhri and his friends can discover them or avoid them.

Sakhri made it safely over to ‘Abd-al-Rahman; who was laying on his back wailing from pain. Sakhri tried to carry him over his back; but it was an exhausting attempt for him and extremely painful for his friend. ‘Abd-al-Rahman weighs more than double Sakhri’s weight

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Besides, no one knew that ‘Abd-al-Rahman’s back bones have been smashed because of the explosion or falling over the rocks.

Sakhri was unable to remedy the situation until his two friends arrived and helped him carry ‘Abd-al-Rahman over his back. Going down was disastrous; Sakhri can not handle his heavy load, he was falling down with every step and ‘Abd-al-Rahman was in great pain over any movement of his back. He asked Sakhri not put him on the ground because his back can not take it. But the slim Sakhri who was carrying ‘Abd-al-Rahman over his back, holding his hands from the front and walking with his body bent down; so he falls more than he can walks until his clothes ripped and became wet with ‘Abd-al-Rahman’s blood which was bleeding profusely from all over his body.

At the peak of his pain, ‘Abd-al-Rahman whispered in Sakhri’s ear; which was close to his mouth: “I love you in God, Sakhri.” then he whispered again: “Oh God, make let this purely be for your glory.”

He did not talk afterwards; yet he remained alive and the blood flowing out of his body over Sakhri’s body; whose clothes became rags kneaded in blood.

It is a very long distance before the tired group reaches the valley. So, they took their friend ‘Abd-al-Rahman near a branching off tree and made sure that the enemy can not see the area. They put ‘Abd-al-Rahman down off of Sakhri’s back; who has been warned out of exhaustion.

As for ‘Abd-al-Rahman, he has not been talking for quite some time; but some of the sounds coming out of him, suggest that he is still alive. They looked at him and examined his injuries which broke their hearts.

Many months later, Sakhri told me: "I have wished for him not to live, at the time, and I prayed that he martyrs. I could not imagine him living with such horrible injury; his right leg ripped open and the blood is flowing from it. His back bones are dismembered, blood is flowing heavily from the chest, belly and hands. So, what shape would he be in if he was destined to live?"

I left him under the tree with my brothers and left to seek help to transfer him. I went down to where the group which we have assigned with protection duty. They have heard the shooting then the explosion and were about to die of fear; for they do not know what happened and how to behave.

Sakhri asked them to go up to help their brothers; but he will quickly go to camps in Tawdah Chinah to request the Afghani's assistance to transfer 'Abd-al-Rahman.

But Sakhri's assumption was not sound, streaks of dawn began appearing and there is no time for all of that. No one can enter that area in the morning light; except for few, hardly and with great risk.

Sure enough, the daylight began shining on him along the way; so, he took of his clothes, washed himself and his clothes after he was trenched with blood and walked until he reached the Arab assemblage in Samir Jul, and gave them the shocking news.

As for the Arab group over the mountain, they have realized that 'Abd-al-Rahman has parted with life at about five in the morning. So they brought 'Abd-al-Rahman's body from underneath the huge tree and quickly snuck away from the valley.

The news spread quickly among Bari groups; 'Abd-al-Rahman was the most famous, the most popular personality within the Afghani circles in Bari. As for Mannan's group, they were startled with the news; as if, Mannan himself was killed. They mobilized their men as if they were going to war and were very angry with the Arabs for leaving 'Abd-al-Rahman's body on the mountain and returned without him. They were supposed to bring him even if it would have cost them a thousand casualties. Leaving the body of the deceased at the enemy's territory without pulling it away; was a great dishonor by the Afghanis and so many times, the battles to retrieve a dead body were more brutal and at greater cost than the original battle; that is the one launched for the purpose of capturing a site.

Mannan's group mobilized their men and their weapons all day. They proceeded towards Torgar with the descent of darkness, Arabs joined them. With them also, the members of the group which accompanied 'Abd-al-Rahman to the tree under which, they have left the body of their colleague. They brought the body back to Bari and at an early time on the morning of Wednesday; they crossed the border to Miranshah then to Haqqani's house.

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The shock was huge for Haqqani and his men; 'Abd-al-Rahman was a dear friend to everybody. Haqqani's men came, in their cars, from the battlefield and the nearby villages. Thus, the small town witnessed a huge crowd that is only to be had for senior leaders and tribe chiefs.

Haqqani postponed the burial procedures until the morning of the following day to give an opportunity to 'Abd-al-Rahman's colleagues who are outside Miranshah to attend the burial.

On Thursday morning, the crowd was packed and ready in Miranshah's cemetery across from 'Abd-al-Rahman's house. The graveyard was full and the nearby streets and courts were flooded with those who escorted him to his final resting place. Haqqani gave a long speech where he talked about the meanings of Jihad, the Arab's contribution to it, and about 'Abd-al-Rahman; who gave his life for Jihad and went to meet his God as martyrdom. He was the one who shed the most tears out of being sad for that strange Arab who martyred, lived his life in bravery among the battlefronts and in them. 'Abd-al-Rahman was buried in a small court which hosted martyrs among Haqqani's senior men, they are; Sheikh Ahmad Jul and Sheikh Fathallah. The two are he closest aids who martyred in Lijjat's battle in 1985; also, officer Naqiballah, commander of Ghowr Base; who was martyred at the beginning of its battle in 1986.

After nearly a month, I visited 'Abd-al-Rahman's grave. There was a small spot left behind it, I thought that destiny had saved it for my body; in order to be close to him. I was alone at the time of the visit; which was on the afternoon of one of the days in July. I have talked to 'Abd-al-Rahman at a great extent, I told him of what happened, and complained to him about the situation I found myself in; after he was put to rest and left me all alone at much tougher circumstances than ever before, at a time when I am in dire need for him. What can I do in Afghanistan although I have a job?

I don't know how long I have been there; but when I was no longer able to stand and my chest busted from serious crying, I returned with at the onset of the darkness.

If 'Abd-al-Rahman achieved martyrdom, I became a dead man walking on the face of the earth.

I used to imagine that we are going to martyr together; but we will participate in conquering of Khowst, and perhaps Kabul as well; before that happened.

We have been working together for three consecutive years, some friends join us and others leave us; yet we stay together anyway. I used to see as, if 'Abd-al-Rahman is there; life is good and our reasonable or crazy dreams can be achieved with a little bit of patience; which we have plenty of.

For many weeks, I was having crying spells which I could not control; as if my tears are coming down from a runaway cloud.

This happens unexpectedly; I would be with friends, at prayer, driving my car in one of the streets, or even sleeping. On many occasion I had dreams of him laughing happily whereas I am crying until I feel choked; so I wake up as if I am on the verge of death to find that the tears have swabbed my face.

It was essential that I come out of that situation no matter how. I was going down a pointless pit; 'Abd-al-Rahman was killed by a mine over Torgar, and I will be killed in my bed or on the road by feeling sorrow for him.

If he was a martyr, what would I be, a martyr accessory?

Coming out of this difficult situation was not easy. My friends felt what I was going through; so, they extended a helping hand to me and I accepted it.

They asked me to accompany them to Shahi Kut south west of Gardez to attend a training course where I can participate in few lectures.

Our trip started in early July. I left from Islamabad and wanted to take Khalid's son along with me so I can leave him in Awr with the Arab guys there. They had a training course

and they agreed to Khalid joining them in spite of his young age, 14 years and six months.

Khalid, in his sociable and his sense of humor has acquired a lot of Arab friends

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except for 'Abd-al-Rahman; who was constantly at disagreement with him, because of his anarchist nature. At the travel time, Khalid was late because of few business deals; so I get mad at him and left by myself, but he caught up with me in Miranshah. Once again, I refused to meet with him. I asked Sultan to send him to Awr without seeing him.

Our delegation that is heading to Shahi Kut, consisted of two pick-up cars filled with guys and equipment; in addition to another group that left ahead of us towards the border to rent a truck to carry heavy equipment and accompany us to Shahi Kut.

In the early morning, the procession headed on, I had a strong urge to hug Khalid and say good-bye. The opportunity was over; that would cost us many hours of delay; but the trip colleagues welcome that.

I did not feel comfortable leaving him with a great deal of disaffection, when all his camp friends know that I refused to meet him.

There is no doubt that I have exceeded the limits in punishing him. He had tried to get extremely closer to me lately. He had asked for that. Before that, he asked to actually participate in the fight and said that his body was strong, indeed it was. I told him that training is essential prior to that. He asked me to send him to a training camp; so I mentioned to him Awr Camp, and he immediately and enthusiastically agreed. Suddenly, he asked me about 'Abd-al-Rahman and whether he was in heaven. I told him; yes. He asked one more time; do we eat whatever we desire in heaven? I told him: yes. He laughed just like a child and said: I like that. I looked at him surprised and said to myself; why is he talking like that; as if he is about to go to heaven, is it possible? We were sitting side by side in one of the public buses then, on our way home to Islamabad.

The trip to Shahi Kut was a new experience for me. First we went there on foot in 1981 and now seven years later, I returned there one more time in a huge truck. I was feeling some kind of carelessness, I even did not write down anything related to the trip in my daily journal; except for two days of it. I felt that I became hundred years older; my body was exhausted and my steps were slow. I was able to feel refreshed few times and return to being alive and active, and once again fall into exhaustion and carelessness.

As a matter of fact; after 'Abd-al-Rahman's martyred, my physical strength have deteriorated a great deal and I was unable to retrieve it except for a spread out small periods of time.

Rarely was I able to laugh genuinely, that old way of laughing which left the soul refreshed and the body full of energy. But the improvement due to the trip was great. The group consisted of two parts; one to the right, belong to al-Qaeda, and the other one have mixed sources like; al-Qaeda Organization and al-Jihad Organization and along with a physician who I was with, we make an independent wing.

In spite of that, the disaster series did not stop; and if were to be fair, we would have considered what happened over the gulf waters one of the disasters of the year. Thus, it

would have helped us tremendously in evaluating the nature of our upcoming battle and the thinking about our new enemy.

Yes, the United States began gradually revealing its true color to the Arabs in Afghanistan; revealing its true ugly face; but they did not believe what they saw until it was too late.

On the third day of July, over the gulf waters; while an Airbus aircraft carrying 200 passengers of which; 65 of them are children from the Iranian city of Bandar Abbas on their way to Dubai, one of the American military unit fired a surface to air missile and the plane crashed and burnt down killing all those on board.

According to the typical, usual American rudeness; the crash was considered a pilot error. At a later date, the American President; Ronald Reagan, called the commander of the American navy unit in the region (Winston); who have committed this massacre against a civilian aircraft, he called him to the White House and presented him with a high-level military medal. Of course, none of the Mujahidin cared for this news, among leaderships and individuals, and the comments varied between rejoice and carelessness.

