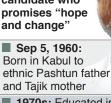
Dr. Abdullah Abdullah

Afghanistan's presidential candidate who



1970s: Educated in Kabul where his father is appointed to Senate by King Zahir Shah ■ 1973: Zahir Shah ousted in coup -

- communist republic formed 1979: USSR invades Afghanistan
- 1983: Abdullah gains degree in
- ophthalmology at Kabul University Mid-80s: Becomes close adviser to resistance leader Ahmad Shah
- Massoud, organizing medical aid 1988: Soviet troops withdraw -
- Afghanistan descends into civil war 1992: Communist government collapses, Massoud's forces enter Kabul. Abdulluh appointed foreign
- minister in governing coalition 1994: Taliban formed, Abdullah becomes Northern Alliance's diplomatic voice opposing Taliban
- 1996: Taliban captures Kabul ■ 2001: Taliban removed from power
- by Northern Alliance and NATO. Abdullah backs Hamid Karzai. serves as foreign minister until 2006
- 2009: Leads opposition against Karzai in presidential elections Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS