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PTQ4903

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION SA-01

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	INL-01	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01
	FBIE-00	H-01	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	NEA-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	ASDS-01	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-04
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/028W			

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O 021106Z JUL 98
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8131
INFO AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2/CCJ3/CCJ5/POLAD//
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY DHAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 005058

DEPT FOR SA/PAB, S/CT, DRL, AND EUR/CACEN; PARIS FOR POL/RAVELING;
LONDON FOR POL/SUTPHIN; GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/2/08

TAGS: PGOV, KISL, EAID, PHUM, PTER, AF, PK

SUBJ: AFGHANISTAN: IN JULY 2 MEETING, [REDACTED] DEFENDS
DISCRIMINATORY EDICTS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND CONTROLS ON NGO'S

B1

- REFS: (A) STATE 119660
- (B) ISLAMABAD 5010
- (C) PESHAWAR 473
- (D) ISLAMABAD 4877
- (E) ISLAMABAD 4502, AND PREVIOUS

(U) CLASSIFIED BY JOE NOVAK, ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR. REASONS:
1.5 (C) (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: IN A JULY 2 MEETING WITH [REDACTED] ACTING POLCOUNS URGED THE TALIBAN TO WITHDRAW RECENT EDICTS THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND IMPOSE NEW CONTROLS ON FOREIGN NGO'S. [REDACTED] WHILE NOTING HIS PERSONAL DISCOMFORT WITH THE EDICTS, DEFENDED THEM, ADDING THAT THE TALIBAN ARE ANGERED BY COMPLAINTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IN DISCUSSING OTHER ISSUES: [REDACTED] SAID THE PAK/IRAN PEACE EFFORT WAS A NON-STARTER; ADMITTED THAT THE GOP HAS COMMITTED TO GIVE MONEY TO THE TALIBAN;

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AND ASSERTED THAT THE TALIBAN HAVE ENACTED TOUGH NEW CONTROLS ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF TERRORIST FINANCIER BIN LADIN. END SUMMARY.

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URGING THAT THE EDICTS BE WITHDRAWN
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2. (C) ACTING POLCOUNS MET JULY 2 WITH [REDACTED] NOTING THE DAMAGE RECENT TALIBAN ACTIONS IN THE HUMANITARIAN/HUMAN RIGHTS SPHERE HAVE CAUSED TO THEIR ALREADY-FALTERING INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION, POLCOUNS USED THE MEETING TO URGE [REDACTED] TO PUSH [REDACTED] KABUL TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

-
- WITHDRAW THE EDICT CLOSING HOME-BASED SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS IN KABUL.
- WITHDRAW THE EDICT REQUIRING WOMEN TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CLOSE MALE RELATIVE DURING MEDICAL TREATMENT.
- WITHDRAW A RECENT EDICT THAT REQUIRES FOREIGN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO'S) TO RELOCATE THEIR OFFICES TO A SINGLE, ISOLATED COMPOUND.
-

POLCOUNS UNDERLINED THE POINT THAT RECENT TALIBAN EDICTS AND ACTIONS ARE DISCRIMINATORY TOWARD WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND A PROVOCATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHICH IS COMMITTED TO HELPING ALL AFGHANS, IRREGARDLESS OF GENDER OR ETHNICITY. THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONTROLS ON NGO'S POSES A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF NGO'S AND IMPINGES ON THEIR ABILITY TO ASSIST AFGHANS. OVERALL, RECENT TALIBAN ACTIONS THREATEN THE VIABILITY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN.

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EDICTS DEFENDED
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3. (C) WHILE NOTING THAT HE DID NOT PERSONALLY SUPPORT ALL TALIBAN ACTIONS, AN OBVIOUSLY UNCOMFORTABLE [REDACTED] COMMENTED THAT HE WAS COMMITTED TO DEFENDING THE TALIBAN EDICTS. TAKING POLOFF'S POINTS ONE-BY-ONE, [REDACTED] SAID THE FOLLOWING:

-
- THE TALIBAN CLOSED THE HOME-BASED SCHOOLS BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT

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REGISTERED WITH THE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, THE TALIBAN HAD INFORMATION THAT MANY OF THE TEACHERS ACTIVE BY THE SCHOOLS WERE FORMER AGENTS OF "THE KHAD" (KHAD WAS THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OF THE NOW-DEFUNCT COMMUNIST PARTY).

-- THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS TOTALLY MISUNDERSTOOD THE EDICT ABOUT WOMEN'S ACCESS TO HOSPITALS. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAVE NOT HELPED BUILD ENOUGH HOSPITALS WITH SEPARATE FACILITIES FOR WOMEN.

-- NGO'S ARE BEING RELOCATED TO AN AREA OF KABUL THAT IS MORE SECURE. THEY WILL LIKE THAT AREA WHEN THEY GO THERE.

MOVING ON TO A MORE GENERAL PLANE, [] OBSERVED THAT THE U.S.

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ACTION SA-01

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	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00

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G-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /028W
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O 021106Z JUL 98
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8132
INFO AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 005058

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AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY HAVE

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LITTLE LEVERAGE OVER THE TALIBAN -- "THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP DOES NOT LIKE YOU TOO MUCH -- ALL YOU DO IS COMPLAIN." POLCOUNS, NOTING THAT MUCH OF [REDACTED] COMMENTS WERE INCREDIBLE, URGED THE TALIBAN TO TAKE THE HIGH-ROAD, AND WORK CLOSELY WITH THE UN DELEGATION THAT IS CURRENTLY IN KABUL DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES WITH THE TALIBAN. (NOTE: SEE PESHAWAR SEPTTEL FOR AN UPDATE ON THE UN'S KABUL TALKS.)

