

**Towards an International History of the
War in Afghanistan,
1979-1989**

International Conference

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Introduction

Dear Participants:

We are pleased to present this "briefing book," which is intended to facilitate and enrich the discussions at our upcoming conference, "**Towards an International History of the War in Afghanistan, 1979-1989.**" It consists of recently declassified U.S., Russian, Bulgarian, Czech, Hungarian and (East) German documents that we hope will refresh memories, provide context and help anchor the conversation in the facts.

The compilation is by no means comprehensive, just as the conference will not be the final word on the events of 1979 to 1989. However, in selecting the materials, the editors made a substantial effort to plumb relevant official archives. Our goal was to emphasize materials that are either newly available or previously unpublished but at the same time incorporate other records that offer important insights into the crisis and the war. The briefing book comes in two volumes, one containing the U.S. documentation, the other the documents from the former Communist world archives. The documents contained in these two volumes should be read in sync with CWIHP e-Dossier No. 4 (a compilation of Russian and other documents published by CWIHP in its *Bulletin No. 8/9*), CWIHP Working Paper No. 40, "*The KGB in Afghanistan*," by Vasilii Mitrokhin; and CWIHP Working Paper No. 41, "*Internal Dynamics in Afghanistan in the Fall of 1979 and the Soviet Response*" by Aleksandr A. Lyakhovskiy. Additional documents and translations will be made available to conference participants at the conference. All of the documents will also become accessible on the CWIHP website at <http://cwiHP.si.edu>.

In compiling these documents, the editors received much appreciated cooperation and assistance from scholars, archivists and other colleagues from several countries, reflecting the multinational scope of this project. We are particularly grateful to Anatoly Chernyaev; Dennis Kux for contributing documentation on the U.S.-Pakistan summits; Alexander L. Lyakhovskiy for contributing documents from the Russian archives; Todd Rosa for contributing documents from the Carter Library; and the National Security Archive for documentation obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. The editors benefited greatly from the document reader compiled for the 1995 conference on "The Intervention in Afghanistan and the Fall of Détente," organized by the Norwegian Nobel Institute. For their contributions of documents, translations, support for printing expenses and editing, and/or sage advice, we also would like to thank the following:

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