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20-Apr-2004

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Case Number: 200401023

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CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00567 01 OF 05 010733Z

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-02	CCO-00
	CG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-01	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	L-00
	MMP-00	M-00	AC-01	NEA-01	DCP-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	SA-01	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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P 010721Z FEB 00
 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3994
 INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
 AMEMBASSY DHAKA
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
 AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
 AMCONSUL KARACHI
 AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 ISLAMABAD 000567

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/26/10
 TAGS: PTER, PREL, AF
 SUBJECT: A/S INDERFURTH AND S/CT SHEEHAN MEET
 CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 00567 01 OF 05 010733Z
 TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVES

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAM B. MILAM.
 REASON 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: SA ASSISTANT SECRETARY
 INDERFURTH AND S/CT COORDINATOR FOR
 COUNTERTERRORISM SHEEHAN AT A JANUARY 20 MEETING
 WITH TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSSED THE INDIAN
 AIRWAYS HIJACKING, TALIBAN SUPPORT FOR USAMA BIN

Date Printed:

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1

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LADIN, AND THE NEED FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THE AFGHAN CONFLICT. TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVES RE- STATED PREVIOUS POSITIONS. NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) SA ASSISTANT SECRETARY INDERFURTH, S/CT AMBASSADOR SHEEHAN, NSC DIRECTOR FOR SOUTH ASIA CAMP, S/CT SPECIAL ASSISTANT BIBBINS, AMBASSADOR MILAM AND POLOFF (NOTETAKER) MET FOR TWO HOURS ON JANUARY 20 WITH TALIBAN DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, AMIR KHAN MUTTAQI, TALIBAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN SYED MOHAMMAD HAQQANI, AND TRANSLATOR NAIM DINDAR. MUTTAQI, THE TALIBAN'S FORMER INFORMATION MINISTER, FLEW FROM AFGHANISTAN FOR THE MEETING.

3. (U) A/S INDERFURTH OPENED THE MEETING BY EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED DIALOGUE, DESPITE DIFFERENCES. HE NOTED THAT THE MANY MEETINGS USG REPRESENTATIVES HAVE HELD WITH TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVES DEMONSTRATE THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 00567 01 OF 05 010733Z
IMPORTANCE THE U.S. PLACES ON DIRECT COMMUNICATION. TALIBAN AMBASSADOR HAQQANI REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD MET INDERFURTH IN KABUL WHEN THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ACCOMPANIED THEN UN- AMBASSADOR BILL RICHARDSON. HAQQANI, INTRODUCING MUTTAQI, NOTED THAT MUTTAQI WAS EQUIVALENT TO THE CHIEF OF CABINET FOR THE TALIBAN. INDERFURTH ASKED S/CT SHEEHAN TO DISCUSS U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING TERRORISM.

4. (C) SHEEHAN SAID HE WANTED TO DISCUSS TWO ISSUES, THE RECENT INDIAN AIRWAYS HIJACKING AND A RECENT CONVERSATION HE HAD HELD WITH TALIBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MUTTAWAKIL. REGARDING THE HIJACKING, SHEEHAN SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THE TALIBAN DID NOT HAVE ANY PART IN ARRANGING OR STAGING THE HIJACKING, NOR DID THEY WANT THE AIRPLANE TO LAND IN KANDAHAR. NONETHELESS, SHEEHAN CONTINUED, HE KNEW THAT ONCE THE PLANE LEFT INDIA, IT WOULD LAND IN AFGHANISTAN AND REMAIN THERE. IT WAS IN KANDAHAR -- NOT KABUL OR HERAT OR OTHER LOCATIONS -- WHERE THE HIJACKERS STOOD THE BEST CHANCE OF ACHIEVING THEIR ENDS, WHICH THEY WERE UNFORTUNATELY ABLE TO DO.