It is not strange for our Jihad trend which have taken shape in the seventies in the shadow of the Saudi era, to build its ideological trend based on the on the Salafi and Wahabi faiths and completely depend on the money of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf; which are collected by; the Salafis of that land, and the Salafi branches in the Arab countries and the world. The case continued in that manner until the second Gulf war; when the financial close ties to the Jihad trends coming from Saudi Arabia have ceased.

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Yet the ideological ties remained up to this moment.

The Adha holiday approached, and many of the Afghans left the base of Ghowr heading to their homes behind the border. No one from the Arab training course has left; because it was going to be concluded after the holiday. Few days before the holiday, Khalid remembered his mother, brothers and sisters in Islamabad. He cried and asked that he goes to spend the holiday with them.

The course leader told him; that he has no objection to him traveling, but his father might be angry since the course is not over yet. He then gave him a chance to think about it and after a short while, Khalid gave away the travel idea; but every once in a while he asked some of his trainer: will my father be pleased that I have completed the course? and they used to assure him that.

'Imad is a heavy built young man, fun and nice hearted, one of Egypt champions in wrestling, and he used to train in this art at the course. Later on he told me; that Khalid was a good wrestler and after a great deal of pressure, he mastered many moves. Also, whenever he tried to skip the wrestling class, he would carry him up high and throw him on the straw matt; but he was strong. 'Imad also told me, that Khalid used to shepherd the sheep in his free time and take them on trips over the nearby mountains. As a result of this, he lost two lambs.

Though two years have passed by since the battle of Awr, many of its effects were obvious; destroyed caves covered the ground, new caves were replaced by tons of steel and bomb shells and airplane shells different in sizes which have not exploded yet. Moreover, the tragedy of Al-Adha holiday in Awr started here.

Some guys were attracted to removing the explosives out of these bombs and use them in training; in spite of the inexpensive price of explosives which was exaggerated then. It was possible to obtain three kilograms of the best kind of explosives for what is equivalent to one US Dollar.

There were two airplane bombs, the anti-personnel type; they were huge like a small barrel open on both sides with a grooved surface dividing it into small squares, protruding like the British hand grenades "Mills" type.

I saw this grenade before and took few pictures of it. Their smallest was the one with the tragedy. The heart of the grenade consisted of pure explosives; yet, it was filled with wires that pass through the heart of the explosives' mass a suspicious manner. The best way to handle that type of grenades was what the Afghans used to do; to explode them remotely. We found one of this kind in Gardez in 1986; but we listened to the Afghani advice and left it.

The trainers were successful in taking out some of the explosive materials from the old planes' bombs. They started working on this barrel shaped, grooved grenade. They were successful in pushing the explosive mass out of one side of the barrel; but the course supervisor demanded them to completely stop this work. This was before sunset on Thursday, July 21st.

Friday morning; July 22 – 9th of Dhi-al-Hijjah 1408 H. The day before the Adha holiday. It was a resting day in Awr, most of the Arab youths were fasting in this occasion; so, most of them were sleeping in this early morning. But the explosives group deemed to continue yesterday's airplane grenade work; in order to make use of their time.

The hammering of the grenade noise began getting louder along with the voices of the guys. Some woke up and began going around the bomb in order to see the explosive material as it was gradually coming out. Khalid and others woke up to entertain themselves with this episode.

The course leader was sleeping outside the caves in a place close to the work area and yelled at them; "didn't I prohibit you from this act yesterday?"

They assured him that they are about to get done. He was laying down on his side resting on his elbow, as he was talking to them. Soon enough, he lost the picture, a huge explosion sounded, and twelve bodies scattered in square in front of the caves at a short distance from the cave that was destroyed by an airplane in 1986 campaign; during which a large number of Haqqani's Mujahidin were lost. Here there are again, new victims; four Afghans and eight Arabs, among them my son Khalid.

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It was a massacre. This is how our friend in Bari; Sabir from al-Sa'id [TN: A town in Egypt] who has attended this course; but he was sleeping in one of the caves at the time of the explosion. He said: we rushed at the sound of the explosion to find the body parts filling the square. We were collecting the dead in blankets and carry them to the cars. The course leader was injured by splinters in his eyes that left him semi blind afterwards. As for Khalid, he was few steps away from the bomb; yet Sabir did not want to tell me the details of Khalid's injury. He wanted to make it easier on me and said: one of his feet was hanging by a piece of skin and flesh, his face was injured, and he died before the care began moving outside of Awr.

As for the Egyptian doctor; who received the dead and injured at Miranshah's hospital, I asked him about Khalid's injury, but he answered spontaneously just like the doctors habit; who used to assure their patients no matter how hopeless the case was, and said: no, no it was no big deal.

I looked in his eyes thinking that he was kidding; because the kid has died and it is over. This would not have happened if the injury weren't deadly; so, how does he call it simple? But his face was neutral with no expressions; he said good-bye and left in his car.

I have learnt about the incident for the first time, when we arrived at Miranshah in late August. Following the evening prayer, I sat down with Abu-'Ubaydah and one of the young doctors and the conversation touched on Awr and those among the Arabs who were killed and injured there. I was upset by the subject and asked about what happened, and when. Abu-'Ubaydah asked with surprise: You haven't heard about him? we have sent a letter to Abu-Hafas in Shahi Kut, didn't he tell you about it?

I said: he did not inform us of anything.... what happened in Awr?

He began telling the story until he arrived at the names of some of the deceased; so I asked him about Khalid, how is he? He told me calmly: I'm sorry.

I was shocked, and asked again: was Khalid killed?

He answered; yes, may God rest his soul.

I kept quiet, turned towards Kiblah [TN: Direction to which Moslems turn in prayer; which is towards Mecca] and kneeled to thank God.

As soon as I went back to my sitting position, Abu-'Ubaydah smiled and said: I knew that you will do that.

We went to the group of trainers who have returned from Shahi Kut and all of them consoled me; they were unexpectedly sweet, especially the Yemeni guys.

One of them shook my hand and said: we are all your children. The tears filled my eyes but the darkness of the place covered some of this weakness.

Everyone was exhausted; they slept in the rooms and the house's courtyard, randomly.

We will all head to Peshawar in the morning, I was unable to sleep' I spent the most part of the night praying and crying until I was subdued by sleep; so I slept in my place.

We arrived in Peshawar at noon and in Haqqani's office I met Abu-Basir. He is the brother of the martyr Abu-Dajjanah; who was killed in Nahrain in 1986. He looked exactly like his brother, even in character and funny nature.

After he consoled me for Khalid's death, he brought me the telephone so I can call my family in Islamabad. I found my little daughter, I asked her about her mom; she said that she had stepped out. I asked her where to? She said Shir had died. I asked her several times so I can be certain, then I said good-bye to her and told her that I was going there to see them. I put the receiver down as I was recalling what I have heard.

Abu-Basir asked me about the news. I told him that Shir was a two year old Afghani boy that we were taking care of him in our house; because his mom died and his father is not there. The kid was sick but he became better; yet he died now to be the second death incident we've had within two months.

Abu-Basir said smiling: if God loved one of his worshipers, he will inflict disasters upon him. So don't tell me you are one of the saints.

I laughed saying: no one will believe me if I claim that.

I remember the day of Al-Adha holiday for the year 1408 H. when we were in Shahi Kut. Everyone was fasting and all the practical lessons were cancelled. I was supposed to give a lecture in the afternoon to a group of Egyptians. The lectures were

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a reading and discussion from “The War of The Meek” book.

The area is mainly agricultural; although it is in the middle of mountain ranges, yet it is rich in water and fruit trees.

I woke up early and went all alone to a large garden of trees, I was sad and worried. In my sleep, I had a dream of ‘Abd-al-Rahman sitting with my son Khalid and both of them were laughing and filled with happiness; while I was standing in a distance watching them and crying bitterly; whereas they do not feel me.

I was surprised during that asking myself; what did bring ‘Abd-al-Rahman and Khalid together? Though ‘Abd-al-Rahman was constantly fighting with Khalid and criticizing him for not being obedient. I told some of the colleagues about my dream with astonishment; yet, I did not tell them the question which the dream suggested to me; is it possible that Khalid becomes a martyr also and join ‘Abd-al-Rahman.

I myself used to exclude this possibility.

On the fourth day of the blessed Adha holiday, we went on a practical training to the gun shooting square, we were eight individuals and the results of our shooting were not encouraging; due to the old guns, yet we were involved in a competition.

The planes were flying over our heads in a routine manner. We learned that they were intensely bombing “Argon”. At the time, we believed that there was an imminent attack on Argon specifically. Some people here informed us of another imminent attack on Khowst through Zadran road once again. Of course, all the information was not true, the governmental forces were about to withdraw from Argon in an overall scheme to decrease the military spread of the army after the Soviet withdrawal.

For several days, the Sukhoi airplanes were flying over us for few times a day. I was especially worried about the training square; which Abu-Hafas instructed digging it in the middle of the public area close to the graveyard. The tractor earthed a hundred meter long and ten meters wide road and at the end of it, another road; twenty meters long and five meters wide intersected it.

The new roads had a bright yellow color in the midst of a land covered with grass and bushes of a faint olive green color. I warned Abu-Hafas that this will attract the pilots’ attention; but as usual, he underestimates dangers; besides, the title “martyr” is standing by to precede any name in Afghanistan.

The time has come for the moment of truth when we were at the shooting competition.

We were sitting on the ground when one of us went to the shooting pole to determine the number of scoring shots.

As soon as he reached the pole while we were watching him as a plane was flying above us; a huge explosion sounded over a small hill, few meters away from the pole. Another huge explosion took place on a rear hill to the left. We got up running and instinctively heading towards a group of hills behind us, fifty meters away; yet a bomb fell on top of them and another one in area to the back, and we were wrapped in a thick cloud of smoke

and dust. I kept going in the same direction in spite of the bombs falling over the hills I am heading to and smoke that has nearly concealed them.

Abu-Hafas was behind me, he called upon me to deviate towards the left to an open area which was not hit by bombs and the visibility was clear.

I headed to the direction Abu-Hafas pointed out and found Abu-Jihad and others have already preceded us in the same direction, everyone was running as fast as they can. There is no place fit for hiding, I was running out of breath as my friends and I were running away from martyrdom. Though I did not fail to notice that; my instinct which I was proud of, and to which I ascribe, with Allah's grace, staying alive until then, had also become fragile as well; the instinct of being in the right place at the right time. This way, I will be outside the death circle even by few centimeters. I wanted to laugh but I could not; because I was running out of breath. I wanted to laugh at the stupidity; which made run in the direction of bombs as they were exploding before me over the nearby hills. Did my sorrow damage my skills, or is it a hidden desire to escape this life after 'Abd-al-Rahman's departure?

