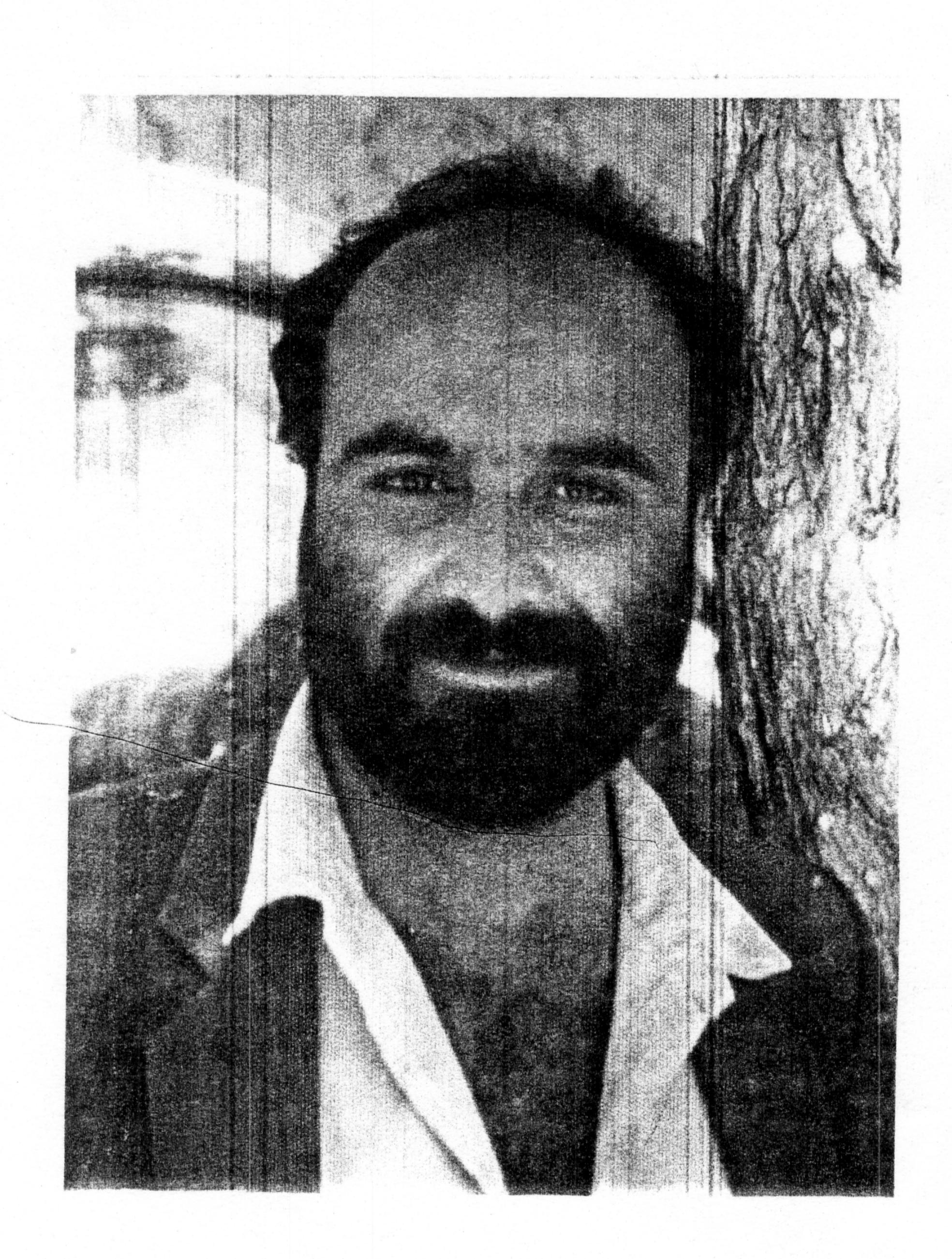


Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)

MONTHLY REPORT

March April May

1992





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SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF MARTYRED ENG. MOHAMMAD ASLAM (SAHAK)

Martyred Engineer Mohammad Aslam, son of Abubakar, was born in an Islamic family in Paghaman District, Kabul Province.