Page - 2

Date Printed:

20-Apr-2004

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

Case Number: 200401023

1

ULTIMATELY, IT WAS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VENTURE FROM THE HIJACKERS' POINT OF VIEW, SHEEHAN POINTED OUT: THEY GOT AWAY WITH HIJACKING THE AIRCRAFT, TERRORIZING THE PASSENGERS AND CREW, KILLING ONE INNOCENT INDIVIDUAL, FREEING THREE PRISONERS, AND THEY ESCAPED UNIMPEDED.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ISLAMA 00567 01 OF 05 010733Z
5. (C) THE U.S. WAS GRATEFUL THAT THERE WAS NOT FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE AND THE PASSENGERS WERE RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES, BUT THE TALIBAN SHOULD REALIZE THE EPISODE'S IMPLICATIONS FOR THEM. INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE UNITED NATIONS' CONVENTION ON HIJACKING REQUIRES ALL SIGNATORIES, WHICH INCLUDES AFGHANISTAN, TO ARREST, TRY AND PUNISH HIJACKERS. THEREFORE, THE TALIBAN NEED TO COOPERATE WITH ALL AUTHORITIES TO TRACK THE HIJACKERS IN ORDER TO BRING THEM TO JUSTICE. HOW CAN THE TALIBAN MAKE CLEAR TO FUTURE TERRORISTS THAT THEY WILL NOT BE WELCOME IN AFGHANISTAN, SHEEHAN ASKED.

6. (C) MUTTAQI NOTED THAT THE TALIBAN ONLY ALLOWED THE PLANE TO LAND AFTER RECEIVING WRITTEN AGREEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. HIJACKING IS A TERRORIST ACT; THE TALIBAN ALWAYS HAVE AND ALWAYS WILL CONDEMN TERRORISM, INCLUDING HIJACKINGS. THE HIJACKERS WERE RELEASED ONLY AFTER THE TALIBAN RECEIVED THE AGREEMENT OF THE GOI AND THE UN TO DO SO. THIS HIJACKING WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE TALIBAN HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE ACT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ3406

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00567 02 OF 05 010734Z
ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-02	CCO-00
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	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00
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	MMP-00	M-00	AC-01	NEA-01	DCP-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00

Page - 3

Date Printed:

CHANNEL: n/a

1

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Case Number: 200401023

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PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/019W	
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3995

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DHAKA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 05 ISLAMABAD 000567

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 00567 02 OF 05 010734Z
TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVES

7. (C) SHEEHAN EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE HE HAD REFRAINED FROM CRITICISM DURING THE HIJACKING, IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A COUNTRY TO BRING TO JUSTICE CRIMINALS WHO COMMIT A CRIME ON THAT COUNTRY'S SOIL. HAD THE TALIBAN ARRESTED THE HIJACKERS AFTER THE HOSTAGES WERE FREED, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PERFECT ENDING. LETTING THEM GET AWAY, HOWEVER, COMES UP SHORT IN THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. SHEEHAN ADDED THAT HIS REMARKS WERE ALSO BEING MADE TO THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED, AS MANY MISTAKES WERE MADE. THE AIRPLANE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO LEAVE AMRITSAR, LAHORE, OR DUBAI. SHEEHAN SAID THE USG HOPED THE TALIBAN'S CONDEMNATION OF THE HIJACKING WAS HEHEDED.

8. (C) MUTTAQI EXPLAINED THAT THE HIJACKERS HAD BEEN PROMISED BY UN AND INDIAN NEGOTIATORS THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ARRESTED IN AFGHANISTAN, AND IT WAS ON THE CONDITION OF THAT PROMISE THAT THEY RELEASED THE HOSTAGES. IT WOULD BE UN-ISLAMIC,

Date Printed:

CHANNEL: n/a

1

20-Apr-2004 DOC_NBR: 2000ISLAMA00567

HANDLING: n/a

Case Number: 200401023

MUTTAQI ADDED, FOR THE TALIBAN TO BREAK THE WORD GIVEN TO THE HIJACKERS. SHEEHAN DISPUTED THIS POINT, SAYING INTERNATIONAL LAW DID NOT VIEW A PROMISE MADE UNDER DURESS AS BINDING.

