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ACTION SCT-00

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AID-00 A-00 ACQ-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4110
INFO AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA J5//
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL JEDDAH
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
USMISSION USVIENNA
AMEMBASSY ALMATY

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AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 06 FEB 2007  200605574

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"SOCIAL MODERATE, WHO IS NOT STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE TALIBAN'S POSITIONS ON THE TREATMENT OF WOMEN." HE EXPLAINED THAT HAQQANI'S TRIBE, THE ZADRANS, ARE CONSIDERED MORE LIBERAL IN THEIR TREATMENT OF WOMEN THAN THE TRIBES IN THE KANDAHAR AREA. (NOTE: MOST INFLUENTIAL TALIBAN LEADERS ARE FROM KANDAHAR PROVINCE.) WAHAB COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT HAQQANI FUNCTIONS MORE IN THE MILITARY AREA, AND IS NOT A FORCE IN SETTING TALIBAN POLITICAL OR SOCIAL ISSUES.
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THese relationships, asserted, have continued and, in exchange for weapons and money, Haqqani is "offering shelter for various Arabs in areas of Paktia province." Brushing aside Poloff's request for further information on this subject, [ ] stated that he did not have the details, but that Haqqani's role with the "Arabs" is "well-known." (Note: Reporting in other channels indicate that Haqqani maintains these links.)

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NOT SEEN AS INFLUENTIAL WITH TALIBAN
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8. (C) TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF HAQQANI'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TALIBAN [ ], CONCURRED WITH WAHAB'S ASSESSMENT THAT HAQQANI PROBABLY DID NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE WITH THE TALIBAN ON POLITICAL OR SOCIAL ISSUES. "ALTHOUGH HE IS A MULLAH," HE RELATED, "HAQQANI IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A TALIBAN AND HE HAS LITTLE CREDIBILITY WITH THEM ON ISSUES OUTSIDE OF THE MILITARY REALM." HE OBSERVED THAT HAQQANI'S TIES TO ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS ARE ALSO OPPOSED BY A NUMBER OF TALIBAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING "ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER" GAUS. (NOTE: IN A MEETING WITH DCM IN EARLY DECEMBER, CONFIDENTIAL

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MULLAH GAUS, WHEN ASKED ABOUT HAQQANI'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TALIBAN, WAS DISMISSIVE AND INTIMATED THAT HAQQANI WAS NOT IMPORTANT IN THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP HIERARCHY.) NONETHELESS, [ ] ADVISED, "HAQQANI COULD PROVE TO HAVE A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE TALIBAN BY MAKING THEM MORE PRONE TO ACCEPT THE ADVICE OF ISLAMIC RADICALS."

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ONE OF THE "HARD MEN"
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9. (C) GENERAL PAYENDA, DOSTAM'S REPRESENTATIVE IN ISLAMABAD, TOLD POLOFF JANUARY 3 THAT MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL ARE AWARE OF HAQQANI'S EMERGENCE AS AN IMPORTANT TALIBAN COMMANDER AND THEY SEE HIS RISE AS A MANIFESTATION OF A TALIBAN POLICY TO PLACE "HARD MEN" IN KEY MILITARY POSITIONS. (NOTE: PAYENDA CHARACTERIZED THE TALIBAN'S RECENT SELECTION OF ABDUL RAZAQ AS GOVERNOR OF HERAT AS PART OF THIS TALIBAN POLICY-- REF B.) HAQQANI'S ZADRAN TRIBESMEN ARE "QUITE WILD," HE CONTINUED, "AND THE
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TALIBAN WANT THEM ON THE FRONT-LINES TO HARASS OUR FORCES."
PAYENDA EVINced LITTLE CONCERN ABOUT HAQQANI, HOWEVER, ASSERTING
THAT HE AND HIS FORCES GENERALLY LACK DISCIPLINE AND WILL
INEVITABLY DEVELOP TENSIONS WITH THE TALIBAN.

