

Carter, Juan Carlos discuss Soviets

Leaders want pullout, neutral Afghanistan

MADRID, Spain — President Carter, accorded a red-carpet royal welcome in Madrid Wednesday, planned to discuss with Spanish officials his proposal for a neutral, non-aligned Afghanistan if there is a Soviet pullout from that country.

Carter, the first American president to visit Spain since the end of the Franco era in 1975, flew in from Belgrade where he expressed support for Yugoslavia's post-Tito leadership and signed a joint statement condemning the Soviets' Afghan invasion.

Hundreds of police and security men guarded the airport where Carter was welcomed with a 21-gun salute and by King Juan Carlos, Queen Sophia, Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez and other officials. Hours earlier, ETA Basque separatist guerrillas claimed responsibility for bomb attacks at Spanish seaside resorts. There were no injuries.

A high-ranking administration official said Carter's broad proposal for a smooth transition following a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan was

aimed at avoiding "a bloodbath" of Kabul "Quislings," referring to the Soviet-backed supporters of President Babrak Karmal's government.

The official said Secretary of State Edmund Muskie broached Carter's proposal for a transitional arrangement when he met privately with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko last month in Vienna.

But the official stressed that at this time "we're not in any way in a negotiating position."

Carter spent less than 24 hours in Spain in meetings with the king, Suarez and other officials. He was scheduled to fly to Portugal today, the last stop of his four-nation, eight-day European trip.

Carter said in his toast at a state dinner in Belgrade Tuesday night the United States is willing to explore the possibilities of a stable transition in Afghanistan.

The official said the "cardinal principle" of Carter's policy is that the Kremlin must withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan, a principle unanimously endorsed in Venice Sunday

at the summit of the world's seven largest industrial democracies.

"There will not be a repeat of the Czechoslovakian invasion where the Soviet occupation was tacitly accepted by the West," the official added.

"When and if the Soviets decide they have made a mistake," the official said, "how do you avoid mass slaughter and retaliation against the supporters of the Soviet-backed regime."

So far, he said, there is no indication the Soviets are reassessing their original decision for massive armed intervention in Afghanistan. But, the official added, "at the same time we believe they realize the difficulties of the decision they made."

He said the Soviet Union had withdrawn only some 5,000 to 8,500 troops of its estimated force of up to 100,000 soldiers and "the situation is still very confused and unstable."

The official said the United States — Would be willing to have some U.N. or Islamic peacekeeping force to help with an orderly transition in

Afghanistan and protect "those fellows in Kabul who are a bunch of Quislings."

— Recognizes the Soviet Union has a legitimate security interest in

Afghanistan and the country should not be transformed into an anti-Soviet outpost.

— Wants a genuinely non-aligned and neutral Afghanistan.

War enters fourth day

Viet assault continues

MAK MUN, Thailand — Hanoi attacked on two new fronts in Thailand Wednesday and sent 10,000 fresh troops close to the embattled Thai-Cambodian frontier in a rapid broadening of its invasion.

In the third day of southeast Asia's latest war, fierce fighting swirled around the devastated village of Mak Mun, where Thai forces braved rocket and mortar fire to retake an abandoned refugee camp outside the village under cover of heavy artillery

the frontier, raising fears a second major Vietnamese thrust inside Thailand was imminent.

Military intelligence sources said the latest influx of Vietnamese troops

were massing along a 50 mile-wide stretch just north and south of the border trading town of Aranyaprathet — apparently to seal the embattled frontier.

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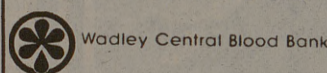
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