9. (C) SHEEHAN BROACHED HIS SECOND TOPIC, SAYING HE WANTED TO RAISE WITH THE TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVES IN PERSON WHAT HE HAD DISCUSSED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 00567 02 OF 05 010734Z
WITH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER TELEPHONICALLY --
USAMA BIN LADIN AND UNSCR 1267. SHEEHAN BEGAN
THAT HE BELIEVED THE TALIBAN DO NOT WANT TO
ATTACK THE U.S. AND THAT THEY ARE NOT
COORDINATING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WITH BIN LADIN.
NONETHELESS, THE USG KNOWS THAT BIN LADIN'S
PEOPLE CONTINUE TO PLAN AND CONDUCT TERRORIST
ACTIVITIES, WITH THE ARREST OF A CELL IN JORDAN
PROVIDING THE MOST RECENT PROOF. SHEEHAN
EMPHASIZED THAT THE DETERMINATION OF THE GROUP'S
LINK TO BIN LADIN WAS NOT MADE BY THE USG

IT
IS FORTUNATE FOR THE TALIBAN, SHEEHAN CONTINUED,
THAT THE ATTACK WAS NOT ENACTED.

10. (C) THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WATCHES HOW THE TALIBAN INTERACT WITH BIN LADIN IN AFGHANISTAN, SHEEHAN SAID. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FIND A WAY TO COMPLY WITH UNSCR 1267 AND EXPEL BIN LADIN TO JUSTICE. WHEN A PERSON HAS A CRIMINAL IN HIS HOUSE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND THAT CRIMINAL CONDUCTS TERRORIST ACTS FROM THE HOUSE, THEN THE OWNER BECOMES ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE CRIMES, SHEEHAN ILLUSTRATED. EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTS, BY KNOWING THAT HE COMMITTED THEM AND DOING NOTHING TO PREVENT THEM, YOU BECOME ASSOCIATED. BECAUSE BIN LADIN HAS BEEN IN AFGHANISTAN SO LONG AND HAS COMMITTED SO MANY TERRORIST ACTS, THE U.S. WILL HOLD THE TALIBAN RESPONSIBLE IF HE COMMITS ANY FURTHER

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ISLAMA 00567 02 OF 05 010734Z
ACTS.

11. (C) SHEEHAN REITERATED THE NEED TO COMPLY

Date Printed:

CHANNEL: n/a

20-Apr-2004

DOC_NBR: 2000ISLAMA00567

HANDLING: n/a

1

Case Number: 200401023

WITH THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF THE TALIBAN ORGANIZE AN ULEMA CONFERENCE AS A WAY TO IMPLEMENT THE UNSCR, THAT WOULD BE FINE IF THAT PROVIDES THE COVER THEY NEED TO COMPLY WITH THE UNSCR, SHEEHAN SAID. BUT THE U.S. CANNOT ENDORSE AN ULEMA CONFERENCE IN LIEU OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNSCR. MUTTAQI IMMEDIATELY ASKED IF SHEEHAN WERE SAYING THE U.S. AGREED TO THE ULEMA IDEA. SHEEHAN REPEATED THAT IF THE TALIBAN ORGANIZE AN ULEMA GATHERING AND IF IT HELPS THEM TO COMPLY WITH THE UNSCR, THEN THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE IDEA. HE ALSO REPEATED THAT THE USG COULD NOT ENDORSE THE ULEMA CONFERENCE AS A SOLUTION IN ITSELF. THE UNSCR IS VERY SPECIFIC, HE POINTED OUT, AND THE TALIBAN MUST COMPLY. MANY COUNTRIES ARE SKEPTICAL THE ULEMA CONFERENCE WOULD WORK, AND SHEEHAN ENCOURAGED THE TALIBAN TO TALK WITH OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES IF THEY BELIEVE THE ULEMA IDEA WOULD ALLOW THEM TO MOVE FORWARD.

12. (C) MUTTAQI QUOTED AN AFGHAN PROVERB SAYING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PTQ3408

PAGE 01

ISLAMA 00567 03 OF 05 010734Z

ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-02	CCO-00
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	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3996

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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Date Printed:

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1

20-Apr-2004

DOC_NBR: 2000ISLAMA00567

HANDLING: n/a

Case Number: 200401023

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 05 ISLAMABAD 000567

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CONFIDENTIALPAGE 02 ISLAMA 00567 03 OF 05 010734Z
TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVES

