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## ***Translator's Commentary – Part 2***

### **Daoud Khan's Positive Points Also Worth to be mentioned:**

Despite president Daoud's negative traits of cruelty and selfishness, as mentioned earlier, was also known as a patriot and a non-corrupt individual with a sincere desire for the progress of the country. He initiated various infrastructural projects such as the construction of Agri-Irrigation dams and river management, road development, mining operations, the establishment of production factories, and advancements in irrigated agriculture. Additionally, he oversaw the construction of the fortified *Pol-e- Charkhi prison* to detain political opponents. He built textile factories, improved urban transportation, established modern housing facilities, and strengthened military infrastructure. These initiatives were undertaken during his tenure to promote development and progress in the nation.

“Furthermore, Daoud Khan exhibited remarkable dedication and achieved considerable success in raising his children. He sent all three of his sons abroad, two to Moscow, for higher education. According to testimonies from their peers and acquaintances, his children were well-educated, modest, and morally upright. “, according to Dr. Asadullah Haidari

However, tragically, Daoud Khan, driven by his arrogance, misplaced pride, and internal conflicts, along with his virtuous children and innocent family, met untimely deaths. His family fell victim to Daoud's egotism and mismanagement of the country, particularly evident in his failure to maintain a balanced approach to foreign relations and policy. This failure included his insistence on the "Durand line" with Pakistan and the empty slogan claiming ownership of Pashtunistan,

northwest frontier parts of Pakistan. Daoud squandered valuable time, resources, and energy promoting the notion that “Pashtunistan is ours,” ultimately leading to the rise of an extremist and fanatical group in power in Afghanistan, called the Taliban.

Daoud Khan struggled to navigate the complex dynamics between the superpowers of the time, the USSR, and the USA, revealing a lack of political acumen. His insistence on acquiring advanced weaponry to counter Pakistan overlooked the close alliance between Pakistan and the USA. Consequently, Daoud's foreign policy during his presidency was erratic and unstable, disrupting Afghanistan's traditional non-alignment stance.

This shift led to ongoing turmoil in Afghanistan, transforming the nation into a battleground for the strategic interests of the USA and the USSR. The repercussions of Daoud's flawed foreign policy continue to reverberate, burdening successive generations of Afghanistan with the enduring consequences of chaos and instability. Moreover, his administration's failure to address the rise of extremist Islamic groups nurtured in Pakistani religious institutions further exacerbated the country's challenges.

### ***The Dual Coup Saga: Igniting Unrest and Endless Turmoil in Afghanistan:***

As mentioned in above, the former prime minister Doud Khan orchestrated a coup with the help of the pro-Moscow communist party, the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan, (PDPA) which had covert members within the Army. During the king's overseas tour, the coup unfolded, overthrowing the monarch in 1973 to establish Afghanistan as a republic. The coup restored the former prime minister to power. Five years later, the same party overthrew President Daoud Khan in a bloody coup and declared the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

In the ominous inception of the coup in Afghanistan on 27- 28 April 1978, a macabre sequence of events unfolded, casting a shadow of terror and despair over the presidential palace. A turning point came when a Politburo member, Akber Khaybar, was assassinated, and the party accused the republican regime of responsibility. Threatening speeches during the funeral led to the imprisonment of high-ranking party members of PDPA. The army, comprised of officers favouring the removal of the president, initiated a coup.

The arrest of PDPA leaders and subsequent clashes intensified the chaos. Fires raged around the Kabul presidential palace, simultaneously smokes engulfing the city in Bala-e- Sar, military commando unit, billowing to the sky. Panic gripped the populace as the city descended into bedlam. Citizens fled government buildings, seeking refuge amidst the cacophony of tank cannons and heavy machine guns. The once-familiar streets transformed into a nightmarish landscape of uncertainty. The presidential palace, encircled by turmoil, resisted the encroaching coup forces. However, communication lines faltered, and the coup's capture of the Radio Kabul Centre disseminated demoralizing news, further eroding the palace's resistance.

Deceptively led by the army, the tanks and armoured vehicles advanced menacingly toward the seat of power. The commander's false assurances of protection were a mere facade, concealing a sinister plot. Within and beyond the palace walls, agents of the enemy, aligned with the PDPA party, lurked. As a tank approached the defence ministry, it callously fired upon the building, signalling an imminent threat to the palace. Despite the palace's fortifications and the vigilant guard of commandoes and the military presidential guard, turmoil loomed.

Trapped within the besieged palace were cabinet members, and the president's dependent families including their innocent children. The president, unwilling to be captured and humiliated, faced a tragic end after five years in power as the first president of Afghanistan.

***An investigation by Mr Daoud Malikiyar revealed that contrary to earlier beliefs, the president and his extended family were not killed by coup perpetrators but by his son, Mirwais Daoud. The president, fearing they would fall into the hands of the coup actors, had ordered his son to execute all family members, including women and children.***

This tragic episode, hidden for years, unravelled through interviews and the persistence of the investigator, exposing the dark reality of the president's selfish and misguided actions, resulting in the loss of 17 innocent lives.

Terrified by the impending horror that awaited the captives at the hands of the coup perpetrators, the president, in a state of panic, issued a harrowing order to his son, Mirwais Daoud. The directive, a nightmarish and delusional command, compelled Mirwais to execute all family members, even though their chances of survival seemed overwhelmingly promising. In the grip of desperation, surrounded by chaos, the family faced an unimaginable tragedy as the cruel decree unfolded. The detail is reflected in Doud Malikiyar's interview.

While refuge at the embassy of France adjacent to the palace offered a semblance of safety, the president's unwavering resolve kept the families trapped in the palace. Fearing the gruesome fate awaiting captives in the hands of the coup perpetrators, the president ordered his son, Mirwais Daoud, a horrific directive to execute all family members.

In the darkness of despair, the palace echoed with the anguished cries of the injured. High-ranking officials, the president's families and associates grappled with bewilderment. Mirwais, burdened by his father's unimaginable command, faced an agonizing struggle. The president's desperate attempt to shield his family from the anticipated horrors proved tragically misguided. Mirwais, torn by conflicting emotions, fired upon his wife Shaima and two-year-old child, perpetuating an unspeakable tragedy.

In a heart-wrenching twist, an innocent girl, called Hailai the granddaughter of President Daoud standing behind a wall and unnoticed by Mirwais, met a cruel fate. The innocent girl, initially unnoticed by Mirwais and with a seemingly higher chance of survival, stood behind a wall within the periphery. However, her mother, in a desperate bid to shield her from the impending danger, beckoned her to lie down beside her. Obediently, the young girl jumped and lay down beside her mother, folding her legs and knees toward her belly. Sensing the imminent threat, the mother instructed her to unfold her legs and lie down on her back. In compliance, she did as was told. Tragically, the bullets fired by her uncle, Mirwais, pierced through her, snuffing out her life instantly. The heart-wrenching scene unfolded, leaving an indelible mark of pain and sorrow, compelling even the most callous and obdurate observer to shed tears.

This agonizing episode unfolded in a flurry of confusion, desperation, and sorrow, marking the harrowing end of a presidency that, ironically, had risen to power through a coup, now crushed by the very forces it had once harnessed.

**Fateh Sami, the translator, short biography:**