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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JEDDAH
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CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 005710

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PAGE 02
ISLAMA 05710 291236Z
DEPT FOR SA/PAB, INR/NESA, AND EUR/CACEN; LONDON FOR POL/SUTPHIN;
E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/29/08
TAGS: PREL, KSDL, PINR, AF, PK, SA
SUBJ: AFGHANISTAN: TALIBAN SET TO SHIFT "DIPLOMATIC" PERSONNEL IN
NEW YORK, RIYADH, AND ISLAMABAD

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

1. (U) THIS MESSAGE WAS COORDINATED WITH CONSULATE PESHAWAR.

2. (SBU) VARIOUS SOURCES CONFIRM THAT THE TALIBAN ARE SET TO SHIFT
AROUND "DIPLOMATIC" PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THEIR OFFICE IN NEW YORK,
AND THEIR EMBASSIES IN ISLAMABAD AND RIYADH. FROM WHAT WE
UNDERSTAND THE SHIFTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: ABDUL HAKIM MUJAHID,
WHO IS NOW "AMBASSADOR" TO PAKISTAN, WILL GO TO NEW YORK; ABDUL
WAHAB, WHO WAS IN NEW YORK, WILL GO TO RIYADH; AND SYED-UR RAHMAN
HAQQANI, IN HIS FIRST TALIBAN "DIPLOMATIC" ASSIGNMENT, TAKES OVER
IN ISLAMABAD. "THE VOICE OF THE SHARI'A," THE TALIBAN'S RADIO
STATION AND OFFICIAL MOUTHPIECE, HAS NOT ANNOUNCED THE CHANGES YET,
BUT ACTING POLCOUNS WAS TOLD BY A TALIBAN SOURCE THAT IT WOULD
SOON.

3. (C) EMBASSY HAS THE FOLLOWING BRIEF BIO-DATA ON THE TALIBAN
"DIPLOMATS" MENTIONED ABOVE:

--- ABDUL HAKIM MUJAHID: MUJAHID, AFTER A HALF-YEAR IN
ISLAMABAD, IS RETURNING TO HEAD THE TALIBAN'S OFFICE IN NEW
YORK ONCE AGAIN. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHEN HE WILL TAKE UP HIS NEW
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PAGE 03  ISLAMA 05710  291236Z

THE TALIBAN ARE BELIEVED TO BE SENDING
HIM BACK TO NEW YORK BECAUSE OF THE WIDESPREAD VIEW THAT HE
WAS AN EXCELLENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR THEM AT THE UN, AND WITH

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-- ABDUL WAHAB: WAHAB IS SET TO GO TO RIYADH IN AUGUST, AFTER ABOUT SIX MONTHS IN NEW YORK. HE WILL BE A FIRST SECRETARY AT THE AFGHAN EMBASSY THERE, SUBORDINATE TO MAULAWI DILAWAR. HE TOLD ACTING POLCouns JULY 29 THAT HE WAS UNHAPPY IN NEW YORK BECAUSE HIS FAMILY COULD NOT SETTLE IN AND HE WAS LIVING ON A VERY SMALL SALARY.

LIKE MUJAHID, WAHAB IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE KANDAHARI STREAM OF TALIBS, WHICH IS DOMINANT ON ALL ISSUES. HE IS FROM NANGARHAR PROVINCE IN THE EAST AND IS CLOSE TO RESISTANCE LEADER YUNIS KHALIS, WHOM HE WORKED FOR IN PESHAWAR DURING THE 1980'S.

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PAGE 04     ISLAMA  05710  291236Z

HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

-- SYED-UR RAHMAN HAQQANI: WE DO NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT RAHMAN; HE JUST ARRIVED FROM KABUL, WHERE HE WAS A MID-LEVEL TALIBAN FUNCTIONARY. HE IS EXPECTED TO BE A CARETAKER IN ISLAMABAD, UNTIL A TALIBAN FROM KANDAHAR SHOWS UP. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE IS FROM LAGHMAN PROVINCE IN THE EAST. DURING THE RESISTANCE, HE WAS AFFILIATED WITH ABDUL RASUL SAYYAF'S ISLAMIST-ORIENTED PARTY. WE HAVE HEARD THAT HE IS ONE OF THE FEW TALIBAN WHO IS NON-PASHTUN; HE REPORTEDLY BELONGS TO A TRIBE RELATED TO THE NURISTANIS. HE IS ABOUT 47 YEARS OLD AND WAS EDUCATED AT THE HAQQANIYA MADRASSAH (AS CAN BE SEEN FROM HIS EPHONYMOUS LAST NAME) LOCATED IN PAKISTAN'S NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

SIMONS