Afghanistan was the first time Soviet troops have been used to sustain an attack on a country outside the Soviet bloc. It marks a new stage in the USSR’s campaign to expand its global empire, but the campaign has been in full gear since the intervention in Angola in 1975. As in Afghanistan, these earlier crimes have been endorsed by the USSR and its apologists as revolutionary acts in defense of progress and freedom. And as in Afghanistan, they have been characterized in reality by subversion and the brutal use of military force.

1975: USSR and US split liberation movements in Angola, causing civil war. USSR sends in 20,000 Cuban troops, enabling MPLA to win. 5 years later, 200,000 Cuban troops remain, along with tens of thousands of Cuban, Eastern European, and Russian “advisers.”

1976: 40,000 Vietnamese troops stay in Laos, although US puppets have given up struggle to crush Laotian revolution. Still there today.

1978: Heavy fighting in Sudan. By early February, the Soviets had occupied the two main highways which meet in Kabul, forming a circle inside the country. This huge ground movement took Afghanistan’s key cities, roads and countryside, and began an offensive against the guerrilla forces.

By early February, the Soviets had 116,000 troops in Afghanistan, guarding key outposts and trying to keep the roads open. Their policy was to have the Afghan Army bear most of the ground fighting. In many places this proved impossible. Nearly half the 80,000-man Afghan army had deserted.

In one dramatic incident at the town of Balkh January 1, the entire 25th parachute regiment rose up when the Soviets ordered them in disarm. The Soviets captured or killed 700 after a bitter fight.

**Occupation**

The Soviets quickly took over all aspects of running Afghanistan. Several days after the coup they imported a new Afghan president who had been living in Czechoslovakia. The president, Babrak Karmal, stays under Soviet guard just outside of the capital. Proclamations are made for him, relayed through Moscow.

A New York Times reporter who sought out Karmal’s government officially found they had little to do but show him how the remote central switch worked on the color television in the police commission office. During this laborious task, not one of the six phones in the office rang. Meanwhile, downtown, the Soviet section of the town was bustling with activity. The Karmal government shows no signs of actually functioning, as the Soviets carry on.

By mid-January, over 4,000 Soviet administrators had been flown in to run the country. The massive Soviet invasion and occupation only intensified patriotic Afghan resistance.

(Continued on page 19)
OLYMPIC BOYCOTT NECESSARY BUT WHAT A SHAME

The Olympic Games, long the ultimate competition that nearly every athlete craves, have become a serious jealousy. They may even be hated. And for what? Because of the Soviet Union's bellicose attack on Afghanistan. Because Jimmy Carter is determined to show his influence against the Soviets by sticking to the Mos- cow Games? Because the noble ideal of international competition in sports is being replaced by dirty political rivalry?

It may be a little of each, it seems. Indeed, there's more to this story than a summer without Kurt Thomas, Nishi Kim and Sebastien Coe.

International support for a boycott of the Moscow Games to punish the Soviets for their invasion of Afghan-istan has grown. The US is one of many countries endorsing it, including England, South Korea, Japan, Korea, and the Islamic Conference. Such a widespread boycott would be a serious blow to the Soviets' victory in the People's Struggle column, if you're keeping score. But to date, the International Olympic Committee has rejected proposals to either more or postpone the army Games this year. The Soviets are a boycott—and of what sort—anyway remains to be seen.

Not surprisingly, it was the USSR's superpower-enemy, the US, who initiated the boycott, with a resounding 306-2 vote in Congress. Still, the matter of a military confrontation, it was seen as the "hottest" thing the US can do to the Soviets. 

There is no doubt that Moscow has high stakes on these games—just look in "The Book of the Party Activist, 1980," the Kremlin's very own golden rules:

"The decision to grant the honorary right of holding the Olympic Games in the capital city of the world's first socialist state is convincing evidence of the tremendous importance and correctness of the foreign policy course of our country.

Such fanatic nationalism reminds us of the Berlin Games in 1936. The Nazis were intent on using the podium as a showplace for their country, to prove to the world how prosperous and strong it was. Unfortunately, the International Olympic Committee Act as if Germany were a respected member of the international commun-ity. Today, the Russians also want to use the games to show the world what a shining model of social progress they are. They especially want to message to reach the Third World countries where they are out to ex- change their influence.

While the US would love to see the boycott happen, its own role in pushing it other countries from pledging their support. As Mexico pointed out, it is too hyp- notic for the US to call for the boycott in the midst of the Cold War, while if anyone wanted to use the Olympics to protest the presence of the United States in the 60's, the US cry was "don't mix politics with sports.

Many of the countries promised to join the boycott anyway is an overriding fear of the dangerous-Afghanistan. The Soviets can call a boycott anywhere as effective if a large number of countries unite behind it. If they do, we fully support it.

At the same time, it's distressing to see how many countries are more and more in the middle of international politics. One possibil-ity is they may boycott the games to a permanent neutral site. Some have suggested returning them to their original home. Greece. Not a bad idea. Perhaps it would also help save their original spirit, too, pure—competition between individuals, unfettered by government rivalry.

AFGHANISM COSTING USSR

(Continued from page 10)

Villages. Nor did the program break the chain of debt to money-lenders and offer a substitute way to organize the villagers.

Large landowners naturally felt threatened by the program. On the other hand, it offered the peasants nothing to rally around, particularly since they weren't mobilized by the urban PPDA cadre who bureaucrati-cally instituted what little actual land reform there was from above.