We were relatively far from the dangerous area, the airplane bombs stopped falling, and the guys began laughing. I needed longer time to catch my breath before I join them in laughter. Everyone does that after the danger is lifted and no casualties were inflicted, as a way of apology for the signs of panic and escape death during the threat.

We spent about an hour in a far away area, and when the planes did not return; we gained back our peace of mind and returned to the shooting square to look for the things we have lost. Our friend who was close to the pole at the time when the bomb fell; was looking for his cap which fell off his head;

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when he fell face down at the time of the explosion. When he found it, he kicked it saying; I found it, I found it. Was he happy because he found his cap? or because the danger was temporarily lifted, at least.

The danger that descends suddenly was still there, yet it took another form; he found a scorpion inside the cap!

We spent a confusing night; radio Gardez reported the presence of terrorists and mercenaries in Shahi Kut and that the airplanes shelled their positions and killed a number of them.

We were living in a small house in the middle of the trees, overlooking a large flat hill that is in control of what is below it. I was afraid that the enemy will land its forces over this hill by helicopters. Our fear grew stronger with the news reported to us by one of the Afghanis; he saw what looks like a helicopter at the other end of the hill.

We spent the night in a state of alert with most of us on top of the hill along with all the weapons we had available. As soon as the morning begins to shine, we will begin moving to another center to the south called "Bilal Center" in a very rugged area with ample water and adjacent to Zadrans Mountains; covered with dense pine forests, and has many wild gazelles.

Clashes among "Zadrans" tribes, "Zurmat" tribes, and Shai Kut" were customary; due to the fight over the land, the forest trees, and the wild animals.

During our stay, some of Shahi Kut's men hunted a number of gazelles from the forests of Zadrán. To retaliate, Zadrán tribes killed three of Zurmat's men, and so on.

Few days later in Bilal center, Mawlawi Mansur visited us after he has been long awaiting us; but the visit was not completely successful.

Mawlawi Mansur had three young men with him from the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. We have seen them at a prior occasion; when they were training Mansur's men on using the mortar gun. Our guys have met them with the usual aggressiveness in such circumstances; yet it was clear that these revolutionary guards were received with welcome and cooperation among Zurmat residents and Mawlawi Mansur's Mujahidin. We were back from one of the lectures and went up the narrow road that tilts towards the room in which Mawlawi and his guests have slept. One of us took a picture of us, secretly without us noticing, with a camera he was holding in his hand; but the camera's sound was heard and recognized, and it was the created opportunity between Shiite and Sunni. This incident confused the edgy reaction on our brothers' side under the leadership of Abu-Hafas, and it confused Sheikh Mansur's attempt to hold an acquaintance and agreement meeting between our group and the Iranian guests.

The Iranian guest opened the camera and took out the film as he was angry and agitated. Sheikh Mansur invited all of us inside the room so we can talk; consequently, the Iranian guests talked about the Islamic revolution in Iran, the war which Iraq has imposed on the Iranian people and their revolution, and the United States' aggression and deception of the revolution; its direct involvement in it, financing of the Arab countries to Iraq, and its arms deals, etc...

Our brothers remained completely silent with conviction. Thus Sheikh Mansur talked for a little bit and I commented on his words in an attempt to save the situation. The meeting ended with no gain. I was completely aware of Mawlawi Mansur's feelings even if he did not reveal them. I have realized a while ago, through his insinuations, that he wants to strike a practical agreement between the Arab Mujahidin, or rather the sincere ones among them, and the Islamic Republic in Iran; also, Mansur's group including the opposition wings inside the Mujahidin organizations; especially those Mujahidin in the battlefronts away from Peshawar and its American-Saudi influence.

Sheikh Mansur was pleased with my views and believed that I happen to be among the Arabs chiefs in Afghanistan mistakenly and that there are supporters of my views among Arabs; let alone, I have friends such as Abu-Hafas, Abu-Jihad, and others among the Jihad Organization; whom he had met through me. Based on that, he allowed me to establish camps in Shahi Kut; he believed they take on the same ideas.

He was wrong, and since his conversation with me about that was insinuated; I answered him the same way, but he didn't want to understand my situation among the Arabs in general and among my brothers in particular.

In spite of that, this course was one of the most exciting ones. The Yemeni groups, who taught them the guerilla war, were among the best groups I have seen; in terms of shrewdness and ability to comprehend.

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As far as I and those who are still alive, among the Yemenis and Iraqis; who have attended it are concerned, this was a memorable course. The lectures I have given about

guerilla wars or the ones I have participated in their tactics were the best guide for me in everything I have written or lectured on later; especially in the Jihad camp of “Wali” in Khowst.

During the final days in Shahi Kut, we were surprised by two sublime incidents; which had a greatly affected the Jihad in Afghanistan; the first one, the assassination of Zia ul-Haq and the second was the cease of fire in the Iraq-Iran war.

But because we have isolated ourselves completely from what is taking place in Iran and adopted the Saudi-American position on it; politically and emotionally, at least, we will ignore the second incident and focus on the assassination of the Pakistani president. The assassination incident was the last big catastrophe for this year according to the Afghani issue, and the most exciting and richest in terms of suspense; such as the operations of the Central Intelligence of Agency C.I.A.

The United States does not prey on its children

The assassination of Zia ul-Haq

Many books deal with history and policy of the Central Intelligence Agency, C.I.A. and no citizen in the world can do without sufficiently learning about this agency; as long as the United States is controlling the entire world, and that this agency is the true color of the United States.

Here, we will provide a precise summary about this agency and the intent is strictly objective; that is for more, a more reasonable understanding of the assassination of the Pakistani President; Zia ul-Haq.

Also because the case of Zia ul-Haq did not come to conclusion in identifying the criminal that is for the simple reason of; the parties overseeing the investigation are the same ones overseeing the assassination.

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Though some, who have been influenced by the goddesses of evil propaganda, might doubt that; a big and reputable country such as the United States, can carry such ugly crime. Perhaps those forgot that The United States itself, have made it to light as a result of one of the ugliest crimes in history; the crime of eliminating humankind and civilizations which populated the continent of North and South America and over this huge mountain of skulls and body parts, they established a new branch of the Christian white man civilization.

Then in order to cultivate the large land they have seized, which exceed their ability to work; they kidnapped more that twenty million African from their land in the African continent, most of them were Muslims, in order to add to their human record the biggest enslavement operation in the history of humanity.

So, Savageness, barbarism, selfishness, greedy intimidation, and occupation are just a preamble of a lengthy word list of the American moral description; or in other words, the ethics of the Western civilization; the civilization of the white Christian who humiliated mankind and damaged the universe by land, by sea, and by air.

Among the hostile American activities are, killing others, as long as they form a threat, even if it was a chance for threat, to their interests anywhere. There is no difference if the threat is a president, a vice president, an author, or a journalist.

Among the best written about this topic is the testimony of the former American secretary of defense; Robert McNamara. He served under the American Presidents, Kennedy and Johnson in the sixties. Thirty years after he left service, he issued a unique book that has a cry of conscience that became awake after a long sleep. He talked about his mistakes among the decisions of the American decision makers during the Vietnam War; which led to rivers of blood and destruction in that land.

McNamara says; we have tried to convince Nguyen Van Thieu, the President of South Vietnam President, and his government to change his opposing position then we found it crucial to remove him from his presidential seat through a coup d'état; planned by the C.I.A. and executed by a Vietnamese general on November 2nd, 1963. Thieu and his brother Ni Hau were killed.

When President Kennedy received the news, he was sad for the death of the Vietnamese President and his brother because he did not wish for both of them to meet the same faith. Twenty days later, President Kennedy was assassinated; on the evening of Friday 11/22/1963, when he was in a car on his way to give a speech in Dallas.

Of course, most analysts indicates that the same American Intelligence killed President Kennedy; and same as with Zia ul-Haq, the investigations did not identify the criminal; because, it was the same party who oversee both; the execution of the operation and its investigating it.

Another difference between the case of “Thieu” and Zia, both were agents of the American policy then at a later time they had to be removed, but in Thieu case; a coup d'état without killing the president was sought after, but the executors killed the president and his brother; the thing which made Kennedy sad.

In the case of Zia ul-Haq, it was required to kill the president without a coup d'état; but the coup d'état was going to bring another Pakistani general to the Pakistani throne, and the American interest called for handing the throne over to Benazir Buto. The American Interests agenda in Pakistan and Afghanistan requires the qualifications of such complicated personality.

We move to a report that preceded McNamara's book by fifteen days. It was published by the German magazine; Stern (See the Emirate newspaper, al-Fajr on 8/2/1980; page 9) The value of this report is that; it monitors the early revival period of the American Intelligence when the Soviets realized that they have been invaded in Afghanistan. So, it was the CIA's opportunity to shake of its dust and replace the fangs and claws which were taken away from it following the “Watergate” scandal; in which the agency was caught practicing its activity against the superior white race inside the United States itself. And President Carter, the ethical president!!, opened the wide in front of the intelligence agency to take off to the international horizon of the crime, and he was the one who entered the White House holding the banner of; disinfecting the CIA's enclosure from cruelty.

Quickly, the Congress approved a new project to relieve this agency. Its main items were:

- The CIA should be questioned by only two committees of the congress instead of eight committees as it was the case in the past.

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- The agency can use American; journalists, preachers, teachers, and technicians abroad for intelligence work purposes.
- Those who resign from the agency, have to keep its secrets. One, who reveals the names of the agency's agents abroad or domestically, has to consider imprisonment as punishment. So are the journalists who publish the names of politicians who have been bribed by the agency; they would be subject to legal prosecution.

The report mentioned also, that the director of the American Central Intelligence Agency; William Colby, admitted that CIA had arranged in the sixties and through the dirty operations' department of the same agency; to kill and assassinate many world leaders and presidents.

In addition, the report mentioned that in the past, some of the criminal acts committed by the agency against Americans; who voiced their opinions against the Vietnam War and human rights in the United States have been investigated.

Furthermore, the report stated; "The list of assassinations of men and leaders of the world which has been established by the Intelligence Agency; gave a clear picture about leaders of the Third World countries who are approved of or disapproved of by the agency. Also, the agency has attempted to remove some of the politicians whom it has appointed earlier; that is when they wasted American interests."

This report was written at the time when the agency above mentioned was coming out of a period of ailing and recovery; its budget did not exceed \$1.5 billion only, with fifteen thousand agents worldwide.