He received his bachelor degree from the Ibni Seena-i-Balkhi High School in 1977. Then he got admission to the Poly Technique Institute for further studies, but because of his opposition to the Soviet invasion and to the puppet regime, he joined the Mujahedin.

Mohammad Aslam, after leaving for Pakistan, joined in the service of the Mujahedin parties and later foreign organizations, to serve Afghanistan and it's people.

He started his service with the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee in May 1990. Mohammad Aslam as an Islamic young man, truthful and loving his country, took active steps in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

May 16. 1992 he was the leader of a team of field workers from the Norwegian Committee in the Sharan District, Paktika Province, when the car he drove hit a mine which killed Engineer Mohammad Aslam instantly.

He leaves behind wife and one child.

INFORMATION

Today the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) received the sad news of a mine accident involving one of our Afghan field teams. The incident occured in the Sharan area of Paktika province, Afghanistan, early in the morning of Saturday 16th May.

The six man team was driving back from a village, where a karez program was being implemented. The car hit a landmine in the road. The team leader, Engineer Mohammad Aslam, who was the driver of the car, was killed instantly. Three others were wounded. They were all brought to the ICRC Hospital for Afghan War Wounded in Peshawar. They have no serious injuries.

Eng. Mohammad Aslam had worked with NAC for more than two years. He leaves behind a wife and a newborn child.

This team left Peshawar for Sharan on Tuesday 12 May. Some took their families with them to start refugee repatriation and rehabilitation work on a permanent basis in this area.

The NAC is deeply shocked by this incident. The Committee has suffered the sore loss of both a valued and dear friend and a dedicated and active Field Office Manager. The Committee extends its heart felt condolences to Eng. Aslam's family.

Arne Strand Chairman of Board Norwegian Afghanistan Committee.

Peshawar, 17/5/92.

REPORT MONITORING Ahrmad strateg-Afghan southern main His attacks by capital Kabul ome groups. the the over ic military positions miles from Kabul on highway leading to the same of from other Mujahideen forces have taken of the reinforcements reports -Masood approaches military protect 20: capital, Shah

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Meanwhile more details were today available about the fall of key city of Kandhar, south west of the capital Kabul to a Mujal are taking steps to en-e is no looting. The city he time the home of the the of Afghanistan but has issued a new ceasefire of political, ethnic and commander tribal groups. The new authorities have issued a new ceasefire ac years peacefully with control was Reports military coalition. King of Ass. Jo change at one complishe and agreeing council hideen been city was the ex

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-THE JEWS

Mujahideen announce interim government

Hekmatyar, Hezb-i-Wahdat alliance stay away; 50-member council to take over in 2 days

From Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: Afghan Mujahideen leaders announced here Friday night that they had reached agreement on the formation of an interim government that would take over from the Kabul regime in the next few days.

Mujahideen leaders Prof Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, Prof Abdur Rab Rasul Sayyaf and Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani told a news conference that the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan would fulfil the aspirations of the Afghan people and lead to the restoration of peace.

Hezb-i-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and leaders of the Iran-based Hezb-i-Wahdat party, which have

voiced reservations about the agreement, were conspicuous by their absence. Maulvi Yunis Khalis, head of his own faction of Hezb-i-Islami, was represented on the occasion by Maulvi Najmuddin. His party has already signed the agreement.

Contrary to expectations, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif didn't make the announcement. He however did come to the Darbar Hall of the Governor's House Peshawar where the press conference was staged to meet and embrace the Mujahideen leaders in presence of the media people. Chief of Army Staff Gen. Asif Nawaz, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddique Kanjo, ISI chief

Continued on Page 5



Afghan General Babajan (L) embraces a Mujahideen commander on Friday who brought 1,000 of his troops into the Afghan capital late on Thursday to defend against a possible attack from the south.—AFP photo

Mujahideen agree on Afghan interim govt

Continued from Page 1

Lt. Gen. Javed Nasir, NWFP Governor and Chief Minister and other Pakistan government officials accompanied him. The Prime Minister later left for Islamabad.