The REAL FOREIGN INTERVENTION

Other reforms proved limited and top-down in character and were non-existent. They were accompanied by constant attacks on the people's Islamic faith. Youth with traditional Moslem names were told to change them. The old flag with its Islamic green was replaced by an all red flag to sym- bolize a so-called socialism the people neither understood nor supported. The nation's main religious leader, Mon- hamad Sistanian, was jailed along with many others.

Galooj, too, for the fiercely inde-pendent Afghans was that the enabili-able hand of the USSR behind the regime, the PPDA's power rested on Soviet backing, which was outfitted with 700 T-52 tanks, 60 MIG-23 fighter bombers and similar hardware. Soviet technical advisers now run the Ar- my down to the company level. A French journalist sympathetic to the US troops was the enabili- able hand of the USSR behind the regime, the PPDA's power rested on Soviet backing, which was outfitted with 700 T-52 tanks, 60 MIG-23 fighter bombers and similar hardware. Soviet technical advisers now run the Ar- my down to the company level. A French journalist sympathetic to the US troops was the enabili- able hand of the USSR behind the regime, the PPDA's power rested on Soviet backing, which was outfitted with 700 T-52 tanks, 60 MIG-23 fighter bombers and similar hardware. Soviet technical advisers now run the Ar- my down to the company level. A French journalist sympathetic to the US troops was the enabili- able hand of the USSR behind the regime, the PPDA's power rested on Soviet backing, which was outfitted with 700 T-52 tanks, 60 MIG-23 fighter bombers and similar hardware. Soviet technical advisers now run the Ar- my down to the company level. A French journalist sympathetic to the US troops was the enabili- able hand of the USSR behind the regime, the PPDA's power rested on Soviet backing, which was outfitted with 700 T-52 tanks, 60 MIG-23 fighter bombers and similar hardware. Soviet technical advisers now run the Ar- my down to the company level. A French journalist sympathetic to the US troops was the enabili- able hand of the USSR behind the regime, the PPDA's power rested on Soviet backing, which was outfitted with 700 T-52 tanks, 60 MIG-23 fighter bombers and similar hardware. Soviet technical advisers now run the Ar-

AFGHAN SOCIALISM?

(Continued from page 10)

Several of the guerrilla groups finally moved to form a common front in early February, particularly in the northeastern provinces. In recent weeks even Pravda has carried stories against Soviet offensives, destruction of bridges and blocking of roads.

This is one of many countries endorsing it, including England, South Korea, Japan, Korea, and the Islamic Conference. Such a widespread boycott would be a serious blow to the Soviets' victory in the People's Struggle column, if you're keeping score. But to date, the International Olympic Committee has rejected proposals to either more or postpone the army Games this year. The Soviets are a boycott—and of what sort—anyway remains to be seen.

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Beitmore, the PDPA's other forms as well. Every night at 7 o'clock, the 10,000 residents of the city of Herat in north-western Afghanistan have used to swim in the flat tides of their homes. For two hours the area becomes an eerie sea of sound as 15,000 voices shout "Allah akbar!"—"God is great!" as the people affirm their faith and their culture. Despite a curfew, this has gone on every night since December, the day a Soviet tank column rolled into Herat.

With the arrival of the Afghan Army deserters, carrying their AK-47 rifles, Bazaars are closed as merchants and workers pull quick general strikes. Modern Kalashnikovs are used as the people affirm their faith and their culture. Despite a curfew, this has gone on every night since December, the day a Soviet tank column rolled into Herat.

While most of the popular Army deserted, carrying their AK-47 rifles, Bazaars are closed as merchants and workers pull quick general strikes. Modern Kalashnikovs are used as the people affirm their faith and their culture. Despite a curfew, this has gone on every night since December, the day a Soviet tank column rolled into Herat.

Behind the Invasion

The immediate reason for the Soviet invasion was simple—the pre-Soviets PDPA regime was facing defeat at the hands of the rebels and could not save itself. Because of the Soviet empire was only one ingredient in Moscow's decision. Just for starters, Afghanistan is located in the area that the USSR will pursue its interests ruthlessly and it would be a wise policy to stay on the Kremlin's good side.

So, far, this policy of in-sulting Afghanistan has become a wave of international condemnation. This is a hopeful signal. If enough nations are drawn from the victimization of Afghanistan and if those lessons are acted on, the New Caeos who have called for a neutral Afghanistan in double jeopardy--are unable to totally crush the Afghan retreat and ham-per the US war. Afghan retreat from engaging in further adventures of the same character.

The Revolutionary Student Brigade has published a useful Afghanistan fact sheet. For a copy, address self-addressed envelope to Workers Voice.

British steel: first strike since 1926

Even without a strike fund, British steel workers are vowing to keep their first strike in 85 years going as long as it takes them to get a 20% pay rise, £56,000 members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation has said. A smaller number from the National Union of Tubularwelders have been on a similar strike. The strike raises the number to 17% of the workforce. The British Steel Company's existing plan of 17% of the workforce to stop foreign steel from entering the country.

The strike is the worst since the workers walked out over a strike fund, British steel workers are vowing to keep their first strike in 85 years going as long as it takes them to get a 20% pay rise, £56,000 members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation has said. A smaller number from the National Union of Tubularwelders have been on a similar strike. The strike raises the number to 17% of the workforce. The British Steel Company's existing plan of 17% of the workforce to stop foreign steel from entering the country.

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