THAT "PEOPLE DEMAND APPLES NO MATTER WHAT THE TREE." WE MUST FIND A SOLUTION TO THE BIN LADIN PROBLEM, NO MATTER HOW, HE SAID. IT IS A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR THE TALIBAN. THE MERE EXISTENCE OF BIN LADIN IN AFGHANISTAN HAS CAUSED TALIBAN RELATIONS WITH THE WHOLE WORLD TO DETERIORATE, INCLUDING WITH COUNTRIES LIKE THE U.S. WHICH HELPED US IN THE JIHAD. THE TALIBAN WANT TO RESOLVE THE MATTER, MUTTAQI INSISTED, AND THEY WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE UNITED STATES. EVERY COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN CULTURE, HISTORY AND RULES, AND OUR RULES ARE ISLAMIC, MUTTAQI CONTINUED. REGARDING BIN LADIN, WE DO AS OUR PEOPLE REQUIRE US TO DO. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN SANCTIONS WERE IMPOSED, THE REACTION OF THE TALIBAN WAS NOT SO SEVERE AS THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE; TALIBAN SECURITY OFFICERS EVEN HAD TO FIRE ON DEMONSTRATORS TO RESTORE ORDER. THUS, HE SUGGESTED, THE TALIBAN ONLY REFLECT THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

13. (C) MUTTAQI SAID A BIG COUNTRY LIKE THE U.S. HAS MANY ENEMIES; BIN LADIN IS ONLY ONE. THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FRIEND TO AFGHANISTAN AND THE TALIBAN WANT TO MAINTAIN THAT FRIENDSHIP. HAVE YOU SEEN ANY MOVES AGAINST THE USA SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN, MUTTAQI ASKED. HAVING BIN LADIN IN AFGHANISTAN IS ACTUALLY TO THE BENEFIT OF THE U.S., HE SAID.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 00567 03 OF 05 010734Z
U.S. PUBLICITY MADE BIN LADIN A CELEBRITY, AND

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Date Printed:

CHANNEL: n/a

1

20-Apr-2004 DOC_NBR: 2000ISLAMA00567

HANDLING: n/a

Case Number: 200401023

MANY NATIONS NOW CONSIDER HIM A HERO. WHOEVER TRIES TO COMMIT TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST THE U.S. IS TRYING TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR BIN LADIN. THERE ARE MANY INTERESTED IN CAUSING DIFFICULTIES. IF BIN LADIN WERE ARRESTED, IMPRISONED OR KILLED, ALL WHO ARE SYMPATHETIC TOWARD HIM WOULD TURN AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. THE TALIBAN DO NOT SUPPORT BIN LADIN, BUT THESE ARE THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION.

14. (C) MUTTAQI REPEATED TALIBAN ASSURANCES THAT BIN LADIN CANNOT COMMUNICATE WITH HIS ORGANIZATION TO GIVE COMMANDS. HE SAID THE TALIBAN HAD SPOKEN WITH THE JORDANIAN EMBASSY AND THOSE ARRESTED "WERE ONLY INVOLVED IN THE AFGHAN JIHAD." SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE CAME TO AFGHANISTAN DURING JIHAD, MUTTAQI NOTED. NOW THE U.S. CLAIMS ALL ARE CONNECTED TO BIN LADIN. MUTTAQI ASKED THAT THE U.S. NOT MAKE BIN LADIN SUCH A BIG ISSUE. DOING SO MAKES TROUBLE FOR THE U.S. AND FOR AFGHANISTAN. HE REITERATED THE TALIBAN'S THREE PROPOSALS FOR RESOLVING THE UBL PROBLEM -- PROVIDING EVIDENCE TO TRY BIN LADIN IN AN AFGHAN COURT, AN ULEMA CONFERENCE, OR SUPERVISION OF UBL BY THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC). THE U.S. REJECTED ALL THESE SUGGESTIONS, MUTTAQI LAMENTED. BUT THAT WHICH HAPPENED IN THE PAST IS DONE, AND IN THE FUTURE, BIN LADIN WILL NOT CONDUCT ANY ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE U.S. IF THE USG REMAINS CONCERNED, THOSE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ISLAMA 00567 03 OF 05 010734Z
CONCERNS MUST BE ADDRESSED, MUTTAQI ADMITTED. HE ASKED THE U.S. TO MAKE PROPOSALS ON HOW TO DO SO.

