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S/S:CARODLEY S/S-O:MFORINO
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. HEDGBETH, DAS, A/ISS
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 19 JUN 2021
APPEAL ACTION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASED
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DATE/CASE ID: 28 MAR 2008 200404754

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TAGS: OVIP, PREL, KDEM, MCAP, PTER, PHUM, ECON, PK, IN, AF
SUBJECT: THE SECRETARY'S LUNCH WITH PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL SATTAR

REF: STATE 74066

(U) CLASSIFIED BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, CHRISTINA B.
ROCCA,, BUREAU OF SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

1. (U) JUNE 19, 12:00 NOON, THE SECRETARY'S DINING ROOM.

2. (U) PARTICIPANTS:
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/RPS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARRY R MELONE
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 19 JUN 2011
DATE/CASE ID: 29 MAR 2006 200404754

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3. (U) SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THEIR BILATERAL MEETING (SEPTEMBER), THE SECRETARY HOSTED PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL SATTAR AT LUNCH ON JUNE 19, 2001. THE SECRETARY TOLD SATTAR THAT THE USG WAS CONDUCTING A REVIEW OF THE OVERALL SANCTIONS POLICY, AND THAT PAKISTANI PROGRESS ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US WOULD BE HELPFUL IN DEALING FAVORABLY WITH SANCTIONS.
4. The Secretary expressed concern about the Taliban and its threat to regional stability as it tries to spread its ideology. Sattar, Aziz Khan, and General Jilani encouraged engagement with the Taliban rather than isolation. They painted the Taliban leadership as young, uneducated men, whose experiences are limited to struggle and war, and who would moderate their views once they gain exposure to the outside world. Sattar characterized the G.O.P.-Taliban as "reasonable," but one with its own problems -- smuggling, refugees, and fugitives. He claimed that the G.O.P. had only limited influence with the Taliban, which listens but acts in its own interests. [Sattar described the Pakistan-China relationship as one of friendship and trust.]

END SUMMARY.

SANCTIONS

5. Concluding a conversation that had begun before lunch, the Secretary told Sattar the sanctions were under review, and we would see what could be done. The Secretary explained that sanctions often are a substitute for even more punitive actions. Meanwhile, as we review sanctions, he said, it is important for the G.O.P. to do its part by showing progress on issues of concern to us, thus "giving us ammo" to deal with the issue. He noted that he was a great believer in military training programs such as [CONFIDENTIAL]

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IMET -- now prohibited by sanctions -- which allow both sides to learn much from each other.

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He added that the long-standing Pakistan-China relationship was not at the expense of any other country, and had, in fact, been useful to the United States in the 1970s despite misgivings of such a relationship by President Johnson in the 1960s.
TALIBAN

12. (F) THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND PAKISTAN HAVE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ABOUT THE TALIBAN. WE, ALONG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, VIEW THE TALIBAN AS A SOURCE OF CONCERN FOR REGIONAL STABILITY AS IT ATTEMPTS TO SPREAD ITS VALUES AND IDEOLOGY TO ITS NEIGHBORS. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE ASKED SATTAR TO COMMENT ON THE GOP’S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TALIBAN, AND ON HOW MUCH INFLUENCE THE GOP HAD WITH THE TALIBAN.

13. (F) SATTAR DESCRIBED THE RELATIONSHIP AS "REASONABLE BUT NOT PROBLEM-FREE," AND LISTED THE PROBLEMS AS: SMUGGLING OF GOODS THROUGH AFGHANISTAN TO PAKISTAN, AFGHAN REFUGEE/MIGRANT FLOWS INTO PAKISTAN, AND PAKISTANI FUGITIVES IN AFGHANISTAN.

15. (F) SATTAR URGED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE TALIBAN BECAUSE, ON BALANCE, THE ADVANTAGE OF ENGAGEMENT EXCEEDS THE DISADVANTAGES OF CONFRONTATION OR ISOLATION.
16. (☑) AZIZ KHAN AND GENERAL JILANI SUGGESTED THAT THE TALIBAN SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH PATIENCE.

PAKISTAN-CHINA RELATIONS

17. (☑) SATTAQ RESPONDED TO THE SECRETARY'S QUERY ON PAKISTAN-CHINA RELATIONS BY DESCRIBING IT AS A 50-YEAR OLD RELATIONSHIP OF FRIENDSHIP AND TRUST.
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