After the assassination of Zia ul-Haq in 1988, Dr. 'Azzam was assassinated in 1989 then the Arabs were chased in Peshawar and "World Sahara" according to George Bush in 1993. The situation is completely different and the force is doubled; yet they repeated what their ancestors said in 1945 when the Nazi Germany was defeated, when those spies said: the war is not over, but the enemy has changed. Then they rushed to work against the Soviets; or better yet, fighting the poor countries under the cover of; fighting communism and the Soviet influence.

When communism in Afghanistan ended and the Soviet Union was defeated on the hands of the Afghans; the Americans alone celebrated the victory and said: this time, in the twentieth century, we have defeated two of our main enemies; the Nazism and the Communism, and the Muslims are remaining.

So, just like every time; the war is still going on but the enemy has changed.

We go back to the assassination of Zia ul-Haq and we rely on the information mentioned by Brigadier General Yusif, in the preamble of his book "The Bear Trap"; in which he started the book and which happens to be the most interesting chapters of that book.

The paragraphs listed between parentheses, are quoted from the book. The name of the chapter is:

The Crash... The Criminals... and Covering-Up the Crime.

The book says: When the Pakistani transport aircraft C-130, which belongs to the Pakistani Army, crashed. It was painted in army camouflage colors; leaning at 65 degrees in an onslaught down position; the wings' inverts were upwards; both wings leveled; the

landing gears raised and closed; the four engines working in a normal way; and the crash happened at a 90 knots speed.

After a moment, the fuel tanks exploded generating huge orange color flame; which gorged the plane. Later, it was detected that both clocks in the cockpit show the time as 3:51p.m. of a clear and sunny afternoon. Few miles north of the small military town “Bhawalpur” and exactly five minutes earlier; the plane took off to start the journey to Islamabad, which lasts 70 minutes. After two minutes of horror, all passengers were killed instantaneously.

Thus, the Pakistani President was killed along with the person likely to proceed him; Lieutenant General Akhtar ‘Abd-al-Rahman Khan, head of the joint chief of staff. This way the most powerful men in Pakistan were gone; the President and the man who headed the intelligence staff for eight years until 1986, in one hit; so the leaders of the Afghani Mujahidin lost the two men who were the most influential supporters of them.

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Also, the American ambassador, Arnold Rafel; who knew the president for twelve years, was killed Brigadier General, “Herbert M. Wassom” the military attaché in Islamabad was killed, in addition to eight Pakistani generals, their assistants, and the airplane crew; that is 31 people total.

The author says: neither President Zia nor general Akhtar were supposed to be on the same plane. The occasion was to attend a show for the Abrams M-1 American tanks ((which the United States was careful to sell to Pakistan in a one billion dollar deal, and such occasions are not attended by them; it was sufficient that the deputy chief of staff “Mirza Aslam Beck” attends it.))

But after a great deal of insisting on the president by general Mahmud Dawrani; who was a former defense minister, a military attaché in Washington, and last a commander of the armored brigade who is directly involved in the issue of trying the new tank. Zia ul-Haq agreed to go even though he was not convinced.

General Akhtar also, has an issue to discuss with the president; so he invited him to discuss the issue during the flight. As for the tanks show; it was very embarrassing for the Americans, especially in front of all those senior Pakistani Army officers, the Abrams tanks were unable to reach their targets in spite of the intense publicity it had; thus the billion dollar deal faded away in the heat of the sun.

Zia ul-Haq and his entourage, arrived around 3:30, he prayed in the direction of Mecca before he said good-bye. He had convinced the Americans to accompany him on his return trip; they agreed without any reservations. Yet General Bih excused himself, when Zia ul-Haq tried to convince him to ride with him, stating that; he has to fly his private airplane, since he has taken care of some work in Lahore. Zia ul-Haq was known for taking with him as many senior officers as possible on flights, to reduce the possibility for an act of sabotage. Shortly before take off, two boxes of mango for the passengers arrived and were uploaded without inspection along with a box that contains miniatures of the tanks.

The author mentions a long list of Zia ul-Haq enemies’ names, domestically and abroad. He starts with the family of Zulfiqar Bhutto whom he had executed by hanging in Rawalpindi prison on 4/4/1979.

Then he imprisoned his daughter “Binazir” and her mother “Nusrat” and banned their political party; Bhutto’s sons lived in exile and serious default judgments were issued against them. Then Murtada established a terrorist group he called; Zulfiqar and took a center for it in Kabul, the same location of the Palestinian Liberation Organization there. Out of Kabul and Damascus, this group planned killing and destruction campaigns including; hijacking a Pakistani Airline airplane in 1981, as for Shah Nawaz the other son; he died poisoned in Paris surrounded by rumors accusing Zia ul-Haq of killing him. Even inside the army, the president’s friends were few. He used to eliminate those who might compete with him in the future by either; taking them out of the army or placing them in areas far away from the capital. He used to monitor promotions of officers ranking major general and above.

As for the outside enemy, he started with the Soviets and Zia ul-Haq’s role in supporting the Mujahidin and encouraging their attacks against the withdrawing Soviet Forces, and half of the withdrawal took place at the time of the incident.

Thus the Soviets became extremely angry and sent a warning to Zia ul-Haq through the Pakistani Ambassador to Moscow; sating that they, the Soviets, intend to teach Zia ul-Haq a lesson.

Then India, who fought Pakistan four times and accuse it of hosting, training, and financing the separatists Sikhs; had established a special intelligence body to counteract the Pakistani activities and called it “RAW”

Even the American government did not cry for the death of Zia ul-Haq; the State Department announced that Zia ul-Haq has exceeded the useful age as far as they’re concerned, and with the departure of the Soviets from Afghanistan, the last thing that America wants to see; is a fundamentalist Islamic government replacing the communist government in Kabul. The American politicians were dreaming about an Islamic force stretching from Iran, including Afghanistan and Pakistan and later on covering the regions of Uzbek, Turkmen, and Tajik in the Soviet Union.

And from the American view point, this large spot colored in green on the map will become worse than Afghanistan that is colored in red.

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A technical committee from the air force, headed by air commodore; ‘Abbas Mirza along with three senior Pakistani air force officers was formed. They also rushed an American technical committee from Europe; consisting of six officers.

The committee’s opinion was; the airplane crew was immediately incapacitated using a chemical substance such as an instant effect nerve gas.

An autopsy should have been the deciding factor in this case; if it weren’t for the intervention of the secret guardian. The autopsy started actually in Bhawalpur military hospital, with the body of the American brigadier general Wassom; who was neither in the cockpit, were the gas was released, nor was he in the senior guests’ cabin adjacent to it. Therefore the autopsy did not result in anything and quickly, the instructions came to stop the autopsy for the rest of the bodies. The author said that; this decision was a shock because autopsy in such cases considered the normal thing.

The excuses to justify this were extremely clever. There are evidences that the bodies of the crew and the senior passengers, were in condition that allows autopsy; but they did

not allow Akhtar 'Abd-al-Rahman's family to see his body claiming that; it was completely shattered and nothing is left of it.

Thus and American official stated that; the bodies were not available for autopsy because the Muslim culture calls for burial within 24 hours. Though, that is true in ordinary cases but never happens in the army; besides the physicians and employees of the military hospital in Bhawalpur were ready to perform autopsy.

The author mentioned a strange observation that is; the investigations were technical and focused on the aircraft itself and the reasons causing its crash.

But the committee had no members to carry out a criminal investigation. In other words, there was no interest in finding the criminals as much as there was in freeing the American industry from accusations of negligence and preserving its promotional reputation.

Among the major discrepancies in the criminal investigation field, that was available in a nominal form, in spite of the enormous incident and the significance of those lost in it.

The author said: although they have handed out 31 death certificate; yet no actual head count has been performed for the number of bodies in the scene of accident or in the hospital. Therefore; the possibility that one of the passengers did not ride the plane in Bhawalpur, is a matter that can not be completely eliminated.

This behavior is unacceptable even in the less important incidents. They have issued death certificates to all the passengers based on the passengers' manifest from the airport and not the actual bodies present at the scene of the accident; who up till this day, no one knows of their actual number.

The gas used, says the author, it is certain that the airplane crash was selected as the way for killing because the chance of finding clues incriminating the criminals is very slim. Even if the authorities reach the conclusion that it is an act of sabotage. Besides, the use of an advanced nerve gas capable of killing four of the airplane crew simultaneously, indicates the involvement of, at least, one intelligence body; but the problem lies in the source of the gas, because it is most likely not available in Pakistan. But the KGB and the CIA can definitely obtain it and so ca both KHAD and the Indian Intelligence wing specialized in Pakistan. They can obtain it through their connection with Soviets; and if the conspirators are in the Pakistani Armed Forces, it is possible that the CIA had provided them with the gas.

The author did not mention strong suspicions about Pakistani Army militants being involved in the conspiracy to assassinate the president; were he says: Also the chance that the Pakistani Intelligence is involved is very strong and certainly at the level of junior officers and perhaps at the senior officers' level.

The KGB, The KHAD, and the Indian Intelligence can not prevent the autopsy of the body at the military hospital. Also, obtaining the president's flight schedule considered a simple thing for a militant; same as it is the case in avoiding security procedures at the airport and actually bringing gas into the plane.

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It is very likely that someone convinced Major General Dawrani, commander of the tank division, that the presence of Zia ul-Haq will increase the significance of the event;

besides, it is for the benefit of Dawrani, and it is quiet possible that his success in convincing Zia ul-Haq to go was out of good intentions.

Brigadier General Yusif points out that the plan was successful without any errors; except for the American ambassador and the American military attaché were killed in the accident. It was not expected that Zia ul-Haq will invite them to join him, few minutes before the trip. No doubt the conspirators were appalled by the death of the Americans. They certainly expected complete accurate success which will reveal their identity; yet, that never happened, and the last phase of this merciless terrorist act was the American cover up.

Here Brigadier General Yusif added; since Zia ul-Haq was traveling among human shields of his army general, as well as members of the American Embassy; especially the ambassador. Furthermore, he brought the ambassador and the military attaché with him in the plane, and it was logical that he takes them back with him on boards the same plane; they didn't have a private jet and it was neither appropriate nor safe in the security sense, to bring them with him and later leave them in Bhawalpur airport; which was a semi military airport. Therefore, the Americans decided to sacrifice their men for the sake of succeeding in killing Zia ul-Haq; who carefully tightened security around him and took unordinary security measures.

In this chapter, the Brigadier General says about this matter; no doubt the conspirators began feeling desperate when weeks have gone by and Zia ul-Haq has no desire to use his plane; besides, it was unlikely that the tanks show will interest him without a great deal of effort in convincing him.