15. (C) AFGHANISTAN HAS MANY DIFFICULTIES, MUTTAQI POINTED OUT. HE ASKED THAT THE DELEGATION UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE HE CARRIED: THE TALIBAN WANT FRIENDSHIP, NOT ENMITY. THEY WISHED THAT THE NEW MILLENNIUM MIGHT BE ONE OF FRIENDSHIP AND AFFECTION BETWEEN NATIONS, ONE WHERE LARGE COUNTRIES CONSIDER THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF OPPRESSED AND WEAK NATIONS. AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED BY TWO DECADES OF WAR. THE COUNTRY NEEDS REHABILITATION. AFGHANS EXPECTED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP, NOT MAKE MATTERS WORSE WITH SANCTIONS. WHILE AFGHANS

Page - 8

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:

20-Apr-2004

DOC_NBR: 2000ISLAMA00567

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1

Case Number: 200401023

NEVER FORGET THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHERS, THEY ALSO
NEVER SUBMIT, NO MATTER WHAT THE HARDSHIP.

16. (C) SHEEHAN RESPONDED THAT AMERICANS STILL
SHARE DEEP FEELINGS OF RESPECT AND WARMTH FOR THE
AFGHAN PEOPLE, AS WELL. INDERFURTH NOTED THAT
THE U.S. REMAINS THE LARGEST HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE DONOR TO AFGHANISTAN. THEY POINTED
OUT THAT THE U.S. HAS NO DESIGNS ON AFGHANISTAN
AND ONLY WANTS THE AFGHAN PEOPLE TO LIVE IN PEACE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PTQ3412

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00567 04 OF 05 010735Z
ACTION SCT-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 05 ISLAMABAD 000567

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1

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 00567 04 OF 05 010735Z

TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVES

AND FREEDOM, TO BE ABLE TO FEED THEIR FAMILIES. THE U.S. ALSO SINCERELY WANTS RESOLUTION OF THE BIN LADIN ISSUE. WE UNDERSTAND YOUR POLITICAL PROBLEM, SHEEHAN SAID, AND YOUR NEED TO MAINTAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE. IT IS UNFORTUNATE YOUR PEOPLE DO NOT UNDERSTAND BIN LADIN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING MORE THAN 200 AFRICANS AND BLINDING AND WOUNDING THOUSANDS MORE IN THE AFRICAN BOMBINGS.

17. (C) THE U.S. ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE TALIBAN BELIEVE BIN LADIN IS SAFE WHERE HE IS AND UNABLE TO DO HARM. THE TALIBAN BELIEVE THE U.S. SHOULD NOT TRY TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE. THE U.S. ALSO RECOGNIZES THE POTENTIAL FOR A BACKLASH IF HE WERE ARRESTED. BUT, SHEEHAN EMPHASIZED, THE USG DECIDED IT CANNOT LET TERRORISTS GET AWAY WITH THE CRIMES THEY COMMIT AND IS DETERMINED TO BRING BIN LADIN TO JUSTICE. THIS HAS BEEN U.S. POLICY FOR MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS AND WE THINK IT HAS LESSENED TERRORISM, BECAUSE TERRORISTS KNOW THE U.S. WILL NOT FORGET THEIR ACTS. WE THINK THIS POLICY ALMOST ELIMINATED HIJACKINGS; THAT IS WHY THE U.S. IS SO CONCERNED THAT THE INDIAN AIRWAYS HIJACKING WAS SUCCESSFUL. THERE COULD BE A SHORT-TERM BACKLASH IF BIN LADIN WERE ARRESTED, BUT IN THE LONG-TERM, THE WORLD WOULD BE A SAFER PLACE IF HE WERE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 00567 04 OF 05 010735Z

18. (C) THE TALIBAN CONTINUE TO PROPOSE THREE WAYS OF DEALING WITH BIN LADIN, SHEEHAN CONTINUED -- THE ULEMA CONFERENCE, OIC MONITORING, OR A TRIAL IN AFGHANISTAN. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO ANY OR ALL OF THESE STEPS, SHEEHAN SAID. THE TALIBAN DO NOT NEED TO WAIT FOR U.S. ENDORSEMENT TO TAKE ACTION. YOU MAY TRY HIM ON ANY CRIMES YOU LIKE. BUT FOR THE CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST OUR INTERESTS, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT BIN LADIN BE SENT TO U.S. COURTS. IF THE ULEMA CONFERENCE OR OIC MONITORING ARE INTERIM MEASURES YOU WANT TO TAKE WHILE YOU FIND A WAY TO IMPLEMENT THE UN RESOLUTION, THAT WOULD BE FINE. THE IMPORTANT

