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Page: 1 E3

Current Class: SECRET
Current Handling: NODIS
Document Number: 1998STATE154713

RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 STATE 154713 230310Z
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO LOG-00 CCOE-00 SAS-00 /000R

154713

SOURCE: KODAKB.023006

DRAFTED BY: SA/PAB:MEMALINOWSKI -- 02/12/98 X767L1 98PAKPOL/T-2TER.D

APPROVED BY: P:TRPICKERING

SA:KFINDERFURTH S/S:RLIKINS S/S-O:DLSHULER

P:SSGWALTNEY NSCS:ERICE

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-----6239AC 230312Z /38

O 230310Z AUG 98 ZFF4

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 154713

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/22/08

TAGS: PREL, PTER, AF, PK

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO THE TALIBAN ON BIN LADEN

CLASSIFIED BY SA ASSISTANT SECRETARY KARL F. INDERFURTH,
REASON 1.5 (D).

REF: STATE

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 154713 230310Z

1. (S) FOLLOWING UP ON TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH TALIBAN LEADER MULLAR OMAR (REFTEL) WHICH INDICATED AN APPARENT OPENNESS FOR DIALOGUE, POST IS INSTRUCTED TO ENGAGE WITH AN AUTHORITATIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TALIBAN TO PASS A FORMAL MESSAGE REGARDING THE RECENT U.S. STRIKES AGAINST KHOWST AND KHARTOUM AND THE NEED FOR THE TALIBAN TO EXPEL SAUDI TERRORIST OSAMA BIN LADEN SO THAT HE CAN BE PROPERLY BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR HIS TERRORIST ACTS. THE APPARENT READINESS OF THE TALL BAN FOR SERIOUS DIALOGUE NEEDS TO BE PROBED, WITH THE REALIZATION THAT IT COULD TURN OUT TO BE A PLOY FOR RECOGNITION OR OTHER BENEFITS OR A DEVICE TO STALL FOR TIME.

Current Class: SECRET

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 01 JUN 2004 200400628

UNCLASSIFIED

2. (S) ON DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S.

- * THE U.S. APPRECIATES THE CONVERSATION OF AUGUST 22 AND WE NOW WANT TO FOLLOW UP THAT CONVERSATION.
- * THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN A SERIOUS DIALOGUE WITH THE TALIBAN, PARTICULARLY ON THE NEED TO BRING INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST OSAMA BIN LADEN TO JUSTICE.
- * WE BELIEVE THAT THE BEST VENUE FOR SUCH A DIALOGUE IS WITH OUR OFFICIALS AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD.
- * WE WOULD WANT OUR DIALOGUE TO BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE BY BOTH SIDES.
- * WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO IDENTIFY AN OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE CAN DEAL AND WHO HAS THE APPROPRIATE SECURE ACCESS TO THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP.

3. (S) ON U.S. VIEWS OF THE TALIBAN

- * THE U.S. IS NEUTRAL ON AFGHANISTAN. WE WANT TO SEE AN
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 154713 230310Z

AFGHANISTAN AT PEACE UNDER A BROAD-BASED, MULTI-ETHNIC, GOVERNMENT THAT IS ENGAGED IN THE GREAT TASK OF REBUILDING THE COUNTRY AND RESPECTS INTERNATIONAL NORMS OF BEHAVIOR.

- * IN LAUNCHING THE STRIKE OF AUGUST 20 AGAINST KHOWST, THE U.S. IN NO WAY WANTED TO HARM THE PEACEFUL PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN NOR DAMAGE THE TALIBAN.

4. (S) WHY THE U.S. HAD TO DO WHAT IT DID

- * OUR ACTIONS AT KHOWST AND KHARTOUM WERE TAKEN SOLELY IN SELF DEFENSE.
- * WE HAD TO ACT TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS. IT IS THE SOVEREIGN DUTY OF ANY GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT ITS CITIZENS ARE PROTECTED. WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IRRESPONSIBLE IN REGARD TO THE PROTECTION OF OUR CITIZENS IF WE DID NOT ACT.
AS YOU KNOW, BOTH ISLAM AND PUSHTUNWALI, THE CODE OF HONOR OF THE PUSHTUNS, REQUIRE THAT PEOPLE TAKE SELF-PROTECTIVE MEASURES WHEN LIVES ARE THREATENED.
- * OUR ACTIONS WERE TAKEN IN ACCORD WITH ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH ALLOWS FOR A STATE TO DEFEND ITSELF AND ITS CITIZENS.
- * THE THREE TERRORIST TRAINING CASES AT KHOWST ARE USED BY A NUMBER OF GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BIN LADEN NETWORK. THE BASES PROVIDE REFUGE FOR TERRORISTS AND HOUSE THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THEIR FUNDING AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, AND FOR TRAINING THEM IN TACTICS

AND IN THE ASSEMBLY AND USE OF A WIDE VARIETY OF WEAPONS. SEVERAL OF THESE GROUPS HOUSED IN THESE BASES ARE KNOWN FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND HAVE
 SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 154713 230310Z

CONDUCTED A VARIETY OF TERRORIST OPERATIONS AROUND THE

WORLD. THESE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS LOOK TO THE BIN LADEN NETWORK BASES AT KHOWST TO OBTAIN INSPIRATION, TRAINING, AND FINANCING FOR THEIR ACTS OF TERROR AROUND THE WORLD.