Most likely, the tanks show occasion was used as a last resort; though the problem was to convince him without stirring his doubts.

It was evident that the Americans were convinced that, it is a one time opportunity and let the price be whatever it may be; even if it was the life of an ambassador and a military attaché.

This has imposed an extra effort on their behalf to cover up the crime, hide any trace of evidence, and cancel any procedure which might lead to the slightest hint to reveal the actual criminal; that is them.

Not for fear of the Pakistani people, God forbid, yet for fear of the American public opinion and the election polls.

The American people will not take lightly a matter of a serious sacrifice like this one; to kill an ambassador and military attaché, and on whose hands? on the hands of the American Intelligence itself. It was only logical at the time to impose more restrictions on the CIA and the ruling party will lose an election opportunity in the House of Senates and the presidential elections; which were approaching and which brought to the world, the Muslims, and the Arab Gulf countries in specific; the great leader, the mighty friend of the Kuwaiti people and the Arab people; George Bush, the Kuwait liberation hero, the destruction of Iraq hero, the occupation of the Arab Peninsula, and devouring the Arab oil for free.

The cover up of this crime was highly sensitive, and needed to have American friends at top levels in the Pakistani government to rely on them. The interim president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan who was the head of the Senate; has been a historically a friend of the United States, and after the general elections and the victory of Benazir Bhutto, who is not only a friend of the United States and the West, she is the worst enemy of Islam in the Indian

Subcontinent. Furthermore, she is the first one to benefit and desire the killing of Zia ul-Haq. Brigadier General Yusif says: with this it was evident that November's elections will be held on time.

And it is almost certain that the investigation will not reveal the military authority that had prevented the autopsy; besides the details of the conspiracy that must have taken place between the Pakistani Government and the American Embassy in Islamabad, will not be known.

Several months went by before the pressure by the American Congress and the State Department forced to allow three investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to go to Pakistan.

Same as Congressman Basil Malcolm put it; "at this late in time, will the Investigation Bureau be able to find out what happened in Pakistan?"

I don't know, but we want to know what happened at the State Department.

So, the investigation team began; but it was lacking enthusiasm to carry on its duty. It has been learned that they haven't asked anyone critical questions, and showed no interest in the investigation at the first contradicting statement about the bodies being burnt to the extent that prevented autopsy.

Since their agenda was prepared by Benazir Bhutto's government; they were interested in sightseeing more than the witnesses, and according to a source from the Washington Post Newspaper: They haven't left Islamabad except for going on tourist trips.

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Their behavior clearly showed that they were following instruction not to look into the subject.

Historical Interlocking:

History events interlock like series of links connected to each other. What happened last year has, for the most part, germinated inside a year that lapsed; and upcoming events are starting to form before our eyes in this current year. People vary in their ability to read the future based on series of past incidents, the future, and tiny seeds which form the future under the nose of the present. That's where mental abilities vary from the stand point of comprehension, interpretation, and then conclusion.

In the grand year of catastrophes, 1988, beginning of upcoming events that are neither less dangerous nor less tragic, were developing and some of it was deliberate or let us say that; the common frame of disasters that happened to us in Afghanistan, had been determined because of agreement by the super powers (America and the Soviets) and behind each one of them its own group of agents; while Jihad's manpower was isolated by killing, its morale power was isolated by digression and pressure imposed on its members, and its financial power was isolated by blockade.

The common framework of disasters was the infidel rule established by the super powers and we can summarize that framework by the rule of; "no Islamic government in Afghanistan."

Inside that common framework which was very well known to many people, came the inner details of it. Some of it was possible to monitor, some was not possible for many, and the rest was to a degree of complexity which no one can notice.

It was noticeable that the military and political support for the Mujahidin began to deteriorate irrationally since the signing of the Geneva Accord in April. It was preceded by the destruction of Awr weapons' storage followed by the killing of Zia ul-Haq, few months later.

What is needed was; forcing the Mujahidin to accept the international "will" that no Islamic rule in Afghanistan, and the worst case scenario would be; the presence of Islamic faces in a secular government containing various trends.

In return, the Soviet military aids to Kabul have increased in quality and quantity; from SCUD missiles, MiG-27 airplanes, and poisonous gases; which started to be used openly in the middle of complete international apathy.

At that time, I was expecting some type of curdling that would lead to a state of depression; which will disengage the opposition and keep Kabul as a communist government refined with various Islamic and secular trends. I had no doubt that Peshawar's parties are in collusion with this program.

I did not expect a big military defeat for the Mujahidin this year; which will lead to this solution quickly. But signs of Jalalabad's disaster began surfacing; yet, as a possible huge victory. Next to it emerged the city of Kandahar as well; rather as different victory plan that has been defeated; because it was purely local, on the hands of field Mujahidin. It was brutally squished, not just by Kabul government; but by Peshawar's parties. Topping the list, Hikmatiar's party; which described the reason for Kandahr's defeat as a conspiracy aiming at bringing king Zahi Shah back to power; as usual, it was untrue. Jalalabad's sky was becoming gradually cloudy during 1988 and soon enough, these scattered clouds joined together forming a huge black cloud sending its thunderbolts to burn the [UI] and the progeny in the worst disaster for the Mujahidin; the Afghans in general and the Arabs in particular, during the years of crisis.

A new political role for the Parties in Peshawar began emerging after the assassination of Zia ul-Haq. They moved to the arena prepared for them in the international quarters, and began negotiating with the Soviets. But a selected few predicted that these leaders will have an active role in working to prevent Islam from reaching government, or the apparent victory of Muslims in the battle field. They were involved, specifically in the second half of 1988 and until they entered Kabul, in series of conspiracies against their homeland, we don't say their religion, closely with the American supremacy mainly then the Soviets by some of them. Their efforts to get to power in any position or in any form of shape were frantic.

Many were not good at reading Ahmad Shah Mas'ud or "The Lion of Panjshir" as the West called him, and I was one of those. In 1988, there were hints that Mas'ud is the only one among the strong leaders inside who clearly knows the nature of his next role.

The clear vision, in addition to other qualifications, has helped him to be the most powerful man in Afghanistan; especially the period falling between Kabul conquer in 1992 and until the fall of Kabul in the hands of "Taliban" in October of 1996. In my opinion, Mas'ud is the most qualified among the Afghani men; though he is the least committed to values of any kind among them.

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Since the beginning of the Soviet withdrawal in May 15, 1988; an extensive retreat of the Afghani Army began. Many did not notice the dimensions of this political army operation which does not lack a professional charm; although it was not fully fortunate. Many times it was about to lead to military collapses and to a policy for the ruling regime that might destroy it; if it were not for the other party, the Mujahidin, who were not ready to take advantage of the opportunity. Kandahar was about to fall then Khowst, and the Mujahidin would have proceeded more than half way through Jalalabad. Though, all attempts failed and only in Jalalabad the operations have developed to the disaster level. While 1988 was about to end; the Soviets were in the rubbles of an unusual earthquake that hit their land in Armenia, and sadness got mixed with inefficiency in the shadow of the defeat; which comes into view despite the international decorations surrounding what took place in Afghanistan; in the midst of the exaggerated celebrations in Washington, for the appointment of its new president, George Bush. It was a contradictory view, yet rich in indications of what the future of the world would be, and that the leadership will no longer in pairs and the situation inherited by the Second World War, is actually over. So, let us briefly look at the interlocking points among the events of 1988 and the years that followed it; settling for the major points.

“Front Drive Withdrawal” is one of the funny terms of the American diplomacy; which is always fond of strange names that has a propaganda nature.

There are front wheel drive cars, rear wheel drive, and all wheel drive. The Americans insisted and Soviets submitted to; the first group to withdraw will be the largest group and the Soviet Forces will retreat before the beginning of August, and Geneva Accord was signed on the 14th of April.

Both American and Soviet presidents were going to meet in Moscow on the 29th of May; therefore, it was deemed appropriate that 20 to 30 thousand Soviet soldier will pull out of Afghanistan before that date; in order to calm the atmospheres.

As far as I am concerned; I have no doubt that the two men have discussed in that meeting the assassination of Zia ul-Haq, and the Americans assume the greater part of the responsibility since it is taking place within their land. Zia ul-Haq was initially Soviet, before he turned into an American, and because in return, the United States wants to verify that Soviets will not betray the Afghani agreement; certainly, half of the Soviet Army has to pull out of Afghanistan before they find out about their commitment to kill Zia ul-Haq.

All of that is normal in the sense of international politics; but Jalalabad was the first Afghani city which the Soviets has vacated, although it is the second city militarily and politically in the country; so isn't it logical not to begin taking risk with it?

Besides, if the withdrawal from it was some how delayed; was there a slight idea about the disaster which will be inflicted on the Mujahidin over there? In other words, was it a deliberate trap from the two super powers?

This something that no one talked about then; in spite of what a Western analyst had said when he talked about a possibility that is presented for discussion that is; the Soviet Forces and the Afghani Army will pull out of the city of Jalalabad leaving the opportunity to the seven Jihad organizations to prove their failure in the real world. A

fight will start among them and this way we prove to their people and the world that these organizations are incapable of running one city; therefore, the international solution consequently is most suitable to run the country; that is, an Islamic-Communist government where the Islamists are guests of honor or simply an extra.

This did not take place; though it confirms that there is thinking about an abortion operation of the Afghani Jihad, an operation that is in Jalalabad in particular.

We did not think of anything like that then; but that city remained the focus of the Western media for the remainder of that year. Although what happened in Kandahar at that time was more serious and more important, and we know that the Western media was shedding its lights through the American Embassy in Islamabad; so, did the embassy know anything special about Jalalabad? That is only another possibility; yet certainly, the first actual use of the new SCUD missiles was in Jalalabad. Thus the media coverage of November 4th reported between six to eight of these missiles have fallen on the Mujahidin sites in the municipality of Nangarhar; that is the Mujahidin sites at the outskirts of the defensive areas around Jalalabad the capital of that municipality. The Mujahidin have become very active lately in threatening these areas and capturing significant locations of them

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Torkham, the border post with Pakistan, tops the list of the most important international roads linking Kabul with the outside world, other than the Soviet Union.

The missiles continued falling on the Mujahidin sites in specific and the major threatened cities. General Sulayman, commander of the artillery force in Kabul Army, said in a statement to "The Red Star" newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Soviet Army; nearly thirty SCUD missiles were fired at the resistance sites in the mountains and at the Afghani-Pakistani border, in order to stop the shelling of Kabul.

