SECRET

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ACTION SA-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 EUR-01 FBIE-00 TEDE-00
INR-00 IO-16 ADS-00 NEA-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 PM-00
P-01 SNIS-00 NISC-01 PMB-00 DRL-09 /032W

P 061227Z DEC 94
PM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9231
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
USIA WASHDC 2727
AMCONSUL JEDDAH
AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT

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LONDON FOR POL: TUELLER

USIA FOR NEA - OBBEE

CENTCOM FOR POLAD

NOFORN

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, KISL, MOPS, PINS, PK, AF
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] BELIEVE PAKISTAN IS BACKING TALIBAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 11247

Current Class: SECRET  

UNCLASSIFIED
1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: A WELL-INFORMED SOURCE CLAIMS THAT THE BURGEOsing TALIBAN (STUDENTS) MOVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN IS BEING DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY PAKISTAN. BELIEVES PAKISTAN'S INTERIOR MINISTER IS THE PRINCIPAL PATRON OF THE TALIBAN, AND THAT ISI ADVISED AGAINST SUPPORTING THEM. END SUMMARY.

3. CONFIDED TO POLOFF NOVEMBER 29 THAT HE HAD ACCOMPANIED TO KABUL AT A MEETING WITH ISI DIRGEN LTGEN. GENERAL ASHRAF THE PREVIOUS WEEK. IN THE MEETING ASHRAF HAD VEHEMENTLY DENIED THAT HIS AGENCY HAD ANY ROLE IN SUPPORTING THE AFGHAN TALIBAN MOVEMENT IN KANDAHAR (SEE REFTEL).

4. THE ISI DIRGEN REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT HE HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO PM BHUTTO THAT THE GOP NOT SUPPORT THE TALIBAN IN ANY WAY.

5. COMMENTED THAT ASHRAF'S REMARKS TRACKED WITH OTHER INFORMATION HAD RECEIVED ABOUT THE TALIBAN. ACCORDING TO THE TALIBAN'S SEPTEMBER SEIZURE OF THE SPIN BOLDAK ARMORY WAS PRECEDED BY ARTILLERY SHELLING OF THE BASE -- FROM PAKISTANI FRONTIER CORPS POSITIONS. THE ENSUING CONFUSION HAD HELPED THE TALIBAN TO CAPTURE THE WELL-DEFENDED OUTPOST. CLAIMED TO HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THREE SEPARATE TALIBAN UNITS WERE INVOLVED IN ASSAULTING THE BASE, WITH COORDINATION PROVIDED BY PAKISTANI OFFICERS ON THE SCENE. THE TALIBAN'S MILITARY COMPETENCE (QUICKLY ROUTING TWO MAJOR BATTLE-TESTED COMMANDERS IN KANDAHAR -- NIFA COMMANDER LALLAIE AND HIG COMMANDER SAR
Khatib), and their use of tanks and helicopters, strongly suggested Pakistani tutelage or direct control.

5. Comment: ___________ is an extremely well-informed and reliable source and we do not doubt that he has accurately characterized Ashraf's comments. There appears to be little doubt that some elements in Pakistan (private and/or governmental) have supported the Taliban. Whether that support continues, is as much as _______ believe, and, if so, whether it gave the GOP much leverage over the Taliban, remains very much in doubt. End comment.

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