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COMMENT
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10. (C) THE PRESENCE OF HAQQANI'S FORCES NORTH OF KABUL-- WHETHER

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ACTION SCT-00

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FM AMBASSAY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4109
INFO AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY
AMBASSAY TASHKENT
AMCONSUL MACDILL AFB FL
AMBASSAY HONOLULU HI//FPA J5//
AMBASSAY BEIJING
AMBASSAY MOSCOW
DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL USUN NEW YORK
AMBASSAY ANKARA
AMCONSUL JedDAH
AMBASSAY RIYADH

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1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR THOMAS PRICE. REASON: 1.5 (C) (D).

SUMMARY

2. (C) RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THAT FORMER AFGHAN RESISTANCE COMMANDER JALALUDDIN HAQQANI MAY NOW BE IN CHARGE OF THE TALIBAN'S FORCES NORTH OF KABUL. VIEWS OF HAQQANI'S ROLE WITH THE TALIBAN CONFIDENTIAL
ARE MIXED. SOME OBSERVERS SEE HIM AS AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY LEADER WITH SOCIALLY MODERATE VIEWS. OTHERS EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT HAQQANI'S LINKS TO ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS. OBSERVERS TEND TO AGREE THAT HAQQANI AT THIS TIME PROBABLY HAS MORE INFLUENCE WITH THE TALIBAN ON MILITARY STRATEGY THAN ON POLITICAL OR SOCIAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

NEW ROLE AS KEY COMMANDER NORTH OF KABUL

3. (C) RECENT PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS INDICATE THAT FORMER AFGHAN RESISTANCE COMMANDER JALALUDDIN HAQQANI MAY NOW BE IN CHARGE OF THE TALIBAN'S FORCES NORTH OF KABUL. THERE HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION FROM THE TALIBAN THAT HAQQANI HAS BEEN PLACED IN SUCH A POSITION AND HIS FORMAL TALIBAN TITLE REMAINS "ACTING MINISTER OF TRIBES AND BORDERS." IF HAQQANI HAS ASSUMED THE LEAD ROLE NORTH OF KABUL--THE WAR'S MOST IMPORTANT SECTOR--HE WILL HAVE TAKEN OVER A POSITION PREVIOUSLY HELD BY MULLAH BORJAN, FORMERLY THE TALIBAN'S CHIEF MILITARY COMMANDER, WHO WAS KILLED NEAR KABUL IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1996.

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ISLAMABAD AND A TALIBAN SUPPORTER, TOLD POLOFF JANUARY 1 THAT HE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT HAAQANI HAS ASSUMED THE ROLE OF CHIEF COMMANDER ON THE KABUL FRONT. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT HAAQANI HAD BECOME ONE OF THE "TALIBAN'S KEY MILITARY COMMANDERS BECAUSE HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS TOUGHNESS AND MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS." WAHAB, A FORMER HEZB-I-ISLAMI (KHALIS) COMMANDER LIKE HAAQANI, CLAIMED THAT HAAQANI PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE TALIBAN'S DEFEAT OF HEZB-I-ISLAMI (HEKMATyar) FORCES IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1996. HE EXPLAINED THAT GHILZAIS (A MAJOR BRANCH OF THE PASHTUN ETHNIC GROUP) IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN HAD "DEFEATED FROM HEKMATyar TO THE TALIBAN LARGELY BECAUSE OF HAAQANI'S SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO TURN THEM AGAINST THE KABUL REGIME." (NOTE: GULBUDDIN HEKMATyar SERVED AS THE FORMER KABUL REGIME'S PRIME MINISTER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THE TALIBAN SEIZED KABUL IN SEPTEMBER 1996.)