The Mujahidin were firing at Kabul airport using Saqr missiles; which resulted in the death of ten pilots and injuring twenty others (news agencies 11/18)

Besides, Saqr missiles have caused the death of some individuals in Jalalabad and Gardez. The Afghani government retaliated by shelling border Pakistani villages with SCUD missiles. While its planes rushed to infiltrate the border and bomb Pakistani villages; though two of them were shot down and the pilots were imprisoned. (News agencies 11/4)

An information center in Peshawar stated that poison gas was used against Mujahidin sites in Nangarhar (around Jalalabad) by airplane bombs and SCUD missiles. (Agencies 11/22)

No one cared because the international media did not confirm this news which was true this time.

Therefore, the arena of Islamabad witnessed routine use of SCUD missiles and poison gas; which raise suspension about it being quietly prepared to become a group graveyard for Mujahidin, the thing that took place in the following year, 1989.

Before 1988's sun sets, the Mujahidin have seized more than 40 kilometers of the border post in Torkham in the direction of Jalalabad. Thus, they stopped about 15 kilometers away from the strategic area of Samarkhail; which had a strong protection and begins with an entry that can be tightly closed.

To the left, there is Samarkhail Mountain; it is high with rough terrain and considered the key to Jalalabad from its southern end. Opposite to it on the other side of the road, a group of low hills with pliable land; on top of it defensive posts were positioned in addition to the posts scattered along the road. As for Samarkhail Mountain itself, there has not been a single defensive post; in spite of the Afghani Army's reputation of not leaving one stone without placing a defensive post on it. So, what about this mountain; which no expert or non expert eye will make a mistake by not noticing that it controls everything around it; so, is it possible that this was only a mistake? The summit of Samarkhail can control about half way of to the road leading to Pakistan that is twisted in a flat valley underneath it.

As for the direction of Jalalabad, there is no other mountain that controls the road leading to the airport (about 15 km), then to city center (about 30 km). There is nothing but farms and rivers and no mountains on the way.

The fact that Samarkhail Mountain controls the southern entry to Jalalabad can only be mistaken by the blind. So, why didn't the Afghani Army concentrate, the Soviets still exist in the country in spite of the continuous retreat, why didn't they concentrate their defense on Samarkhail Mountain itself for a short period of time before they get kicked out by a governmental counter attack? So, the significance of the situation is clear, and continued to be severe for many months (until March of 1989) was all of that only a mistake? To say that; is a great risk which leaves only one thing to say; the Afghani Army (on behalf of the Soviets and their allies) had intended to pull the Afghani Mujahidin to what is called: murder square; that is a square where a sweeping amount of fire being concentrated on the enemy in a position that does not allow it to hide or adequately defend itself. The bottom edge of the square starts at Samarkhail Mountain, its upper edge is the first defense road of the city of Jalalabad, its right edge (for the Mujahidin) is Kabul river, and its left edge is twenty to thirty kilometers away from the river in a flat land with very little plants; semi desert like.

This is still an assumption that will be proven by a close powerful operation. But what is certain is; the mountain of Samarkhail was the focus of the coming battles of Jalalabad.

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Kandahar, the betrayed city

The organizations of Peshawar treated this brave city with unjust and disappointed it during the most critical times. Its declared crime is; it is the hometown of Zahir Shah, the last king and the mortal enemy of the Pakistani government.

The people of Kandahar act and believe in a special way and have a unique state of mind; therefore, they have their unique fighting style. They had pride that was close to arrogance. Furthermore, a feeling that naturally leads to disrespecting others; they have the capability to go all the way in everything they choose.

The good ones among them are saints, the bad ones are brothers or rather teachers of the damn devil, and the fighter he either attacks and nothing stops him but death or he stops and nothing stops him but death as well.

Those brave men took control of their city, at least twice, during the Jihad period. It was about to return to them one more time when the Soviet withdrawal was in its last third.

Even the Western sources warned about the possibility of Kandahar's fall in the hands of its Mujahidin, and said that this will be a serious hit to the government of Kabul.

It is not a secret that the people of Kandahar shared a mutual feeling of distrust and hidden hatred with the organizations of Peshawar. I have felt this personally when I visited the refugees' camps in Kuita for two days in the fall of the year 1988.

Most of them were from Kandahar. They told me point blank; we don't like Peshawar's organizations and we don't want them, we want King Zahir Shah. Then they struck a long comparison between the liberated areas and their conditions, and their conclusion was logical as well as clear and can not be mistaken; we don't want the leaders of Peshawar.

What many don't know is that, Kandahar's Mujahidin rarely have left their town; they remained until the end in control of certain sectors. For instance, they used to capture one side of its main road and shield in its old clay buildings; while the government soldiers shield in the buildings of the other side, and both sides exchange shots from heavy arms and RBG rockets or recoilless guns.

The major flaw in their area is its deficiency in mountain areas, and the very few which exist; are shallow, free standing, and can easily be surrounded and isolated.

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Moreover, the flat terrains connect it with Herat followed by Ghazni then Kabul without dangerous mountain obstructions; therefore, maintaining a city like this is, by no means, an easy task, if the enemy is the Soviet Army.

Thus, when most of the Soviets have left; the best thing is to seize Kandahar, it is even better for the Mujahidin if the Soviets revoke their withdrawal under these conditions that guarantee safe withdrawal for the Soviets with this intensification and escalation of the war in Afghanistan.

That is, briefly, a settlement which saves the Soviet blood and sheds more Afghani blood. If the "international wish" is for the Afghani war to continue; thus it is favorable to burn the Soviets along with us.

The important thing is that Kandahar is working hard during the month of October, the military forts became empty, and a semi internal clash has taken place; or rather a coup d'état as described by the government forces and Peshawar parties. The main role was for leader "Hikmatiar"; who moved his men and they opened the road for the military rescue heading from Herat to Kandahar. They were destroyed many times along the road until the rescue has arrived from the fundamentalist leader; who claimed that he rescued his homeland from a conspiracy to bring Zahir Shah back.

It was not certainly the case; rather it was a back stab, coming from Peshawar to the hearts of Kandahar's Mujahidin. What goes around comes around. The Mujahidin of Kandahar gave it back many times to Peshawar Parties on the hands of the Taliban Movement; who rushed like a storm from Kandahar towards Kabul and other regional capitals. In essence, this movement was a people's revolution against the deviation of the organization and the corruption; by which the common life, specifically in the country, was destroyed after assuming government in Kabul.

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Najiballah had more power than an average leader in the Arab World. He was ruthless, obsessed with power; knows that he can not stay in power except by fully relying on a super power.

Yet his misfortune made bid on the loosing Soviet horse; therefore he tried to submit his accreditation documents to the sparkling future revolution; but the United States did not accept his accreditation for unknown reasons. Because those like him have been accepted later and although he had taken all necessary procedures; perhaps his membership to the Islamic World System will qualify him. All it takes is for Washington to order King Fahed to open the doors of Kaaba for Najib; just like he opened them before for Benazir Bhutto and her alike.

In a mighty step to make the government, which was Marxist, an Islamic government; Najiballah threw a birthday party for Prophet Muhammad in Kabul. Representatives from 25 countries attended it; including the United States and the Soviet Union. In his historic speech, which he gave at the birthday, he took another significant step that is equally as serious; by establishing the Ministry of "Islamic affairs and Endowment" same as his brothers in the Arab World. With that; he ascended the Islamic ladder up to the fundamentalist level, and with unique courage, he announced Afghanistan; Islamic Country.

And in front of the conference [TN: The Islamic League Conference] he expressed his willingness to hold direct negotiations to stop the fight in Afghanistan; also, the negotiation place could be Mecca if the Saudi government agrees (Agencies 10/23). He was mistaken when he assumed that the Saudi rulers hold the keys to Mecca; the rulers who soon opened the doors, not for the diligent student but to the masters of the Kremlin, in order to hold what they called; negotiations between the Soviets and Peshawar's organizations.

The negotiations were held in Ta'if after a direct meeting in Islamabad between two representatives on the Peshawar Parties' side, which are led by Burhan-al-Din Rabbani, and two representatives from the Soviet Embassy on November 27.

Here, we point out that the government of Ahmad Shah has wilted; like a rose on its stem and the seven organizations went back to their favorite system, that is; take turns in heading the (Union) once every three months by each one of them.

The reason for including Saudi Arabia in this new event was to give it a character or rather a stamp: Certified Muslim. The Afghani leaders were embarrassed to face their people and the Muslim nations by sitting at the same table to negotiate; especially that, there is only one issue that is presented before them which is:

You are responsible for returning the Soviet prisoners in Afghanistan and you're damned if you do!! For there will be no room for you at the political spoils table; you are not trust worthy.

But those miserable ones added to that demand, after they reworded it in a deceiving diplomatic tone, they added imaginary item that have not been discussed, at least, with them; so their political role is much less than that. For example, Hikmatiar said; they will

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use the Soviet prisoners as a pressure card to force the Soviets to put war compensation (Agencies 6/19/1988)

Afterwards, the leaders of Peshawar claimed that they are working to have the negotiations include in addition to the prisoners issue, which they have said that they reuse to have the negotiations limited to that, the continual withdrawal of the Soviet Forces(!), the future of the government of Kabul, and the future relations between Kabul and the Soviet Union. The negotiations were resumed in Pakistan at the beginning of the following year and the outcome was one practical result, which is; handing the Soviet prisoners to their country without any restrictions; no war compensation, no maps of mines, and no participation in the United Nations' program to reconstruct Afghanistan; which are series of false promises that the Soviets have been alluding, that is not to point out the compensations which have not been mentioned by them at all. But some of the Afghani leaderships have flagged that issue for a short period of time until they received international instructions to shut up, and so they did.

While Rabbani is stirring the Afghani ship in order to save all Soviet prisoners on board, at no cost; just like he will do that many other times with other issues.

Thus, the Muslim Brother media in Peshawar sent a supply of expert journalists to support the leading Brotherhood trend in Afghanistan, and play their historic role in the major international matter after the Second World War.

In a new publication they have created and called the "Weekly Report" issued by Dar al-Jihad in Peshawar on 11/18/82 and titled: "Negotiations, one more time". We will note down the first part because it is sufficient, and the part says:

"The direct negotiations, which were held on 11/27 between the Mujahidin and the Soviets, considered a political success to the Mujahidin in all dimensions; even they were limited to discussing the prisoners' issue. It is considered a step which will be followed by many, and an unprecedented beginning in the history of wars between an aggressor super power and national resistance. Though, for the purpose of jogging your memory and not comparing, long negotiations has taken place in Paris between an American delegation and another one representing the government of North Vietnam during the American involvement in Vietnam; no representative from the Communist National Liberation Front Vietcong, participated in it and it ended by the complete withdrawal of Americans from Vietnam.

