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Anything you could
do to have this letter
for the fund raiser
would be great. love -
Rusty

AFGHANISTAN RESISTANCE RELIEF CENTER
P.O. BOX 507
ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA 22003
TELEPHONE: (703) 941-1670

Mr. Linas Kojelis
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison
Room 196 - OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Linas,

The Afghanistan Resistance Relief Center is a newly formed, all volunteer organization whose purpose is to give direct aid to Afghan Refugees.

Since the Soviet invasion in 1979, five million Afghans have been forced to flee their homeland. The Soviets have been deliberately carrying out a policy of terror by bombing villages, torturing children, and destroying all food sources. The countryside has been ravaged, the infant mortality rate is at plague proportions, and the country is in pre-famine conditions which has forced the Afghans to try to find safety across the border in Pakistsan.

After meeting some of these refugees and hearing first hand of the conditions under which they are living, we decided to help by fund raising nationwide for the desperately needed food and medical supplies.

Our first Fund Raiser will be held in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, June 12, 1986.

Any assistance you could offer in obtaining a letter from the President regarding our organization would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Rodney Rawding
Chairman

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Afghan Rebels Scratch for Survival Amid Ruins of City Scarred by Battle

By Arthur Bonner
New York Times Service

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Large areas of this city, once the second largest in Afghanistan, lie in ruins, and much of the surrounding countryside is devoid of normal life.

Rebel leaders in the region acknowledge they are feeling the strain of a seemingly endless war of attrition. They say they have no medical supplies and no money to hire trucks to carry their seriously wounded to hospitals in Pakistan. They must sell captured Soviet rifles to buy food and blankets for their men or motorcycles for transport.

"Tell the world we are short of food," said Abdul Latif, who commands about two dozen rebel bands in the Kandahar area linked with the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

"We are willing to fight, but our stomachs are empty," said Mr. Latif, a 75-year-old man with a gray beard and soft, watery eyes, who arranged for a visitor to travel by night with a convoy of pickup trucks carrying arms and food to rebel areas. "With their planes and bombs they want to chase everyone out. If there are no people here to grow food, we will have to stop fighting."

European journalists who have traveled in Afghanistan say that local rebel commanders universally complain of a lack of advanced weapons. The commanders say they do not have anti-aircraft weapons or enough missiles to reach across wide mine fields and hit Soviet and Afghan government forces in their fortified posts.

Kandahar province, with its easy access to Pakistan for rebel supplies, is one of the major battlegrounds of Afghanistan.

"We used to be rich," said Azizullah Mohammad, the wizened

headman of the village of Kalach, where the convoy had stopped for a night's rest.

"We had fields of wheat and potatoes and orchards of almonds, mulberries and apricots and gardens of grapes," he said. "We had sheep and goats and rugs for our floors, but now we have nothing."

He said that only four families were left out of 10 that once lived in Kalach. He recited the names of a half-dozen nearby villages where all the families had left for the refugee camps of Pakistan.

According to the rebels, Soviet troops are confined to an air base about six miles (about 10 kilometers) southwest of Kandahar, except for a few who are advisers to the Afghan Army or to civilian officials.

"I will show you that I control Kandahar," Mr. Latif said, organizing a cavalcade of motorcycles to take the visitor through the rubble-strewn streets.

Many wide avenues were deserted. What were once modern schools or government buildings were twisted and cracked slabs of precast concrete. Hulks of huge Soviet tanks lay buried in rubble.

Several of the larger bazaars were still active. A shopkeeper said that flour for making the flat loaves of bread that are the staple of the diet cost \$1.85 a pound, about a day's wage for a laborer.

The rebels said Afghan soldiers or Communist Party members were seldom seen in most of the city. "If they show their faces, we will capture them," said one rebel, Fateh Khan.

He pointed out a mound of earth near his base and said it was the grave of an Afghan Communist who had been captured in the city and sentenced to death by an Islamic court.

A mullah named Issa explained the death sentence.

"It is our belief," he said, "that it is better to kill one Moslem who fights against other Moslems in the service of the unbeliever than it is to kill 10 unbelievers like the Russians."