MERCURY EYES ONLY FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE EXEC SEC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/17/31
TAGS: PRTL, PGOV
SUBJECT: (N) SECRETARY’S 13 SEPTEMBER 2001 CONVERSATION WITH PAKISTANI PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF.

1. (U) NODES MERCURY. CLASSIFIED BY: MAURA HARTY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, S/ES, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. REASON 1.5.(D).

2. (N) THIS CABLE CONTAINS A MEMORANDUM OF THE SECRETARY’S

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
DATE: 13 SEPTEMBER, 2001

TIME: 1332 EDT

4. (N) PARTICIPANTS: THE SECRETARY AND PAKISTANI PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF.

5. (N) THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS CONDOLENCES TO PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF FOR THE PAKISTANIS WHO DIED IN THE WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBING. HE THANKED MUSHARRAF FOR HIS STRONG PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PLEDGES OF SUPPORT, AS WELL AS FOR RECEIVING AMBASSADOR CHAMBERLIN'S CREDENTIALS IN A TIMELY MANNER AND IMMEDIATELY ENGAGING IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID SUCH SUPPORT WAS SYMBOLIC OF BOTH THE TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP THE U.S. HAS WITH PAKISTAN AND THE EVEN GREATER DEPTH WE HOPE TO BUILD IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE SECRETARY NOTED THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HAD DISCUSSED A LIST OF SPECIFIC STEPS WITH GENERAL MAHMUD, WHO HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY THAT PAKISTAN COULD WORK WITH

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THE U.S. ON EACH ITEM. THE SECRETARY SAID PAKISTAN'S STRONG SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP WAS REASSURING AND STRESSED TERRORIST ATTACKS HAD TO BE DEALT WITH DIRECTLY BY GOING AFTER THE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE. HE SAID WHILE THE U.S. HAD NOT ANNOUNCED IT PUBLICLY, THE JUDGMENT HAD BEEN MADE THAT USAMA BIN LADIN AND HIS ORGANIZATION WERE INVOLVED IN THE ATTACKS. HE NOTED BIN LADIN'S ORGANIZATION IS BASED IN AFGHANISTAN WITH LINKS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, AND SAID BECAUSE PAKISTAN HAS A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TALIBAN, PAKISTAN HAS A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY. THE SECRETARY SAID, "AS ONE GENERAL TO ANOTHER, WE NEED SOMEONE ON OUR FLANK FIGHTING WITH US. AND SPEAKING CANDIDLY, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND IF PAKISTAN WAS NOT IN THIS FIGHT WITH THE U.S."

6. (N) MUSHARRAF SAID PAKISTAN FULLY STANDS BY THE U.S. IN COMBATTING TERRORISM. HE NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR CHAMBERLIN HAD NOT PRECISELY DESCRIBED EXACTLY WHAT THE U.S. IS PLANNING, BUT WAS PLEASED TO LEARN MAHMUD HAD BEEN GIVEN A SPECIFIC LIST OF ACTIONS THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE DAYS AHEAD. MUSHARRAF ADDED HE AND MAHMUD THOUGHT ALIKE AND BASED ON THEIR CONVERSATION, PAKISTAN WOULD SUPPORT THE U.S. MUSHARRAF PROMISED TO REVIEW THE PROPOSALS AND WELCOMED THE SECRETARY'S INVITATION TO SPEAK AGAIN.

7. U) THE CALL ENDED AT 1338 EDT.