

IMMEDIATE

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ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ARA/NEA REARCS

Ø PKK-1

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ACTION: PK (01)

INFO: (IN (03) SAF (04) SRA (01) AF (01)
07/1437Z AS MAH (TOTAL COPIES: 010)

ACTION SA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASYS-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EUR-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-02	L-00	ADS-00
	M-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	DMB-01	PA-01
	PH-00	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USTE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00

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RELEASED IN FULL

0 071001Z SEP 95
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4835
INFO AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL JEDDAH
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 08209

LONDON FOR POL:TUELLER; ROME FOR POL:STORELLA; PARIS FOR

POL:ALLEGRONE

E.O. 12356: DECL:09/07/05
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PINS, PK, AF
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN EVACUATES EMBASSY STAFF FROM KABUL FOLLOWING
ATTACK; 1 PAKISTANI KILLED, 4 IN SERIOUS CONDITION

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 7, PAKISTAN EVACUATED VIA C-130 ITS EMBASSY STAFF FROM KABUL. MFA AFGHAN DIRECTOR M. NAEEN KHAN TOLD POLOFF THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAD BEEN FLOWN TO RAWALPINDI, WHERE THEY WERE CHECKED INTO THE COMBINED MILITARY HOSPITAL. KHAN CONFIRMED THAT ONE PAKISTANI JANITOR/SANITARY WORKER WAS KILLED IN THE SEPTEMBER 6 MOB ATTACK ON THE PAKISTANI MISSION IN KABUL, FOUR OTHER PAKISTANI OFFICIALS SUFFERED SERIOUS INJURIES. AMBASSADOR QAZI HUMAYUN REMAINED UNCONSCIOUS; HE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED SEVERAL BLOWS TO THE HEAD AND FACE. LATER ON SEPTEMBER 7, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TOLD US HUMAYUN HAD REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS BUT HIS SPEECH WAS SLURRED. COAS WAHEED TOLD THE AMBASSADOR EARLY SEPTEMBER 7 THAT AFGHAN PRESIDENT RABBANI HAD APPROVED THE C-130 FLIGHT "FOR FEAR AMBASSADOR HUMAYUN WOULD DIE IN KABUL." MFA DIRECTOR KHAN OBSERVED THAT THE PAKISTANI EMBASSY, A GRAND STRUCTURE INHERITED FROM THE BRITISH ONLY LAST YEAR, HAD BEEN BURNED TO THE GROUND. THE HISTORIC STRUCTURE, BUILT ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF LORD CURZON TO BE "THE GRANDEST IN ASIA" IN ORDER TO IMPRESS THE UNRULY AFGHAN TRIBES, HAD BEEN ONE OF THE FEW LANDMARKS STILL STANDING IN KABUL.

3. U.N. AND MFA SOURCES CONFIRM THE GIST OF PRESS REPORTING ON

THE MOB ATTACK: A CROWD, VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN 700 AND 2,000 PEOPLE, MANY ARMED WITH IRON PIPES AND MAKE-SHIFT CLUBS, GATHERED IN THE ZAHANEH PARK IN KABUL AT ABOUT NINE A.M. LOCAL TIME, SEPTEMBER 6. THE GROUP THEN MOVED OFF IN A

RELATIVELY ORDERLY FASHION UP THE ROAD TOWARDS THE PAKISTANI EMBASSY, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY. THE BBC CORRESPONDENT, WHO WAS ON THE SCENE AT THE TIME, REPORTED THAT SECURITY FORCES MANNING A CHECK-POINT ON THE ROAD MADE NO EFFORT TO INTERVENE TO STOP THE DEMONSTRATORS; U.N. OFFICIALS SAY THE MOB WAS CHANTING ANTI-PAKISTAN SLOGANS BLAMING ISLAMABAD FOR THE FALL OF HERAT TO THE TALIBAN. APPARENTLY LOCAL GUARDS OF THE EMBASSY TRIED TO STOP THE CROWD FROM ENTERING; SHOTS WERE EXCHANGED AND THE CROWD PROCEEDED TO GO ON A RAMPAGE, BREAKING INTO THE THE CRANGERY AND RESIDENCE, USING THEIR MAKE-SHIFT WEAPONS TO SMASH EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE AND TO ATTACK THE EMBASSY STAFF. THE MOB THEN SET FIRE TO THE BUILDINGS, WITH THE FLAMES JUMPING TO THE ADJACENT BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION BUILDING, WHICH WAS PARTIALLY BURNED. AFGHAN DIPLOMATS IN ISLAMABAD CLAIM AS MANY AS FIVE KABUL GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS WERE KILLED ATTEMPTING TO RESTORE ORDER, AND BLAME THE AFGHAN GUARDS FOR THE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE (CLAIMING THAT THE EMBASSY GUARDS SHOT FIRST, KILLING CIVILIANS AND SETTING OFF THE CROWD). THE BBC CORRESPONDENT IN KABUL, PETER GRETE, REPORTED THAT SECURITY FORCES DISPATCHED TO THE AREA DID NOT IMMEDIATELY ATTEMPT TO CONTAIN THE MOB, BUT RATHER SOUGHT TO STOP JOURNALISTS FROM FILMING THE PROCEEDINGS.

4. FEARING RETALIATION FROM ANGRY CITIZENS, THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 7 THAT IT HAD BEEFED UP SECURITY AT AFGHAN MISSIONS IN PAKISTAN. AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ISLAMABAD DENIED THAT PAKISTAN HAD BACKED THE TALIBAN, STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY, AND SAID

THE KABUL GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ASKED SEPTEMBER 5-TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SECURITY FOR THE PAKISTANI MISSION -- THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE MORE PROTECTION BEING INTERPRETED AS CULPABILITY FOR THE ATTACK.

5. KABUL ENVOY IN ISLAMABAD, MASOOD KHALILI, TOLD POLOFF SEPTEMBER 6 THAT THE LOCAL SECURITY FORCES HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CONTAIN THE MOB AND THAT THE KABUL AUTHORITIES VERY MUCH REGRETTED THE INCIDENT. POLOFF RESPONDED THAT HE DOUBTED THAT THE DEMONSTRATION HAD BEEN SPONTANEOUS AND THAT THE WELL-EQUIPPED AND NUMEROUS SECURITY FORCES IN THE HEAVILY-ARMED AFGHAN CAPITAL SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD BACK THE MOB. KHALILI ADMITTED THAT "SOME POLITICAL ELEMENTS" MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK, BUT DENIED THAT PRESIDENT RABBANI OR DE FACTO DEFENSE MINISTER ARMED SHAH MASOOD WERE BEHIND THE INCIDENT.

6. COMMENT: NONE OF POST'S CONTACTS BELIEVES THE TORCHING OF THE PAKISTANI EMBASSY COULD HAVE HAPPENED EXCEPT ON THE EXPLICIT ORDERS OF AHMED SHAH MASOOD, WHO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE RANSACKING OF PAKISTAN'S OLD MISSION 19 MONTHS AGO. THE APPARENT COMPLICITY OF SECURITY FORCES AND THE FACT THAT THE MOB APPEARED ORGANIZED AND WELL-PREPARED FOR THE

ATTACK STRONGLY SUGGEST A GOVERNMENTAL ROLE. U.N. OFFICIALS IN KABUL CLAIM THAT FEW RESIDENTS OF THE CAPITAL HAVE CLOSE TIES TO HERAT; THE LOSS OF THAT CITY TO THE TALIBAN COULD NOT HAVE PROVOKED ANY SPONTANEOUS OUTBURSTS, THEY INSIST. END COMMENT. MONJO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E. AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 16 APR 2003 200104110

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