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PORTRAIYED AS A "SOCIAL MODERATE"
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6. (C) ASKED ABOUT HAAQANI'S VIEWS ON THE TALIBAN'S SOCIAL POLICIES, WAHAB REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT OF HAAQANI AS A

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AMBASSAD ALMATY

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AMBASSAD ASHGABAT
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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: JALALUDDIN HAQQANI’S EMERGENCE AS A KEY TALIBAN COMMANDER

"SOCIAL MODERATE, WHO IS NOT STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE TALIBAN’S POSITIONS ON THE TREATMENT OF WOMEN." HE EXPLAINED THAT HAQQANI’S TRIBE, THE ZADRANS, ARE CONSIDERED MORE LIBERAL IN THEIR TREATMENT OF WOMEN THAN THE TRIBES IN THE KANDAHAR AREA. (NOTE: MOST INFLUENTIAL TALIBAN LEADERS ARE FROM KANDAHAR PROVINCE.) WAHAB COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT HAQQANI FUNCTIONS MORE IN THE MILITARY AREA, AND IS NOT A FORCE IN SETTING TALIBAN POLITICAL OR SOCIAL ISSUES.

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HAQQANI SEEN AS INFLUENCED BY ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS
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7. (C) IN A JANUARY 6 CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF, [REDACTED] A TALIBAN SUPPORTER [REDACTED] SAID HE KNOWS HAQQANI AND AGREES THAT HE IS AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY STRATEGIST. HE ARGUED THAT HAQQANI "SHOULD BE SEEN IN HIS PROPER CONTEXT AND HE HAS CLEAR LINKS WITH ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS." WARMING TO THIS THEME [REDACTED] ASSERTED THAT HAQQANI HAD DEVELOPED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH VARIOUS RADICAL ARAB GROUPS DURING THE JIHAD. THESE RELATIONSHIPS [REDACTED] ASSERTED, HAVE CONTINUED AND, IN EXCHANGE FOR WEAPONS AND MONEY, HAQQANI IS "OFFERING SHELTER FOR
8. (C) TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF HAQQANI'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TALIBAN, CONCURRED WITH WAHAB'S ASSESSMENT THAT HAQQANI PROBABLY DID NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE WITH THE TALIBAN ON POLITICAL OR SOCIAL ISSUES. "ALTHOUGH HE IS A MULLAH," HERELATED, "HAQQANI IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A TALIBAN AND HE HAS LITTLE CREDIBILITY WITH THEM ON ISSUES OUTSIDE OF THE MILITARY REALM." HE OBSERVED THAT HAQQANI'S TIES TO ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS ARE ALSO OPPOSED BY A NUMBER OF TALIBAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING "ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER" GAUS. (NOTE: IN A MEETING WITH DCM IN EARLY DECEMBER, MULLAH GAUS, WHEN ASKED ABOUT HAQQANI'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TALIBAN, WAS DISMISSIVE AND INTIMATED THAT HAQQANI WAS NOT IMPORTANT IN THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP HIERARCHY.) NONETHELESS, ADVISED, "HAQQANI COULD PROVE TO HAVE A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE TALIBAN BY MAKING THEM MORE PRONE TO ACCEPT THE ADVICE OF ISLAMIC RADICALS."

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HAQQANI'S ZADRAN TRIBESMEN ARE "QUITE WILD," HE CONTINUED, "AND THE TALIBAN WANT THEM ON THE FRONT-LINES TO HARASS OUR FORCES." PAYENDA EVINCED LITTLE CONCERN ABOUT HAQQANI, HOWEVER, ASSERTING THAT HE AND HIS FORCES GENERALLY LACK DISCIPLINE AND WILL INEVITABLY DEVELOP TENSIONS WITH THE TALIBAN.

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COMMENT
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10. (C) THE PRESENCE OF HAQQANI'S FORCES NORTH OF KABUL--WHETHER

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AMEMBASSY RIYADH
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AMEMBASSY ALMATY

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HAQQANI IS OVERALL COMMANDER OF THE SECTOR OR NOT--IS SIGNIFICANT AND HAS UNDOUBTEDLY ADDED TO THE MILITARY CLOUT OF THE TALIBAN. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT HE IS INFLUENTIAL IN TALIBAN CIRCLES. BECAUSE OF HAQQANI'S LINKS TO EXTREMISTS, HOWEVER, HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TALIBAN BEARS CLOSE SCRUTINY.

SIMONS