- * WE HAVE RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE THAT THE BIN LADEN NETWORK HAS BEEN ACTIVELY SEEKING TO ACQUIRE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION -- INCLUDING CHEMICAL WEAPONS -- FOR USE AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS. THEREFORE, WE ALSO ATTACKED ONE FACILITY IN SUDAN ASSOCIATED WITH CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND THE BIN LADEN NETWORK.

5. (S) EVIDENCE AGAINST BIN LADEN; HIS ATTACKS ON MUSLIMS

- * WE HAVE DETAILED AND SOLID EVIDENCE THAT OSAMA BIN LADEN HAS BEEN ENGAGED AND IS STILL ENGAGED IN PLANNING, ORGANIZING, AND FUNDING ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERROR.
- * HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH LOSS OF LIFE, INNOCENT VICTIMS WHO OFTEN HAVE BEEN MUSLIM.
- * IN HIS LATEST ACTS, THE BOMBINGS IN KENYA AND TANZANIA, MANY OF THE VICTIMS WERE MUSLIM, INCLUDING AN AMERICAN OFFICER WORKING AT OUR EMBASSY IN NAIROBI. ELEMENTS OF BIN LADEN'S NETWORK ALSO WERE INVOLVED LAST WEEK IN A PLOT TO ATTACK OTHER U.S. EMBASSIES.
- * BIN LADEN'S TARGETS OFTEN ARE MUSLIM TARGETS, SUCH AS HIS EFFORTS TO OVERTHROW THE EXISTING MUSLIM GOVERNMENTS LIKE EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA.
- * AS SECRETARY OF STATE ALBRIGHT SAID ABOUT THE BOMBINGS IN EAST AFRICA, THEY WERE NOT POLITICAL, THEY WERE NOT RELIGIOUS, THEY WERE MURDER.

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 154713 230310Z

6. (U) THE BILL OF PARTICULARS AGAINST BIN LADEN

- * ON AUGUST 19, AN ISLAMIC FRONT CREATED BY THE BIN LADEN NETWORK, AND CALLING ITSELF THE WORLD ISLAMIC FRONT FOR JIHAD AGAINST THE JEWS AND CRUSADERS, PRAISED THE BOMBINGS OF THE EMBASSIES AND WARNED THAT, "AMERICA WILL FACE A BLACK FATE. STRIKES WILL CONTINUE FROM EVERYWHERE, AND ISLAMIC GROUPS WILL APPEAR ONE AFTER THE

Current Class: SECRET

- OTHER TO FIGHT AMERICAN INTERESTS."
- * BIN LADEN AND HIS NETWORK CONSPIRED TO KILL U.S. SERVICEMEN IN YEMEN WHO WERE ON THEIR WAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HUMANITARIAN MISSION "OPERATION RESTORE HOPE" IN SOMALIA IN 1992.
 - * HE PLOTTED THE DEATHS OF AMERICAN AND OTHER PEACEKEEPERS IN SOMALIA WHO WERE THERE TO DELIVER FOOD TO STARVING MUSLIM PEOPLE. BIN LADEN OBVIOUSLY DID NOT CARE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE SOMALI S -- MUSLIMS -- WHO OUR SERVICEMEN WERE TRYING TO KEEP FROM STARVING.
 - * BIN LADEN AND HIS NETWORK ASSISTED EGYPTIAN TERRORIST WHO TRIED TO ASSASSINATE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK IN 1995 AND WHO KILLED DOZENS OF TOURISTS IN EGYPT IN RECENT YEARS.
 - * THE ISLAMIC JIHAD, ONE OF THE KEY GROUPS IN THE NETWORK, CONDUCTED A CAR BOMBING AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN PAKISTAN IN 1995 THAT KILLED OVER 20 EGYPTIANS AND PAKISTANI -- AGAIN, THE VICTIMS WERE MUSLIMS.
 - * MEMBERS OF BIN LADEN'S NETWORK PLOTTED TO BLOW UP U.S. AIRLINERS IN THE PACIFIC AND SEPARATELY CONSPIRED TO KILL THE POPE.