Outlining the complex agreement worked out by the Mujahideen leaders over the past nine days with help and guidance from Pakistan, Iran and Saudi government officials and other well-wishers, Prof. Sayyaf said that a 50-member commission led by Prof. Mojadeddi would leave for Kabul within the next two days to oversee the transfer of power in Kabul. He said Prof. Mojadeddi would function as the head of state for two months while the 50-member commission would assist him in running the affairs of the country. The commission would include 30 Mujahideen commanders, ten Ulema, and ten persons to be nominated by the ten major Mujahideen parties.

Prof. Sayyaf explained that the commission after accomplishing its task of transfer of power within two months would be converted into an interim Islamic council to exist alongside the Mujahideen government.

A Mujahideen government led by Jamiati-Islami chief Prof. Rabbani would come into being after this two-month period and last for four months. Prof. Rabbani, who would be the President, would als head the Supreme Leadership Council to oversee the working of the government.

Prof. Sayyaf made it clear that no party head would be included in the Mujahideen government as all parties had agreed to recommend one of their nominee to the cabinet positions.

According to the agreement, a nominee of Hezb-i-Islami (Hikmatyar) would be the prime minister in the interim government. There would be three deputy prime ministers to be named by Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis). Pir Sayed Ahmad Gillan's NIFA, and Prof. Sayyaf's Ittehad-i-Islami. These deputy premiers would also hold the education portfolio in case of Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) nominee, interior in case of Prof. Sayyaf's party, and foreign affairs in case of Pir Gillani's party.

Prof. Sayyaf announced that the minister of defence would be named by Jamiat-i-Islami. At this juncture, Prof. Rabbani disclosed that his party had chosen commander Ahmad Shah Masood for the iob.

Earlier, Prof. Sayyaf had informed that his party (Ittehad-i-Islami) was recommending Engineer Ahmad Shah for the post of deputy prime minister and interior minister.

It was also announced that the minister of justice/chief justice would go to a nominee of the Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi's Harkati-Inquilab-e-Islami.

According to Prof. Sayyaf, the whole process of transfer of power and installation of an interim government would be over in six months.

Ghali aims at national reconciliation on Afghanitan

UN Secretary General to meet PM, President today; Hekmatyar, Rabbani to attend talks

By Anwar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali who arrived here Friday for talks on Afghanistan said he wanted national reconciliation in that war ravaged country.

"I have come here for discussions and negotiations with your Prime Minister and the foreign minister concerning Pakistan's role in UN (Peace Plan) and the assistance Pakistan can provide to the United Nations in our efforts to achieve a national reconciliation in Afghanistan," he told reporters of the official media and news agencies allowed to speak to him inside the VIP lounge of the Islamabad airport.

No other Pakistani or foreign media representatives were allowed inside the lounge and Ghali walked out of the lounge only after answering one question about the purpose of his visit.

Benon Sevan, his special envoy for Afghanistan, also came with him from New Delhi. Sevan, who came to Islamabad Thursday from Kabul, flew to the Indian capital Friday

morning to brief to brief his boss on the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Ghali, who was also scheduled to visit Peshawar to meet Mujahideen leaders has cancelled his trip to the city. He was also to visit a camp of the Afghan refugees in North West Frontier Province.

The UN sources, while confirming that the Secretary General had cancelled his visit to Peshawar, said he may now meet the Mujahideen leaders in Islamabad.

The sources said that Pakistan government was already making arrangements for bringing the leaders to Islamabad.

Ghali will spend Friday evening discussing the Afghan situation with his special envoy Benon Sevan in Islamabad, the UN sources said.

According to the earlier programme, he begins his official engagements in Pakistan with a high-level meeting at the Pakistan Foreign Office Saturday morning.

After the two-hour meeting that

Continued on Page 5

Ghali aims at national reconciliation on Afghanistan

Continued from Page 1

begins at 10:00 am Ghali will go the Presidency for more talks on Afghanistan with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and will have lunch with him.

Later in the evening he will meet Prime Minster Nawaz Sharif and have dinner with him after similar talks on Afghanistan. Sharif has participated in a number of meetings with the Mujahideen leaders during the last few days and UN sources in Islamabad said they expect Sharif to discuss some concrete proposals with the Secretary Generals for breaking the present dead lock.

