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ORIGIN SA-01
INFO LOG-00 INLB-01 ACQ-01 CIAE-00 SMEC-00 INL-01 QASY-00
DOD-00 OIGO-01 FBl-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 NEA-01
NSAE-00 USIE-00 FMP-00 PRME-01 DRL-09 /016R

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FOLLOWING PESHAWAR 0926 DTD 03 OCT SENT ACTION
STATE ISLAMABAD INFO USUN ASHGABAT DUSHANBE LONDON
MOSCOW NEW DELHI PARIS RIYADH ROME TASHKENT JEDDAH
KARACHI LAHORE GENEVA USIA DIA RPTD FOR UR INFO.
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USIA FOR NEA - WINCHESTER
LONDON FOR POL - TUELLER
PARIS FOR POL - ALLEGRENO

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MULLAH MOHAMMAD OMAR

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3. (C) MULLAH MOHAMMAD OMAR WHO WAS PROCLAIMED "AMIR UL-MOMINEEN" (LEADER OF THE FAITHFUL) BY A GATHERING OF AFGHAN ULEMA IN KANDAHAR IN APRIL IS GENERALLY VIEWED AS THE FINAL VOICE OF AUTHORITY WITHIN THE LOOSELY ORGANIZED TALIBAN HIERARCHY. OMAR IS APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OLD FROM THE MAIWAND DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE AND IS A MEMBER OF THE HOTAK BRANCH OF THE GHILZAI TRIBE. EDUCATED IN AFGHAN AND PAKISTANI MADRASAS, HE

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SERVED AS DEPUTY COMMANDER TO HARAKAT-INVILAB-I-ISLAMI (NABI MOHAMMADI) COMMANDER MAULAWI FAIZULLAH IN KANDAHAR. OMAR COMMANDED RESISTANCE EFFORTS IN KANDAHAR, ZABUL, HERAT, AND FARAH PROVINCES. DURING THE JIHAD, HE LOST ONE OF HIS EYES. AFTER THE FALL OF THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN APRIL 1992, OMAR BEGAN TEACHING IN A MADRASA LOCATED IN HOME DISTRICT OF MAIWAND AND FUNDED BY KANDAHAR BUSINESSMAN HAJI BASHAR. IN ADDITION TO ADVISORS FROM WITHIN THE TALIBAN EXECUTIVE SHURA, OMAR ALSO CONSULTS WITH TWO CLOSE FRIENDS MULLAH YARANA AND MULLAH BIRATHER

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WHO DO NOT HOLD ANY OFFICIAL POSITIONS IN THE TALIBAN ORGANIZATION. KANDAHARI MULLAHS FROM THE POPOLZAI TRIBE, YARANA AND BIRATHER HELPED OMAR STAGE THE UPRISING AGAINST KANDAHAR COMMANDERS IN THE FALL OF 1994 WHICH EVENTUALLY LED TO THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER OF KANDAHAR. (NOTE: THE SPELLING "BIRATHER" REFLECTS THE PRONUNCIATION OF THE NAME WHICH IN DARI AND PASHTU IS THE WORD FOR BROTHER. END NOTE.)

MULLAH MOHAMMAD RABBANI
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4. (C) MULLAH MOHAMMAD RABBANI HAS BEEN TAPPED BY OMAR TO HEAD THE RECENTLY FORMED SIX-MEMBER "NATIONAL" INTERIM SHURA AND HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY SOME AFGHAN TALIBAN WATCHERS AS A "MODERATE." (COMMENT: THE TERM MODERATE HAS BEEN APPLIED IN THE PAST TO THOSE MEMBERS OF THE TALIBAN WILLING TO CONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER FACTIONS. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY MEANING IN THE CONTEXT OF TALIBAN SOCIAL POLICIES. END COMMENT.) RABBANI WHO IS IN HIS LATE THIRTIES HAIL FROM THE ARGHIKAN DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE AND BELONGS TO THE KAKAR TRIBE. FORMERLY A STUDENT IN ONE OF PAKISTAN'S MADRASAS, RABBANI SERVED AS A DEPUTY COMMANDER UNDER HEZB-I-ISLAMI (KHALIS) (HIK) COMMANDER ABDUL
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MULLAH MOHAMMAD GHAUS
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5. (C) MULLAH MOHAMMAD GHAUS SERVES ON THE SIX-MEMBER INTERIM SHURA AS FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR. BORN IN 1965 IN URUZGAN PROVINCE, GHAUS, A NURZAI-DURRANI PASHTUN, NOW USES THE ARGHIKAN DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR AS A HOME BASE. HE WAS STUDYING AT A MADRASA IN THE DEhraUD DISTRICT OF URUZGAN WHEN SOVIET FORCES INVADED AFGHANISTAN IN 1979. GHAUS SERVED FROM 1979 TO 1992 AS A GROUP COMMANDER UNDER HIK COMMANDER ABDUL RAZAQ IN KANDAHAR. HE LOST ONE EYE DURING THE JIHAD. GHAUS JOINED THE TALIBAN STAGED