A small part though it needs a long comment. It is enough that the Brotherhood leaders are full partner in the Afghani crime. So it is not strange that they have practiced dishonesty and deception for the benefit of their boys there and up to the last minute.

The role of the Brotherhood will continue as long as there are super powers that want to subjugate Muslims anywhere. Truly, they have guaranteed themselves a place under the sun in the shadow of the new world order; just like it was in the old power, but for how long??

The Future Business
Rabbani and Mas'ud

Rabbani was extremely active during the period when he headed the Union of Peshawar Organizations. He revealed his connections with representatives of the United Nations and took a trip to The United States to shake hands with two of the White House Presidents in one trip; Reagan, who spent two terms in office during which the Afghani Jihad became flourished, until it reached its apex and from there began falling down and

George Bush; the coming President who will adhere to any Islamic gain in Afghanistan; though he had pledged to Rabbani to lean towards the resistance side and defense of Afghanistan, free politics similar to the one produced by his predecessor.

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Afterwards, Rabbani began the first direct negotiations with the Soviets, not for any reason except to hand them an easy spoil; their prisoners in Afghanistan, or rather; the last pressure card that he could have used against them in order to pay war compensations.

From this point on, Rabbani will prove through his political activity, that he is unique when it comes to presenting compromise at no cost; only for establishing his presidential position, and nothing else.

While Rabbani assumed the foreign political effort, from the beginning, he let his brother-in-law Mas'ud become powerful in Northern Afghanistan. And if we weren't able to see that or comprehend it, the American "Time magazine was able to point out the sensitive areas (See al-Bayan Newspaper – Dubai, October 12)

The American newspaper says: "It seems like the conflict is coming to an end. It is not only necessary for the Afghani Rebels to amend their military tactics to bring down the military government in Kabul; it also became required to sit down and decide which of the Afghani groups will have the final word and control matters in Kabul. It seems as if Mas'ud has made a decision in that regard and determined that the main role of the post war government will be in the hands of al-Jam'iyyat al-Islamiyyat."

In another more important part, the Time says: "The decrease of intense attacks on the convoys and the Soviet bases near Panjshir recently; it made some of those observers believe that perhaps Mas'ud had reached an agreement with Soviets allowing the Soviet troops to pull out without being subject to harm by the rebels. But Mas'ud denied these allegations by what is more perseverance and significance than firing few shots at the retreating Soviet Troops that is; getting ready for next spring battles."

Sure enough, the events of the following years proved:

- Rabbani and "al-Jam'iyyat al-Islamiyyat" decided to have the upper hand in Afghanistan, and he must have had an outside support for that. Certainly, the Soviets have provided him with such support; that was evident up until conquer of Kabul in April of 1992.

While Pakistan have granted, back ago, Hikmatiar and Hizb Asami which belongs to him; complete authority to be in the top government locations or to be among the first to compete for it.

Most likely the United States has approved of his segregation and to have it be the center of a long term civil war. Which is what happened right after the conquer, and for four and a half long years; until the Taliban Movement took control of Kabul and destroyed the old equation of the civil words, that is; the Party and Jam'iyyat equation., or Hikmatiar verses Rabbani and Mas'ud equation.

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The Year of the Great Withdrawals

Also, 1988 was the year of the great withdrawals; the Soviets pulled back their Red Army, while the Afghani Army was not in its best of condition. The worst it was dealing with is the significant low morale among its soldiers; in addition to that, the ratio of new non partisan officers which began creeping up. So, the communist officers' vicious fighting skills have declined; those officers who have fought ferociously in the early years of the war, most of them have died and the few who remained have taken on middle and high positions in the army. Thus the front lines became full of officers who know nothing but to do their job in fear of the brutality of their higher commanders. The commander who is, in turn, scared of the soldiers under him; who are waiting for the opportunity to kill him, escape to the Mujahidin, and soon enough reach their villages once again.

A soldier who has been forced to join the army carry a weapon, perhaps with no training that is worth mentioning, is scared of his immediate officer; he might kill him over the slightest mistake. He is scared of the militia soldiers who are constantly stand behind him; for they might hit him in the back if he attempts to escape. He is scared of just walking around his site for fear of the circular mine fields; which were planted in particular to prevent him from escaping.

The condition of internal fear was destroying the army and exhausting its strength not to mention the risk of the war itself.

With the Soviet withdrawal, a new element emerged that increased the army's lack of cohesiveness; that element is the growing uncertainty about the possibility to win the war, and that they will not succeed in what Soviets failed to achieve.

Besides, if they loose the way, what will happen to the? if the new weapons succeed and the efforts of the government of Kabul, will the agreement with the Mujahidin and establishing a new joint government, will it cancel the tribal revenge files; when the war had killed more than half a million citizen, at least.

Revenge does not die in Afghanistan even if its holder dies, there will be someone who will inherit it and act upon it.

Even the army leaderships themselves have given up on achieving military victory, and have great doubts about their personal future; even in the shadow of a political settlement with Mujahidin.

In the shadow of that depressed morale, the Soviet withdrawal took place accompanied by the governmental army; it has military goals as well as political goals.

Militarily, the army was required to achieve the new security theory of the government; which aims at:

1. Maintain the major cities and prevent the Mujahidin from seizing any of them.
2. Annihilating the Mujahidin forces at the cities' gates and inflict upon them as many casualties as possible; in a way that will eventually force them to accept the political settlement while they are in a weak position.

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3. Employing the new weapons; SCUD missiles, MiG – 27, Cluster Bombs, and Poison Gas in destroying the infrastructure of Mujahidin and their groupings in the liberated

area; for the purpose of weakening their military forces on one hand, and preventing them from establishing administrative and civil bases of value, on the other hand.

Finally, scaring them of becoming wiped out in case they enter a city by force. This way, they will be morally and financially inhibited to think of breaking through any of the major cities.

This was the theory of “the Afghani government security” after the Soviet withdrawal as illustrated by the events during the following years.

As for the political aspects, which the withdrawal was careful to carry out, they were smarter and wiser and that is due to the quality of the Afghani reality.

It achieved a reasonable deal of success; in some cases, the success was great; if it weren't for the army's bad situation morally and the military discipline; the government shaky image, and the shaky confidence in its power and continuity; the withdrawal would have been successful in achieving what the huge expedition failed to achieve.

It was evident that the political purpose of that withdrawal; was to give the Mujahidin an opportunity to fail. Failure here means; political failure and the inability to manage the liberated areas as well as, giving the chance for all the flaws inside the structure of the armed organizations, which have been predominated by a wave of Jihad and excitement in fighting against the Soviets, to surface.

Thus, it was necessary to give them a land and time in order to reveal how bad they are and to self destruct their makeup and people will stay away from them.

Of course, the government of Kabul did not sit on its hands waiting for the results of the experiment; but it has always been an active state, directing, and making news.

Before performing the withdrawal, it was preparing for it for a long time; among the armed groups surrounding the areas it is planning on pulling back from them, and carrying out secret negotiations with everyone of them; promising each one that it will leave the locations and the weapons for them as well as handing over everything to them, so each one of them will get prepared to get huge spoils.

At other occasions, the government will create alliance among more than one party then it will create an adversary alliance with other parties; each of these alliances is promised to receive everything, and the retreating forces will not take everything with them. These forces will leave behind; weapons, military equipment, heavy equipment and such. These materials will be the subject of the armed conflict among the Mujahidin.

The Afghani army has evacuated large area of land this year, and the withdrawal was preplanned. Yet, fighting incidents and shootings at the retreating forces had taken place; which caused them many casualties. But these are attacks which have not been planned and are not intended for, most of the time. Rather, to declare the beginning of the fight over the spoils to obtain more of the retreating forces' armors.

The Soviet Authorities were working on achieving three results as the outcome of the withdrawal, and they have attained them at various levels of success.

1. Instigating a domestic conflict among the Mujahidin groups over splitting the spoils, or forcing power and influence over the liberated lands.
 2. Lifting the barriers and encouraging the movement among the liberated areas and the big cities which the government is controlling; which created great opportunities to break the law and spy on the government. In addition to settling the old ideological hostility between the Muslims and the Communists.
- Furthermore, Give an opportunity to the people to compare between; stability,

order, and security in the government areas and disorder, fighting, and insecurity in the liberated areas.

At any rate, the situation in the south of the country is much better than the north; which was humiliating. Thus it has been prepared for political and racial settlement, and Mas'ud was the most receptive and the most prepared for that program.

This fact was reported by the American "Time" magazine, through what was cited from one of his aids; about what we have mentioned a bit ago, which is; there is preparedness for the spring battles. They were not battles against the government army; rather, to disinfest the north from any powerful leaders of other parties and Islami Hikmatiar party in particular; also, to weaken the power of the Pashton by eliminating their powerful leaders and remove them from sensitive military locations.

The Afghani army was running a strategic withdrawal and wagering the political developments, internationally and domestically, on the inside. It has to invest in the mistakes of the Mujahidin initially; internationally it was supposed to invest in the positive aspects. As for the Afghani Army, the

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International position (American-Soviet); which is certainly a clear position at its most, to Najiballah more than it is for the leaders of the confused organizations; otherwise, Najiballah would have not attained "survival hero" title by the international media.

The survival hero knew that the world lords will end the Afghani war without winners or losers; better yet, the defeat of both parties, the same way that the first Gulf War between Iraq and Iran had ended in the summer of the same year.

Yet, it is still required that the international war in Afghanistan will continue; in order to inflict the most destruction possible in the economic infrastructure and the human base; in way which makes it hard or impossible to establish any independent political structure or quasi government in that part of the world.

That kind of foolish destruction is capable of changing the religious convictions and the Jihad principle with lack of trust in establishing an Islamic solution to the country's problems; political, social, and economic. Thus, Afghanistan will become a permanent ground for foreign influence and its various effects; perhaps settling their accounts and hostilities on its ground, just like how Lebanon was at one time.

That picture is not sad in Najiballah's eye; as long as it leaves a fairly good room for maneuver and survival for an unlimited. He does not lack skill, but he is definitely in need for a reasonable amount of good luck and parental prayers.

End of Year:

Mourning in Moscow

Carnival in Washington

The sun of glory and power was setting down in the sky of Moscow, perhaps for the last time or forever, but few in the world could have a handle on this, its causes and results.... or have prepared themselves based on that; of course, they were not among those; although a passing look at the page in the month of December, was enough to realize that.

The day in which the newspapers reported the news of the earthquake that hit Armenia; it was among the strongest earthquakes in the region in terms of the extent of destruction and casualties.

Even the Soviet President promised to carry out a reconstruction program for the amount of eight billion dollars.

