SECRET

TEHRAN 5246

E.O. 12065: XGDS45/21/09 (MC GAF F, DAVID C.) OF-P
TAGS: PPR, IR, AP, PK
SUBJECT: LIMITED IRANIAN RESPONSE TO AFGHAN REBEL APPEAL

REF: TEHRAN 5208

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: AFGHAN FUND RAISER NASSRT REPORTED SOME
ASSISTANCE FROM IRANIANS, TALK OF "HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE." REPORTS 30-35,000 AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN.
END SUMMARY.

3. AMCIT AFGHAN ZIA NASSRT CALLED POLLOFF MAY 21 TO
REPORT RESULTS OF HIS TALKS WITH IRANIAN AUTHORITIES.
HE STATES THAT HE DID TRAVEL TO QOM AND MET WITH
AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI. HE SAID THEIR TALK WAS FRIENDLY,
BUT NOT TOO PRODUCTIVE. HE WAS ASKING FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE,
AND THE AYATOLLAH SPOKE INSTEAD OF "HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE." HE SPOKE AGAIN WITH AYATOLLAH KHALKHALI, WHO
SAID THAT THIS COULD BE A BEGINNING. HE DID NOT MEET
WITH FONMIN YAZDI, BUT INSTEAD MET WITH MR. TAGHAVI,
CHIEF OF THE MFA SECTION DEALING WITH AFGHANISTAN, AND
HAS A SECOND MEETING SCHEDULED WITH HIM IN APPROXIMATELY
TEN DAYS.
4. YESTERDAY, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, ATATOLLAR ROHANI, A MAJOR RELIGIOUS FIGURE AND CLOSE RELATIVE OF KHOMEINI, CALLED ON THE AFGHAN PEOPLE TO REVOLT AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENT AS THE IRANIANS DID HERE. HE URGED THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE IN AFGHANISTAN TO ASSIST MUSLIMS. SUCH STATEMENTS BY UNOFFICIAL, SECOND-LEVEL FIGURES, CARRY LITTLE WEIGHT UNTIL THEY ARE CONFIRMED EITHER BY KHOMEINI OR BY THE GOVERNMENT.

5. NASSRY STATES THAT THE PEOPI-D DID ASSIST HIM IN CONTACTING AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN. HE TRAVELLED TO MASJAD, WHERE THE AFGHANS HAVE A SMALL OFFICE, AND WAS ESCORTED TO THE REFUGEE CAMPS. HE STATES THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 30,000 AFGHANS LOCATED IN AN AREA STRETCHING TWENTY MILES ALONG THE BORDER FROM THE TOWN OF TIBAD, SOUTH OF MASJAD. MOST ARE SHEPHERD FAMILIES, WITH THEIR FLOCKS, AND BECAUSE OF LACK OF FODDER, MANY HAVE ALREADY RETURNED TO AFGHANISTAN. INCLUDED IN THE NUMBER, HOWEVER, ARE OVER ONE HUNDRED AFGHAN MILITARY OFFICERS—GROUND FORCES, ARTILLERY, AND AIR FORCE. THESE ARE ATTEMPTING TO TRAIN A GUERRILLA FORCE (MOST MALE REFUGEES HAVE PERSONALLY-OWNED RIFLES) AND, NASSRY SAYS, ARE CONDUCTING SOME OPERATIONS INSIDE AFGHANISTAN. NASSRY HOPES THAT THE IRANIANS WILL AT LEAST TAKE THE BURDEN OF THE ACTUAL REFUGEES OFF THE HANDS OF THE OFFICERS, FREEING THEM FOR MORE TRAINING AND OPERATIONS.

6. NASSRY INTENDS TO TRAVEL TOMORROW TO PAKISTAN, AND WILL PLAN TO RETURN TO IRAN AFTER APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK THERE.