He was scheduled to visit Peshawar on Sunday but now he will spend the entire day negotiating with

Mujahideen leaders in Islamabed and would fly out of Pakistan the same evening. Mujahideen sources in Islamabad said government of Pakistan has already established contacts with all Mujahideen leaders in Pakistan or inside Afghanistan to persuade them to attend the talks.

Gulabadin Hekmatyar, a hardline rebel leader, who earlier opposed UN sponsored peace in Afghanistan, is reported to have returned to Peskawar Friday from near Kabul and may ettend the meeting.

But sources at the Jamiat-e-Islami party of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani described reports that their famous field commander Ahmad Shah Masood may also come to Pakistan to meet Ghali as baseless and said Rabbani would attend the meeting.

THE MAIN EVENTS THE LAST THREE MONTHS.

In the spring months of 1992 the history of Afghanistan again took a major change in it's course. Hopefully towards a course of peace, reconstruction and development.

The interim government, the Jehad Council, lead by Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, had to face up to severe problems from the start. The security in Kabul, the differences and armed clashes with Hekmatyar's Hezbi Islami, the problems concerning the former communists and the militia lead by General Rashid Dostum, increased ethnic tension and outsiders trying to influence the events in accordance with their interests.

And not the least: the governments problems of establishing itself as a mational government at all, being able to secure, plan and lead the reconciliation and reconstruction of the war torn Afghanistan.

One of the first days of May a Pakistani newspapers writes:

"Kabul, May 3: Bright spring sunshine greeted the triumphant arrival of a new Islamic Government in Afghanistan this week, but a long hot summer lies ahead which could reopen fissures

temporarily papered over.

The Mujahideen swept into town on Tuesday on a wave of Euphoria and enormous optimism following 14 years of guerilla warfare. But as hundreds of fighters blasted their weapons into the air in an ear-splitting welcome for the new government of Sibghatullah Mujadidi, the crackle and boom of serious fighting could still be

heard in the city."

The above quote characterizes the duality in the situation even now, the first weeks of June. There is definitely optimism, a considerable amount of refugees are returning every day, but the Kabul situation is far from stable and fighting still is almost the rule of the day.

These last three months started with the news that 17 had been killed in a rocket attack on Kabul March 1.

Already at that time the contours of the events to come could be SEETI.

President Najibullah was having increased problems. A revolt against him was evolving in the Northern areas with a center in Mazar-i-Sharif. The Usbek and the Ismalia militias were resisting Najib's command and strongly opposing minority officers being shifted with Pashtons. As early as this stage rumors of an attack on Kabul went around. And the rumors said that an alliance between the militia, particularly the Dostums, and Ahmad Shah Masod was in the making. Najib seems to have been aware of the evolving alliance and for this reason tried to put in Pashton generals and officers.

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The UN was pushing it's peace plan strongly under the leadership of the special envoy, Benon Sevan. But there was a widespread scepticism. Not only from the radicals calling it a plan made up by the enemies of Islam. Also different tribals, ulema (religious scholars) and more moderate parties voiced criticism.

Pakistan supports the UN-plan strongly said the secretary general of foreign affairs, Akram Daki. Other Muslim countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia did the same.

Lists of people to take past in the transitional set-up of the UN were delivered to Sevan by some parties, but far from all.

The fate of the UN-plan was at an early stage uncertain. Many hoped that the strong wish amongst the common Afghan for an end of the years of war and destruction would have its effect on the parties and the commanders.

March 9. there were new threats to attack Kabul by Hekmatyars Hezbi. They wanted to stop the UN-plan.

In Kabul the problems were increasing with price hikes and the ordinary citizen not having money to buy for. It was said that Najib was willing to step down, but on the condition that there were no Mujahedin leaders in the interim government.

In an interview with the New York Times March 9., Najib ask for the US to help him stem the fundamentalists and their guerilla. "We have common interests in stopping them" he said.

Mid-March there is fighting in the North and Najib is loosing all control. The alliance between the Militia and Masoods forces take power in Mazar. Observers may that the Militia has "got Kabul by the throat". Attempts by Najib's army chief Azim to solve the problems in the North are futile.

