

State and National

Afghanistan withdrawal difficult to monitor

By **BOB LUKEFAHR**
Staff Writer

The withdrawal of Soviet military forces from Afghanistan is continuing slowly as an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 troops left the country last month.

Under a United Nations-sponsored agreement from April 14, the Soviet Union is obligated to withdraw at least half of its 115,000 man force by Aug. 15 and have the remainder out of the country by Feb. 15, 1989.

Some Soviet experts have expressed doubts about meeting the Aug. 15 deadline, but a State Department official who asked not to be identified said: "From what we've seen it's still possible to meet that goal. We don't see any cause for alarm at this time."

The United Nations has 50 observers in the area to monitor the withdrawal according to the agreement, but the 900-mile border

News Analysis

between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union makes effective verification difficult.

"It is unclear how many were withdrawn when the first group went over the border," said James Phillips of the Heritage Foundation, a think tank based in Washington, D.C.

The U.N. verification team of 50 is too small to be effective, said Robert Rupen, a UNC political science professor.

"There's no question that (the team) is token," he said, leaving other countries to rely on Soviet information about the speed of withdrawal.

It is almost certain that the fighting between the Soviet-backed Communist government and the U.S. supported Mujahadeen rebels will continue after the Soviets are gone.

"We believe it is inevitable that the Kabul regime will fall. What they (the Communist government) were unable to do with 115,000 troops, they won't be able to do alone," the State Department official said.

"They (the Afghan people) want the Communists out and the Russians out," Rupen said, adding that any compromise is unlikely. "They are not ready to make a deal. I don't think there is likely to be a unified government."

The Afghan government has been fortifying the city of Kabul, which — according to the State Department — has three rings of defense extending 20 miles from downtown. About 22,000 Soviet troops man the defense.

Phillips noted that the government has laid thousands of land mines around the city, serving to keep the Mujahadeen out and the army in.

The Afghan army, numbering between 30,000 and 40,000 soldiers, has been plagued with problems. "Force levels are maintained mostly by press-gang conscription," the March State Department Bulletin noted.

"It's been a disaster," Rupen said. "They did not form the type of army they needed . . . it is indeed falling apart."

"The Afghan army is not a major factor, but the secret police will fight — maybe not to the last man, but they are dependable," Phillips said. He estimated there were at least 20,000 members of the secret police concentrated in Kabul. "They (the rebels) may besiege the city, but I don't think they will be able to take it," he said.

The Mujahadeen rebels are a coalition of seven groups based in

Pakistan and Iran. Analysts expressed concern that differences between the various rebel groups may prolong the war. "If the Soviets do withdraw, since they are the glue that holds them (the Mujahadeen) together, there is a good chance the coalition will fray," Phillips said. "Once the Kabul government falls, there is a chance there will be further fighting (between the rebels)."

For now, the Mujahadeen generally are avoiding direct confrontation with the withdrawing Soviet troops. "They (the rebel attacks) are mainly concentrated on areas from which the Soviets have already withdrawn," the State Department official said.

If these trends continue, the civil war between the rebels and the government in Kabul should escalate early next year, after the withdrawal is complete, but "nobody knows what's going to happen," Rupen said.

from page 1

Police

"I want personnel to know there is a grievance procedure available," Gunnells said, noting that the problem was a lack of time for review.

The changes in duties involved no pay increase or change in job classification for the eight officers, Gunnells said in a statement he prepared for the hearing.

Herman was advised that turning in hearing materials to University officials on June 6 or 7 did not allow a sufficient amount of time to review them and prepare for a June 8 hearing, Gunnells said.

Herman said he had not spoken to anyone concerning the cancellation until June 7 when one of his clients

called him. He said he had spoken to an employee at the Employee Relations Division, but the employee told him that he was unsure if the hearing would be take place.

Although the University did not receive the material in written form until June 3, it had plenty of time to understand the issues because it has known about them since June 1987, Herman added.

Herman declined to make any further comments about the issue.

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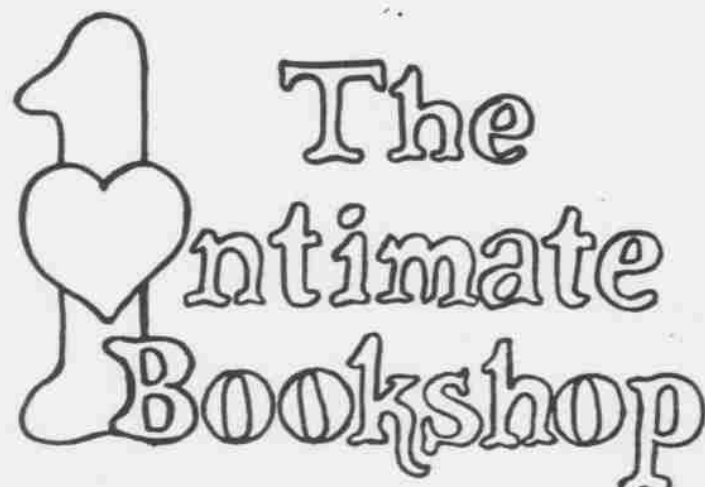
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