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PAK/IRAN EFFORT SEEN AS NON-STARTER
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4. (C) SHIFTING FOCUS, POLCOUNS ASKED [REDACTED] ABOUT THE PAKISTANI/IRANIAN PEACE EFFORT (REF D), WHICH INVOLVES SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO MAZAR-I-SHARIF AND KANDAHAR TO DISCUSS WAYS TO BRING THE FACTIONS TOGETHER FOR FACE-TO-FACE TALKS. [REDACTED] REPLIED THAT THE TALIBAN WOULD MEET WITH THE PAK/IRAN TEAM; IN
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FACT, THE TEAM MIGHT HAVE ALREADY VISITED KANDAHAR. NONETHELESS, THE TALIBAN DID NOT THINK THAT THE EFFORT WOULD RESULT IN TOO MUCH. ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THIS LAST POINT, [REDACTED] STATED THAT THE TALIBAN SIMPLY COULD NOT TRUST ANY PEACE EFFORT THAT INVOLVED THE IRANIANS -- "IRAN DOES NOT WANT PEACE. WE (THE TALIBAN) KNOW THEY ARE OUT TO DESTROY US. THEY (THE IRANIANS) ARE PROVIDING HUGE AMOUNTS OF WEAPONS TO OUR OPPONENTS."

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ASSISTANCE FROM PAKISTAN
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5. (C) POLCOUNS ASKED [REDACTED] ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT RECENTLY AGREED TO PROVIDE THE TALIBAN 300 MILLION RUPEES (USD SIX MILLION) (REF B). MUJAHID SAID THE INFORMATION WAS TRUE; THE MONEY WAS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND ROAD RECONSTRUCTION. PAKISTAN HAD ALREADY PROVIDED 400 TONS OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PEOPLE FROM THE GHORBAND AREA OF CENTRAL AFGHANISTAN WHO ARE NOW LIVING IN KABUL. POLCOUNS REJOINED THAT THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THE 300 MILLION RUPEES WAS EARMARKED TO GO TO PAY THE SALARIES OF TALIBAN OFFICIALS AND MILITARY COMMANDERS,

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NOT HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES. [] SMILED AND COMMENTED THAT --
IN ANY CASE -- PAKISTAN HAD NOT SENT THE MONEY TO THE TALIBAN AS OF
YET. POLCOUNS ASKED IF THE GOP HAD PROMISED THE TALIBAN A CASH
DELIVERY AND [] SAID YES.

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BIN LADIN REPORTEDLY "UNDER CONTROL" IN KANDAHAR
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6. (C) TURNING TO COUNTERTERRORISM, POLCOUNS ASKED [] ABOUT
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THE STATUS OF TERRORIST FINANCIER USAMA BIN LADIN. []
RESPONDED THAT BIN LADIN IS NOW "UNDER CONTROL" IN KANDAHAR.
(NOTE: IN MAY AND EARLY JUNE, BIN LADIN WAS IN KHOST PROVINCE,
GIVING PRESS STATEMENTS THREATENING THE U.S. -- SEE REF E.)
TALIBAN AUTHORITIES HAVE "ENACTED TOUGH NEW CONTROLS," INSTRUCTING
BIN LADIN THAT HE NOW MUST CLEAR ALL OF HIS ACTIVITIES WITH THE
TALIBAN, INCLUDING HIS PRESS INTERVIEWS. BIN LADIN HAS TOLD THE
TALIBAN THAT HE WILL FROM NOW FULLY "SUBMIT" TO THEIR CONTROL.
(SAUDI INTELLIGENCE) CHIEF PRINCE TURKI HAD RECENTLY VISITED
KANDAHAR AND MADE STRONG POINTS TO THE TALIBAN ON BIN LADIN,
[] RELATED IT MIGHT BE
EASIER IF THE TALIBAN "JUST FORCED BIN LADIN OUT OF THE COUNTRY."
HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, TALIBAN LEADER MULLAH OMAR HAD COMMITTED
HIMSELF, AND WOULD NOT TURN AGAINST BIN LADIN.

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A NEW REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK?
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7. (C) IN CLOSING, [] CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT THE TALIBAN MIGHT REPLACE ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK,
ABDUL WAHAB. WAHAB, HE ASSERTED, IS EXTREMELY UNPOPULAR AMONG
MEMBERS OF THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S. HE IS NOT RESPONDING
TO THEIR CONCERNS, PARTIALLY BECAUSE HE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH

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O 021106Z JUL 98
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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INFO AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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WELL. THE TALIBAN ARE CONSIDERING REPLACING HIM WITH SHER MOHAMMAD
STANAKZAI, THE FORMER KABUL "DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER" WHO IS NOW
WORKING IN THE "MINISTRY OF PLANNING."

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COMMENT
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8. (C) [REDACTED] GAVE VERY LITTLE INDICATION THAT [REDACTED]
WOULD BACK DOWN ANYTIME SOON FROM THEIR RECENT HARD-LINE EDICTS.
HOWEVER, HE UNDERLINED THAT HE WOULD PASS U.S. VIEWS TO KABUL AND
KANDAHAR -- WHERE, OF COURSE, WE HAVE VERY LITTLE INFLUENCE.

[REDACTED]

SIMONS

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