Problems in Kabul are increasing as the supply routes from the North are cut off.

In the beginning of April Pakistan sends wheat in an emergency operation to Kabul. The first Pakistani planes land in Kabul for 13 years. The aid is strongly criticized by Mujahedin groups, but it makes Pakistan popular in Kabul.

The conflict along the ethnic lines becomes clearer, Najib tries to develop the Pashton ties and allows ex-King Zaher Shah's people to operate in Kabul.

The UN-plan is due to be implemented in a revised form in the end of April, now it will start with a 15 man council of "neutral people and intellectuals". The council will first meet in Islamabad (!) and then go to Kabul as a pre-interim administration till Najib steps down and the originally planned meeting in Geneva can be held.

But from now on things take another direction, and at a high speed. Between April 16. and 17. Najib is removed by a group of officers. Before this thousands of militias have been flown in to Kabul from the North. The other major cities fall to the

SPECIAL REPORT

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Mujahedin or to Mujahedin malitia alliances, mostly peacefully.

While Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif rushes to Peshawar, Masood is just outside Kabul. Headatyar is said to be on his way, he does not take part in Peshawar-meeting with Sharif. A Jehad council lead by Masood takes over.

Masood enters Kabul with 100 tanks and thousands of men April 23. Fighting erupts as Hekman are forces attack the city. Heavy fighting continues for several days till a cease fire is agreed on April 27. The alliance an Kabul has taken control of most of the former army and not the least the air force. Hekmatyars positions outside the capital are reportedly bombed before the cease fire.

In the meantime an interim government, Jehad Shura, is set up in Peshawar. It is dominated by Sibghatullah Mujadeddi who becomes President, his people and other moderates. Masood is appointed defence minister. The Prime Minister post is given to Hekmatyar, but is left vacant for the time being.

Mujadeddi arrives in Kabul April 28. A leadership council lead by Rabbani, leader of Jamiat Islami is also set up. The share of responsibilities and power is not clear between the two councils.

By end of April Hekmatyar spears to have been driven from Kabul, but the situation is still extremely tense in and around the Capital.

May 4. a great number of proty leaders headed by Rabbani goes to Kabul. And on May 7. a cease fire is established.

Pakistan has not been able to influence the development in the they seemed to hope. Ex-Army Chief, Aslam Beg says that Mujadeddi is a hostage and that no permanent solution is possible without Hekmatyar taking part. He mays Masood has only 20-25 thousand men, Hekmatyar has 70 thousand.

Cease fire ends May 10, but no new fighting. Hekmatyar again and again demands total removal of Dostums militia from Kabul. If not he will attack. He gives a deadline to May 26. Masood rejects the demand and says that the militia was crucial to the downfall of Najib. Masood has appointed General Delawar as Commander in Chief, the same position he had under Najib.

A large reconciliation commission is set up under the leadership of Haqqani from Harakat Ingelab. He says in an interview that there is a power struggle between Mascod and Hekmatyar and that the Parcham and Khalqi factions of the Watan party joined each of the two sides.

May 25. an agreement is reached between Masood and Hekmatyar under the supervision of a Pakistini Minister and a Saudi Arabian Prince. Not another drop of blood will be spilled they declare at the press conference. They gree on a gradual pull out of the

militia and on elections as soon as possible.

The interim President creates confusion by saying that he will be in charge for to years and not leave the Presidency to Rabbani June 28. as the agreement of April 24. said. He also declares that elections are not possible and that there should instead be a grand meeting, Loya Jirga.

In Kabul the situation varies from day to day, the interim government not being able to take decisive control. The city is divided into twelve parts by the different political and also ethnic groups.

In the Provinces around the country the situation is more stable and more and more refugees are returning to their districts and villages, especially from the camps in Pakistan.

A sum up of why things went the way they did is not easy.

Why did President Najibullah have to step down?
One theory is the lack of resources, economic mainly, after the downfall of the Soviet Union and the negative symmetry deal between United States and Russia late 1991.
Another is that was the final outcome of conflicts evolving over several years between his regime and the strong militia forces in the North. Najib tried to control the Usbek and other militias in the North with Pashton militias in the South-West like that of Jabbar. This did not work and the conflicts taking a ethnic character were just escalating.