The crisis revealed the faults of a falling regime; a French expert from the European groups that have come to the area, to help in the rescue; excludes the possibility of finding many alive under the rubbles, because of the delay in operations during the early days. He also found that the type of cement in the destroyed buildings; are the reason for the fall of such an enormous number of

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victims. He explained that the cement had broken, this time, to boards with rescue pockets forming underneath them; but the cement broke into small pieces and wiped everything.

As for the Jewish millionaire, "Arnold Hammer" who achieved the successful secret diplomatic missions during Geneva Accord particular to Afghanistan.

He became famous for being the invisible hero who designed the International resolution to the Afghani crisis. Now, he is extending the Jewish aid hand to the Soviet Union during the earthquake crisis; by sending an airplane carrying medical aids along with one million dollar in cash. Besides, Israel which was among those benefiting the most from the fall of the Soviet Union had sent two military airplanes carrying 7 tons of medical aids; the Soviets have opposed to its quality. The planes went back again and brought the kind of aid required.

al-Khalij Newspaper 12/23/1988

In Washington, President Reagan and his wife headed to the Soviet embassy to offer their condolences. In addition, members of the Armenian Community collected a sum of 3 million dollars; in a campaign that lasted six hours, in Los Angeles.

On the same day of which the press agencies reported the previous news about the Soviet disaster (December 13), their stations were airing the details of President George Bush's inauguration celebrations for assuming office in the United States the following month. They stated that; they will be unprecedented celebrations since the appointment of its first president, two hundred years ago. Therefore, huge amounts of money will be spent to cover the expenses of these celebrations.

Router news agency stated in its report; During Bush's inauguration celebration, the capital will witness musical parades, horse shows, and big movie stars as well as thousands of guests will participate in the celebrations; which will last for many days until the inauguration day on January 20th where they will reach their peak.

The inauguration committee officials say; they have prepared between 20 to 25 millions as a special budget to cover the celebration expenses.

They expect the western wing of the Capitol to be crowded with 150 thousands to watch Bush's inauguration and his Vice President; Quayle.

The officials are collecting loans with no interest; which will be paid from the proceeds of the inauguration celebrations tickets' sales, and from individual contributions of a hundred thousand dollars minimum.

Furthermore, the preparations for the inauguration celebrations have triggered the criticism of those keen for the American values.

The ticket price for a couple reached three thousand dollars; where they eat fancy dinner at Union Station on the 18th of the next month.

Tickets for watching the musical bands' shows and the cowboys and the Red Indians shows, in the Front rows of Pennsylvania Avenue; will be sold for hundred dollars.

Besides, there are cheaper seats that do not exceed 12.5 dollars.

To participate in the eight ball parties, the ticket will cost 175 dollars per person; whereas a person with connections will pay thirty dollars only.

al-Khalij newspaper 12/23/88

This is how Moscow was; trying to bandage the wounds which it lost control over them; until the earthquake brought on another unexpected disaster. So, it is bidding farewell to a year that passed and welcome a new year when the government is at its worst state locally and abroad.

As for Washington, just like we see, it is getting gloated and having noisy festivities during the universal glory celebrations and the inauguration of a new "Caesar" to the White House. He brought to his country what puts it at the top of the world without a competitor; not even in the short run.

He brought his country a fortified victory which destroyed the competitive Soviet country; a victory which was achieved by the Afghani Muslims.

Also he brought it the largest oil reserve in the world, which is the one that exists in the Muslim lands of the Arab Peninsula, and he put it under the feet of his country soldiers in an unprecedented loud international celebration, as well; just like his inauguration celebrations in Washington. He gave this stage show the name of; The Love for the Freedom of Kuwait.

Then he took control of the keys to the Arab region and handed them to Israel with all of their wealth, their people, their rulers, and their armies; in order for Israel to be an undisputed regional super power.

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And to become greater than the Greater Israel claimed in their holy books. Thus, in order to assure the Jews that they have two homelands in their superiority age; the first one is in the Arab land and that is Israel, and the other one is in the new world order and that is the United States of America.

Thursday, December 30, 1988:

We arrived in Miranshah coming from Peshawar, with me were; Abu-Hafas, Sabir the Sa'idi [TN: Sa'idi is someone who is from Upper Egypt], and an Algerian young man. We went to our old house next to the hospital, and next to it was the other house; which 'Abd-al-Rahman's family has settled in. The family consisted of his wife, her elderly father, her older son Ibrahim; who is less than two years in age, and her other son 'Abd-

al-Rahim; who was born shortly after his father's death. Their house was engulfed with silence and misery.

I was exhausted, so I slept until the time for the evening prayer; while Abu-Hafas went to meet Abu-'Abdallah (Usama), then they went together on tour of Haqqni's Ghowr Base and Hikmatiar's Jihad Wal Base which is south east of Awr.

A group of Arab young men have arrived. They were on their way to visit Haqqani in his house; after he returned from inside Afghanistan, two days earlier. He left Miranshah last July heading towards Sirana, at the same time we were heading to Shahi Kut.

But I refused to go with them because it was not the right time; besides, I will not be able to talk to him freely.

Friday, December 31, 1988:

In the morning, I went to visit 'Abd-al-Rahman's grave. I sat there for a long time with the square surrounded by stones; where his tomb is, as well as tombs of old friends; who were among the pure pillars of Jihad. There was both Sheikh Ahmad Jul and Sheikh Fathallah Haqqani. Few steps away from that blessed cluster, there was the tomb of an old friend "Shakrin"; who was martyred in Lijjat in 1982, and which is distinguished by a large number of flags raised on long bamboo sticks. One of them has what looks like a fan from the type hung in the ceiling of houses; therefore they can be distinguished from a long distance in spite of the crowded flags and the bamboo sticks around the tombs of the martyrs which constitute the majority of the tombs in the area.

Haqqani was in a meeting with Pakita's commandoes, during that day; though he asked about me and looked for me, but he didn't find me. Ja'far the Egyptian had told about that. The meeting was in one of the offices that belong to Haqqani near the Arab house. I stayed there until the evening prayer time and after the prayer, I found Haqqani and his deputy; Nizam-al-Din, behind me. Haqqani shook my hand with a friendly welcome and he took me to his house in his car which was a "Range Rover". He was suffering from a bad cold and a headache, but he was energetic and brisk.

Haqqani took us inside to a new addition consisting of a huge room with a small room attached to it; in it there are two neat beds with a small water closet attached to it. The entire addition has a big garden with two gates to the outside; one of them leads to the kitchen and the guards' room.

Haqqani told me; he took a permit for this expansion for the purpose of building an addition dedicated for the senior guests who don't like to mix with others; especially those collaborators with the Pakistani government. Some of them have arrived in Miranshah in helicopter, in order to talk to him after his long absence in Afghanistan; which was for the purpose of eradicating the riots of a group of the tribes' men who have sworn in to the government of Kabul, after they have received arms and money from them.

I talked to him for an extended period of time and he informed me of the development of the crisis saying; Zadran area is in good shape, and those who are dealing with the government do not exceed two hundred people, and they have been punished and some of them were imprisoned in Awr and area is calm now.

As for Zurmat, the people there have suspended Jihad and they go to the city of Gardez and there has to be a senior leader with them; because the government is trying to deceive

them and buy time. So they call the insignificant leaders and talk to them about its desire to hand over to them and not the others; this way greed and dissension take place. A small Ta'mir city was established; that stretches from the Ta'mir area west of Gardez, about 35 kilometers away. And this way many have been established with government connections.

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The army force in Gardez is insignificant and their number is about one thousand five hundred soldiers and number of the militia soldiers. They suffer from lack of fuel and coal which used to come from Russia through Kabul; in addition to fuel and ammunition crisis, the city is besieged and in a worse condition than Khowst.

Today's meeting with the Bedouin commandoes, the kutchi, to establish a big program against the city of Khowst; a semi break through. Sheikh Haqqani said that Khowst's militias are strong and are fighting with enthusiasm contrary to Gardez militias, who are not very comfortable in dealing with government.

As for the recent conquerors; in Argon, Ta'mir, and others, Haqqani has bought huge quantities from them; what is equivalent to 19 million Pakistani rebels, consisting of ammunitions, artillery and radars. He said that; this is a future reserve that we store in Zadrán, Naka, and Baghr (at Paktika's border with Pakistan).

Then I talked to him about our idea of destroying Zadrán's road and exploding the bridges along it; when we have learned of a government expedition to break through it again. He taught me a lesson which I will never forget when he said: "we are trying to fix the road, not destroy it, so the people can use it and so do the Mujahidin. Besides, defending the road is dependant on the people's morale and not the shape the road is in, whether it is sound or destroyed."

As for the political situation, he said that he didn't receive a lot of information; but he concluded that Pakistan will agree with Pakistan on Zahir Shah's coming. Then he surprised with his civil attitude from the expanded government principle; which does not include prominent communists to prevent a fight with the Afghans and the refugees will return. Also, the Russians will have reason to intervene again in the event that the country fell into disorder.

I was not very pleased with the opinion but I did not comment on it to give myself more time to think. If this is what Haqqani is saying, then certainly weak elements, greater than I have expected, have negatively influenced the Mujahidin's attitude. I was better for me to look for the developments of the attitude instead of getting into an argument that will sound like a bidding with Haqqani; whom I see no chance in outbidding him.

They brought us the last dinner for 1988; it was made of leftovers from lunch with honey from the bees of Zadrán Mountains, which has a wax consistency and white in color, in addition to Dough; which is skim milk.

At the beginning of the meeting, before our lengthy conversation, Sheikh Haqqani extended his condolences to me for the death of my son, Khalid. He said that he had heard of just recently, that great disaster, according to him.

I told him that; Khalid and 'Abd-al-Rahman have martyrdom with a short period of time from each other, and I wish I were with them, but martyr is fate and luck.

Haqqani looked me right in the eye and said: “May God benefit the Muslims through you, and the Hadith says; the best among us is one who lives longer and does good deeds”

Then he asked about my willingness to work in his Arabic magazine; which he is planning on issuing. I told him: I am ready. We put off the discussion of the details to a later time. I told him to ask for me through the Arab House; if he needed me for any matter. Because, I will leave in the morning with the Arab brothers to go to Jihad Wal Camp; then I said good-bye to and left. This was my last meeting with him for that year. I considered that a good ending for that year; Haqqani has a unique place in my heart which made him among the most significant personalities in my life. Perhaps, the most significant personality at all and the most effective; my life has even changed after I met him, in a way that enables me to say: the divider between two phases; pre-Haqqani phase and the post knowing Haqqani and starting Jihad with him phase.

It has been published, and Thank God the Lord of the Universe.