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MULLAH MOHAMMAD HASSAN

6. (C) MULLAH MOHAMMAD HASSAN SERVES AS ONE OF THE SIX-MEMBER "NATIONAL" INTERIM SHURA. HIS SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE SHURA ARE UNKNOWN. IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES, HASSAN BELONGS TO THE BABAR TRIBE AND COMES FROM THE MOHALLAJAT NEIGHBORHOOD OF CONFIDENTIAL

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OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM SHURA

7. (C) LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE OTHER THREE MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY APPOINTED SHURA: (1) FAZEL MOHAMMAD WHO HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF INTERNAL SECURITY; (2) MULLAH GHIASSUDIN; AND (3) COMMANDER ABDUL RAZAQ WHO LED TALIBAN FORCES IN THE TAKEOVER OF EASTERN AFGHANISTAN AND KABUL. (NOTE: HE IS NOT HIK COMMANDER ABDUL RAZAQ MENTIONED ABOVE. END NOTE.) (NOTE: SEE REFTEL PARAS 7 AND 8 WHICH CONTAIN SOME BIODATA ON FAZEL MOHAMMAD AND ABDUL RAZAQ. END NOTE.)

MULLAH EHSANULLAH

8. (C) MULLAH EHSAN EHSANULLAH HAS MOST RECENTLY BEEN ORGANIZING THE TALIBAN ADMINISTRATION IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN AFTER THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER IN MID-SEPTEMBER 1996. HE SERVED IN A SIMILAR

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CAPACITY IN THE FALL OF 1995 IN THE WESTERN PROVINCES CAPTURED FROM ISMAIL KHAN IN SEPTEMBER 1995. IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES, EHSANULLAH IS A POPALZAI-DURRANI AND COMES FROM THE DAMAN NEIGHBORHOOD OF KANDAHAR CITY. HE STUDIED IN A PAKISTANI MADRASA.

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MULLAH ABBAS

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MULLAH WAKIL AHMAD

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MULLAH YAR MOHAMMAD

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11. (C) MULLAH YAR MOHAMMAD, WHO HAS BEEN THE GOVERNOR OF HERAT SINCE THE FALL OF 1995, HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING MORE OF A "MILITARY MAN" THAN A DIPLOMAT. THE GOVERNOR REPORTEDLY BECAME EMBARRASSED AND CALLED FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF A MULLAH WHEN HERATI WOMEN ATTEMPTED TO PETITION HIM AFTER TALIBAN AUTHORITIES CLOSED GIRLS' SCHOOLS AND PROHIBITED MOST WOMEN FROM WORKING IN HERAT. IN HIS LATE THIRTIES, YAR MOHAMMAD IS A POPALZAI-DURRANI PASHTUN FROM THE ARGHISTAN DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE. HE STUDIED IN MADRASAS IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, LATER BECOMING A COMMANDER IN THE ARGHISTAN DISTRICT. HE HAS A REPUTATION AMONG AFGHANS AS A BRAVE COMMANDER WHOSE COURAGE WAS REPORTEDLY REWARDED BY A GIFT OF FIFTEEN STINGER MISSILES. HE WAS ARRESTED BY AHMAD SHAH MASOOD IN THE SPRING OF 1995 WHEN HE TRAVELLED INTO KABUL GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED TERRITORY AS A PART OF A DELEGATION SENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH MASOOD. YAR MOHAMMAD WAS RELEASED A FEW MONTHS LATER IN A PRISONER EXCHANGE ORGANIZED BY PAKISTANI JUI (JAMIAT-I-ULEMA-I ISLAM) LEADER FAZLUR REHMAN.