Thirdly, the Central Asian States together with the US and Russia, left Najibullah in favor of the Dostum/Masood alliance, when it became clear that Najib was not strong enough to stem the radical Islamic forces for long.

What kind of an interim government was actually installed in the end of April and who really took control?

One thing is clear. There is no central authority controlling Afghanistan as such, not even in the capital Kabul. But trying to identify the forces that came into power in the chaotic days in late April one sees the Militia, Masood and his forces from the Northern Council (Shura-i-Nazar), and the Parcham faction of the Watan party now dominated by non-Pashtons. The installing of Mujadeddi and his interim government did not basically change

The situation at the present, the first week of June, is totally floating.

Besides the chaos and sporadic fighting in Kabul, the traditional Pashton dominance in the ruling of Afghanistan is lacking. Gulhuddin Hekmatyar seems the strongest to forward the Pashton cause, but again whole profile of his organization is built on neutrality in the ethnic conflicts. The other faction of the Watan party, the Pashton-dominated Khalqis have to a large extent

linked up with Hezhi Islami together with the Pashton militia of Jabbar. But how strong Hekmatyar really is, is an open question. From the outside the Saudis are involved in supporting the majority Sunni Muslim groups, especially Sayyaf. Iran, on the other side is forwarding the Shia Muslim groups, mainly Hazarapeople in Hezhi Wahdat which are heavily armed and controls parts of Kabul.

Pakistan is worried. An unstable Afghanistan could jeopardize the plans for trade and economic expansion Northwards to Central Asia. And with the Pashtons dissatisfied one could easily get negative effects in the Pashton parts of Pakistan.

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REPATRIATION AND MINES

Since the the Interim government was installed in April, there has been an steadily increasing influx of refugees back to Afghanistan. And this in spite of the chaotic situation in Kabul. Figures given by the UN indicates that around 5000 are going home every day, and in the camps around Peshawar people say more will leave after Eid (June 14.).

If this goes on literally millions will return to Afghanistan in av few years time!

It is of course good news that the flow of people at last are going the other way, but the problems ahead are vast.

There is a great lack of escpecially wooden materials for rebuilding the houses. The damages on the fields and the irrigation systems are enormous. And the mines are there, everywhere, killing and maiming. There has been a clear increase in mine-accidents since people started returning after the April accord. 50 to 100 are estimated killed every week.

And in spite of the focusing on the mine problem by the NGOs and the UN for years, the funds to do the clearing are just not sufficient. The UN claim they need 15 million US dollars immediately to be able to go through with its programme this year.

The NAC who lost one of our <u>engineers</u> in a tragic mine-accident in May, is very concerned about the mine-problem and strongly hope the international community will provide the necessary funds so the job can be done.



MOVING NGO OFFICES AND ACTIVITIES TO AFGHANISTAN

After the April accord all foreign bodies based outside Afghanistan are discussing and trying to assess how and when to move offices and activities into Afghanistan.

Upto now very few have moved, the general attitude seems to be to wait and see how the situation develops. Especially the situation in Kabul gives reason to a materia as most of the NGOs want to set up main offices there and look in understanding with the central authorities. Some NGOs and concidering setting up offices in Provincial capitals where the situation is more stable and security satisfactory.

The NAC has had two missions to Kabul, the latest with to expatriates. This mission had meetings with Minister of Planning and the Foreign minister amongst others.

NEW DIRECTOR OF THE NAC.

Merete Taksdal took over as Director of the Norwegian Committee from June 1.

Merete Taksdal has been medical coordinator in NAC and she first came to Peshawar and Afghandatan in August 1987. We wish her good luck!

NEW CONSULTANT AT THE NAC

Vivi Gram was employed as consultant in our Medical and Education department from mid May. She has a wide experience from aid work in Africa. Good luck!

THE SEMINAR REFORT!

The report from the big NAC seminar in Islamabad in December last year is still available!

The seminar was "FROM ATO DURING TIMES OF WAR TO AID FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOCITIET" and the report (231 pages) is highly topical these days!

You can pick up a copy at the NAC office in Peshawar and at the AiN office in Oslo.