Page - 10

Date Printed: CHANNEL: n/a
20-Apr-2004 DOC_NBR: 2000ISLAMA00567 HANDLING: n/a
Case Number: 200401023

1

THING, SHEEHAN EMPHASIZED, IS FINDING A WAY TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION. I UNDERSTAND HOW DIFFICULT THIS IS, SHEEHAN SAID, BUT I ENCOURAGE YOU IN ALL SINCERITY AND FRIENDSHIP TO FIND A WAY TO RESOLVE THIS SOON. DESPITE YOUR ASSURANCES THAT HE CANNOT COMMUNICATE WITH HIS NETWORK, WE HAVE EVIDENCE HE IS PLANNING ACTS OF TERRORISM. WE AGAIN ENCOURAGE YOU TO ACT SOON.

19. (C) SHEEHAN POINTED OUT THAT EVEN IF BIN LADIN IS UNDER SOME RESTRICTIONS, TWO ISSUES REMAIN. WERE HE NEVER TO COMMIT ANOTHER TERRORIST ACT, BIN LADIN MUST STILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR HIS PAST ACTS, AS NOTED IN THE UNSCR. SECOND, EVEN WHEN PEOPLE ARE IN CUSTODY, THEY CAN STILL COMMUNICATE. THE U.S. HAS SEEN THIS MANY TIMES WITH ITS OWN JAILED CRIMINALS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ISLAMA 00567 04 OF 05 010735Z
20. (C) INDERFURTH TURNED TO THE ISSUE OF THE CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN, EMPHASIZING THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS A PEACEFUL, RATHER THAN A MILITARY, SOLUTION. HE EXPLAINED THAT PAKISTAN'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAD TOLD THE DELEGATION THAT PAKISTAN WOULD WORK WITH IRAN TO GET A PEACE PROCESS GOING IN AN EFFORT TO BRING A CEASE-FIRE AND FORESTALL RENEWED FIGHTING IN THE SPRING. WITH A CEASE-FIRE WOULD BE TALKS AMONG THE FOUR PARTIES AND WITH THE UNITED NATIONS TO BRING A BROADER RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT. THE U.S. SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE, INDERFURTH SAID, AND HOPES THE TALIBAN WILL COOPERATE.

21. (C) THE U.S. ALSO SUPPORTS EFFORTS OF EXPATRIATE AFGHANS TO HOLD A LOYA JIRGA AND HOPES THE TALIBAN WILL MEET WITH EXPATRIATE REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE. ALL AVENUES TOWARD A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT SHOULD BE EXPLORED, HE DECLARED. WITH PEACE, AFGHAN REFUGEES CAN RETURN AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN ASSIST AFGHANISTAN IN REBUILDING THE COUNTRY. THE U.S. WANTS TO ASSIST IN THAT RECONSTRUCTION, INDERFURTH CONCLUDED.

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CHANNEL: n/a

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Case Number: 200401023

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00567 05 OF 05 010735Z
ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-02	CCO-00
	CG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-01	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	L-00
	MMP-00	M-00	AC-01	NEA-01	DCP-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	SA-01	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/019W	

-----2D21CD 010735Z /38

P 010721Z FEB 00
 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3998
 INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
 AMEMBASSY DHAKA
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
 AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
 AMCONSUL KARACHI
 AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 05 ISLAMABAD 000567

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/26/10
 TAGS: PTER, PREL, AF
 SUBJECT: A/S INDERFURTH AND S/CT SHEEHAN MEET
 CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 00567 05 OF 05 010735Z
TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVES

22. (C) CONCLUDING FOR THE TALIBAN DELEGATION, MUTTAQI STATED THAT THE TALIBAN WILL WORK FOR PEACE. THE TALIBAN WANT AND NEED TO FIND A SOLUTION, HE SAID. OUR WAYS OF FINDING A SOLUTION DIFFER, SO WE MUST FIND A WAY TO RECONCILE THESE DIFFERENCES. MUTTAQI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SOMEDAY THE DELEGATIONS COULD MEET TO DISCUSS REHABILITATION.

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23. (U) A/S INDERFURTH AND S/CT SHEEHAN CLEARED
THIS CABLE.
MILAM

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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