

Junejo's Policies Towards Afghanistan and USSR 1985-1988: Challenges Pressures and Directions

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After eight years of martial law, democracy was introduced in Pakistan on 23 March 1985. Muhammad Khan Junejo was sworn in as the Prime Minister, while the military ruler General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq remained the paramount head of the state with the office of President under covert martial law. It was generally viewed that Junejo would conduct the normal affairs of the government whereas, President, General Zia-ul-Haq, would take care foreign affairs, defence and national security.¹

The Soviet Union viewed this changed political set-up in negative colours. It did not welcome the lifting of martial law in Pakistan. The induction of civilian government was termed as "a farce designed to prop up the rule of Zia-ul-Haq".² The Soviet official news agency TASS, in its 30 December 1985 broadcast, stated that the "The aim of the political farce is to try to cover up with a pseudo-democratic screen the crimes committed by the anti-popular military regime against its own country and peace and security of the region".³ Thus the Soviet policy towards Afghanistan as well as Pakistan did not undergo any change

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1. Mushahid Hussain, *Pakistan's Politics: The Zia Years*, (Lahore: Progressive Publishers, 1990), 244.
2. Darshan Singh, ed., *Soviet Foreign Policy Documents 1985* (New Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 1986), xxii.
3. *Ibid.*

