

PTQ4562

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ4562

PAGE 01 PESHAW 00916 01 OF 02 020425Z
ACTION SA-01

INFO	LOG-00	INLB-01	ACQ-01	CA-02	CIAE-00	INL-01	OASY-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EUR-01	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	PM-00
	P-00	SSO-00	SS-00	FMP-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00
	PRM-10	DRL-09	/033W				

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R 020344Z OCT 96
 FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0593
 AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
 AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY RIYADH
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
 AMCONSUL JEDDAH
 AMCONSUL KARACHI
 AMCONSUL LAHORE
 USMISSION GENEVA
 USIA WASHDC 0241
 DIA WASHINGTON DC 0193

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PAGE 02 PESHAW 00916 01 OF 02 020425Z
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PESHAWAR 00916

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN S BLODGETT
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X1
 DATE/CASE ID: 16 NOV 2005 200504096

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USIA FOR NEA - WINCHESTER

LONDON FOR POL - TUELLER

PARIS FOR POL - ALLEGRONE

DEPT ALSO FOR EUR/CEN - KENNEDY

DEPT ALSO FOR CA/OCS/ACS/NESA - GOODING

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/01/06

TAGS: PREL, PREF, PINR, MOPS, PGOV, CASC, AF, PK

SUBJECT: AFGHAN-PAK BORDER RELATIONS AT TORKHAM TENSE

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY: BRAD HANSON, PRINCIPAL OFFICER, AMCONSUL PESHAWAR. REASON(S): 1.5(D).

2. (C) [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF ON OCTOBER 1 THAT AFGHAN-PAK BORDER RELATIONS AT TORKHAM WERE TENSE AFTER VISITING TORKHAM TO SUPERVISE THE BORDER CROSSING OF [REDACTED] [REDACTED] WAS SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL INTO AFGHANISTAN ON SEPTEMBER 30, HE SAID, BUT WAS DELAYED BECAUSE OF THE CLOSURE OF THE BORDER AT TORKHAM. (NOTE: IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH PO ON SEPTEMBER 30, COMMISSIONERATE FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES REPATRIATION OFFICER COLONEL HAFIZ REMARKED THAT THE BORDER HAD BEEN CLOSED FOR FOUR DAYS. HAFIZ CRITICIZED THE CLOSURE, NOTING THERE WERE AT LEAST 60 AFGHAN FAMILIES WAITING AT THE BORDER TO REPATRIATE. END NOTE.) [REDACTED] ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 2,000 PEOPLE AND 6 KM OF

B1

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PAGE 03 PESHAW 00916 01 OF 02 020425Z

TRAFFIC WERE WAITING ON EACH SIDE OF THE BORDER TO CROSS OVER. MOST OF THE 2,000 ON THE AFGHAN SIDE, ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED] WERE FROM JALALABAD AND KABUL. BRIEFLY TURNING TO RECENT REPORTS OF ESTIMATES OF 250,000 PEOPLE EXITING KABUL, [REDACTED] NOTED THAT WHILE [REDACTED] HAD OBSERVED PEOPLE LEAVING THE CAPITAL IN A VARIETY OF DIRECTIONS, [REDACTED] HAD NOT REPORTED ANY NUMBERS.

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3. (C) DURING AFTERNOON NEGOTIATING FOR THE OPENING OF THE CROSSING POINT FOR THE [REDACTED] THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE

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PAKISTAN SIDE OF THE BORDER, [REDACTED] BECAME ESPECIALLY TENSE WHEN A FEW AFGHANS ON THE AFGHAN SIDE OF THE BORDER THREW STONES AT MEMBERS OF THE PAKISTAN BORDER GUARD. SOME OF THE BORDER GUARDS RESPONDED, HE SAID, BY FIRING THEIR WEAPONS INTO THE AIR. NO ONE WAS REPORTEDLY INJURED BY THE GUNFIRE, BUT ACCORDING TO ONE LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNT SOME INJURIES OCCURRED WHEN PEOPLE ON THE AFGHAN SIDE OF THE BORDER TRIED TO PUSH THEIR WAY THROUGH THE GATE INTO PAKISTAN. ANOTHER LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNT REPORTED ONE AFGHAN REFUGEE FATALITY.

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4. (C) WHILE WAITING TO CLEAR [REDACTED] SAW "30-35 SEALED ISI TRUCKS AND 15-20 FUEL TANKERS" ALSO WAITING TO CROSS THE BORDER. (NOTE: ISI IS THE PAKISTANI INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. END NOTE.) BETWEEN AFTERNOON TEA WITH THE OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THE "ISI CONVOY" AND RECOGNIZING THE TYPE OF VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS ON THE CONVOY VEHICLES, [REDACTED] WAS VERY CERTAIN OF THE CONVOY'S AFFILIATION. AN [REDACTED] WHO REMAINED AT THE BORDER OVERNIGHT [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THE BORDER EVENTUALLY OPENED AT APPROXIMATELY 2000 (L) ON SEPTEMBER 30 ALLOWING THE "ISI CONVOY" AND THE PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC WAITING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER TO CROSS. WHILE THE [REDACTED]

B1

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PAGE 04 [REDACTED] PESHAW 00916 01 OF 02 020425Z

[REDACTED] DID NOT NOTE ANY SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENT CHECKING ON THE PAKISTANI SIDE OF THE BORDER, PAKISTANI OFFICIALS DID CLAIM THAT SIXTEEN PANJSHIRIS HAD BEEN ARRESTED WHILE TRYING TO CROSS AT TORKHAM.

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[REDACTED]

COMMENT

6. (C) WHILE SOME PEOPLE MAY BE DEPARTING KABUL BECAUSE OF THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER OF THE CAPITAL, REPORTS OF "250,000" APPEAR TO

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PAGE 01 PESHAW 00916 02 OF 02 020425Z
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PAGE 02 PESHAW 00916 02 OF 02 020425Z
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PESHAWAR 00916

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SUBJECT: AFGHAN-PAK BORDER RELATIONS AT TORKHAM TENSE

BE GREATLY OVERSTATING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DEPARTING KABUL.
PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE CLOSED THE BORDER, BRACING FOR AN
ENORMOUS INFLUX OF KABUL REFUGEES -- AN INFLUX WHICH, FOR THE
TIME BEING, DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE MATERIALIZED. AS FOR THE
REPORT OF AN ISI CONVOY AT TORKHAM, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HAS BEEN A RELIABLE CONTACT OF THE
CONSULATE.

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