SECRET

PAGE 06 STATE 154713 230310Z

- * HIS FOLLOWERS BOMBED A JOINT U.S. AND SAUDI MILITARY TRAINING MISSION IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA IN 1995.
- * BIN LADEN'S NETWORK HAS PUBLICLY AND REPEATEDLY ARTICULATED A CLEAR AND VIOLENT ANTI-U.S. AGENDA:
 - IN AUGUST 1996, BIN LADEN ISSUED A "DECLARATION OF WAR" AGAINST THE U.S.
 - IN FEBRUARY, 1997, BIN LADEN STATED "IF SOMEONE CAN KILL AN AMERICAN SOLIDER, IT IS BETTER THAN WASTING TIME ON OTHER MATTERS.
 - IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, THE BIN LADEN NETWORK'S WORLD ISLAMIC FRONT FOR JIHAD AGAINST THE JEWS AND CRUSADERS DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO ATTACK AMERICANS AND OUR ALLIES, INCLUDING CIVILIANS AND INCLUDING MUSLIMS, ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.
 - IN MAY OF THIS YEAR, BIN LADEN STATED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN AFGHANISTAN THAT WE WOULD SEE THE RESULTS OF HIS THREATS "IN A FEW WEEKS"
- * IN THE FACE OF BIN LADEN'S THREATS AND ACTIONS, HOW COULD THE U.S. NOT FAIL TO PROTECT ITSELF AND ITS CITIZENS.

7. (S) TALIBAN HAS ITS OWN INFORMATION

- * THE TALIBAN HAS ASKED FOR EVIDENCE OF BIN LADEN'S

Current Class: SECRET

Page: 4

Current Class: SECRET
 Current Handling: NODIS
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Channel: n/a

- ASSOCIATION WITH TERROR.
- * WE HAVE IT, BUT SO DOES THE TALIBAN.
 - * THE TALIBAN KNOWS WHAT BIN LADEN SAYS, WHAT HE DOES, AND WHO HE MEETS. WE CALL ON THE TALIBAN TO REVIEW FOR ITSELF BIN LADEN'S ACTIVITIES.
 - * THIS REVIEW WILL SHOW HIS CULPABILITY.

SECRET

PAGE 07 STATE 154713 230310Z

8. THE U.S. AND ISLAM, IN AND OUT OF THE GULF

- * WE WISH TO BE MOST CLEAR THAT THE U.S. RESPECTS AND REVERES ISLAM AS A GREAT RELIGION OF THE WORLD.
 - * MANY OF OUR CITIZENS ARE MUSLIM; IT IS THE FASTEST GROWING RELIGION IN THE U.S.
- THE U.S. IS NOT AN ENEMY OF ISLAM IN ANY PLACE IN THE WORLD.
- WE HAVE NO DESIGNS ON THE SACRED HOLY PLACES OF ISLAM. WE VIEW THEM WITH THE GREAT RESPECT THEY DESERVE.
- BIN LADEN HAS CALLED FOR THE REMOVAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM THE GULF.
- WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO KEEP OUR FORCES THERE, FAR FROM HOME AND AT CONSIDERABLE COST. BUT WE HAVE BEEN ASKED BY FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS, IN PART BY THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND HIS MAJESTY KING FAHD, TO MAINTAIN A PRESENCE IN THE GULF AS PROTECTION FROM A MAN ASSOCIATED WITH AGGRESSION AND TERROR -- SADDAM HUSSEIN. OUR FORCES ARE THERE WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

9. (S) BIN LADEN NOT BEHAVING AS A GUEST

- SOME TALIBAN OFFICIALS IN THE PAST HAVE ARGUED THAT BIN LADEN CANNOT BE EXPELLED FROM AFGHANISTAN BECAUSE THAT WOULD VIOLATE THE CODE OF HOSPITALITY (MELMASTIA) MANDATED BY PUSHTUWALI.
- BUT BIN LADEN HAS VIOLATED PUSHTUNWALI BY NOT BEHAVING AS A GUEST SHOULD BEHAVE. HE HAS ABUSED AFGHAN HOSPITALITY BY LAUNCHING ATTACKS FROM AFGHAN SOIL. NO PUSHTUN SHOULD PUT UP WITH SUCH ABUSE.

SECRET

PAGE 08 STATE 154713 230310Z

10. (S) WHAT THE TALIBAN SHOULD DO

- ATTEMPTS BY THE TALIBAN TO CONTROL BIN LADEN'S ACTIVITIES UNFORTUNATELY HAVE FAILED.

Current Class: SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: SECRET

Page: 6

Current Handling: NODIS

Document Number: 1998STATE154713

Channel: n/a

-- HE CONTINUES TO DIRECT HIS NETWORK IN ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERROR.

-- THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THE TALIBAN SHOULD TAKE OSAMA BIN LADEN INTO CUSTODY AND EXPEL HIM AND HIS NETWORK, TURNING HIM OVER TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES SO THAT HE CAN BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

-- THE WORLD -- AND HIS VICTIMS -- DEMAND THAT JUSTICE BE DONE AND IT LOOKS TO THE TALL BAN TO HELP SEE THAT IT IS DONE.

-- WE HAVE ASKED YOU BEFORE, MOST NOTABLY WHEN AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON VISITED KABUL, AND OTHERS HAVE ASKED YOU, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA, TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

-- THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE NOW ON THE TALIBAN. IT SHOULD NOW DO THE PROPER AND JUST THING.

11. (U) MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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Current Class: SECRET

Page: 6

UNCLASSIFIED