DECAUTIONED

FOR SA, SA/PAB, S/CT

ALSO FOR P

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1.6X6
TAGS: PTER, PREL, SNAR, AF
SUBJ: Taliban seeks repeat meeting in Frankfurt or Dubai

REF: Islamabad 5749

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAM B. MILAM.
REASON: 1.6X6.

1. (S) SUMMARY: Taliban [SENT WORD] that he wants a follow-up meeting with U.S. officials on or about September 30.

END SUMMARY.

2. (S) Afghan [MET WITH AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 19, REPORTED THAT TALIBAN HAD DEPARTED]
FOR KANDAHAR THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 19 (FLYING TO QUETTA AND GOING BY ROAD FROM THERE TO KANDAHAR), BUT HAD ASKED TO SAY HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH HIS SEPTEMBER 17 MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR (REF).

FAILURE TO DEFEND BIN LADIN IN THE MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR WAS NO ACCIDENT; THE TALIBAN MIGHT CONTINUE TO DEFEND UBL PUBLICLY, BUT WOULD NO LONGER DO SO IN PRIVATE.

3. (S) ______ WANTS A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WHERE, _______ WOULD BE ABLE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT TALIBAN PLANS FOR BIN LADIN. ______ IS ARRANGING A MEETING OF ______ TALIBAN MINISTER FOR POWER AND ELECTRICITY AHMAD JAN ______ SECRET

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 05779 01 OF 02 191236Z ______ AND POSSIBLY OTHER TALIBAN OFFICIALS WITH "INVESTORS AND BUSINESS PEOPLE" (NFI) IN EITHER DUBAI OR FRANKFURT FOR SEPTEMBER 30. ______ PROPOSED THAT HE STAY ON ALONE AFTER THE BUSINESS-ORIENTED MEETING TO TALK FURTHER WITH THE AMBASSADOR OR SOME OTHER DESIGNATED USG OFFICIAL. AMBASSADOR NOTED HE WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE IN THAT TIME FRAME AND SUGGESTED FRANKFURT WOULD BE MUCH MORE CONDUCTIVE FOR SUCH A MEETING, ASSUMING WASHINGTON CHOSE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE. ______ TOOK THE SUGGESTION ON BOARD AND PROMISED TO BE IN CONTACT, MOST LIKELY WITH SA/PAB, TO PIN DOWN DETAILS.

5. (S) ______ Commented that based on his
6. (S) ALSO ASKED TO CONVEY TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT WHILE THE POPPIES PLANTED THIS YEAR COULD NOT BE REVERSED, THE TALIBAN WOULD BURN POPPY PROCESSING LABORATORIES IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO OMAR'S POPPY BAN. IN THE FUTURE, WE WOULD SEE A DECREASE IN PRODUCTION AS WELL, HE RELAYED. AMBASSADOR WARNED THAT THE U.S. HAD SEEN THIS KIND OF PLOY BY THE TALIBAN BEFORE -- "FACTORIES" HAD

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FOR SA, SA/PAB, S/CT

ALSO FOR P

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1.6X6
TAGS: PTER, PREL, SNAR, AF
SUBJ: TALIBAN SEeks REPEAT MEETING IN FRANKFURT OR DUBAI
EVEN BURNED FROM WHICH ALL PROCESSING EQUIPMENT
HAD BEEN REMOVED AND RELOCATED TO NEW FACILITIES,
WITH ONLY EMPTY SHELLS REMAINING FOR DESTRUCTION.
SUCH A RUSE WILL NOT WORK AND WILL ONLY CONVINCE
THE U.S. THAT THE TALIBAN ARE AGAIN PLAYING
GAMES. AMBASSADOR RECOMMENDED THAT, IF SERIOUS,
THE TALIBAN MUST HAVE NEUTRAL OBSERVERS FROM THE
UN, WESTERN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, OR AT THE LEAST
A NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS TO OBSERVE
SECRET

EXPLAINED THAT THE TALIBAN
COULD NOT BE SEEN AS DESTROYING POPPIES OR
FACILITIES IN RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL PRESSURE; IT
HAD TO BE A "PASHTUN OPERATION," HE SAID. THUS,
IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE GOVERNMENT
OBSERVERS, BUT HE PROMISED TO WARN THAT THE
ACT MUST BE GENUINE AND VERIFIABLE.
8. (S) COMMENT: IF AGAIN PRODUCES FOR A MEETING, WE RECOMMEND WASHINGTON RESPOND POSITIVELY. WHILE THE TALIBAN COULD WELL JUST BE PLAYING ANOTHER GAME -- PERHAPS HOPING TO AVOID NEW SANCTIONS -- WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY ARE REASSESSING THEIR BIN LADIN POLICY AND WANT TO SEE WHAT THEY MIGHT GET FOR IT.

MILAM

SECRET

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