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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 181837

NODIS DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/30/18

TAGS: PTER, PREL, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: MESSAGE TO MULLAH OMAR

REF: STATE 154713

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1. 6X6.

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1. (S) EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO ENGAGE WITH AN
AUTHORITATIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TALIBAN TO PASS A
FORMAL RESPONSE (PARA 2) TO MULLAH OMAR'S FAXED MESSAGE OF
SEPTEMBER 24 (PARA 3). WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE
TALIBAN'S INTEREST IN DIALOGUE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME
SETTING FORTH CLEAR MARKERS ON OUR INTEREST IN SUBSTANTIVE
PROGRESS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING THE MATTER OF USAMA BIN
LADEN. EMBASSY SHOULD ENSURE THIS RESPONSE GETS TO BOTH
MULLAH OMAR AND MULLAH RABBANI ELEMENTS OF THE TALIBAN.

2. (S) TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TALIBAN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 14 MAY 2004 200400628

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ON DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S.

THE U.S. ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIVING YOUR FAXED MESSAGE OF SEPTEMBER 24.

THE U.S. RESTATES ITS WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN A SERIOUS AND CONFIDENTIAL DIALOGUE WITH THE TALIBAN THROUGH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD.

WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE BEST VENUE FOR SUCH A DIALOGUE.

WE AGAIN REQUEST THAT YOU IDENTIFY AN OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE CAN DEAL AND WHO HAS THE APPROPRIATE SECURE ACCESS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TALIBAN.

WE AGREE WITH YOUR STATEMENT THAT THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN PERFORMED A MAJOR SERVICE TO THE WORLD BY DEFEATING THE FORCES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND NOTE THE ENORMOUS SACRIFICES
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THE AFGHAN PEOPLE MADE IN THIS EFFORT.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR GRATITUDE FOR OUR HELP TO THE AFGHAN PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE.

WE HAVE LONG HAD FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT FOR THE AFGHAN PEOPLE AND A HISTORY OF WORKING TOGETHER EVEN BEFORE THE AFGHAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SOVIETS.

THE U.S. FUNDED MANY PROJECTS THROUGH THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID) THAT HELPED THE AFGHAN PEOPLE INCLUDING THE EAST-WEST ROAD, THE KANDAHAR AIRPORT, KABUL UNIVERSITY, FOOD ASSISTANCE, AID TO REFUGEES, AND THE IRRIGATION AND ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS IN THE HELMAND VALLEY.

WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HELPING THE AFGHAN PEOPLE REPAIR THE DAMAGE OF 20 YEARS OF FIGHTING WHEN PEACE AT LAST COMES TO AFGHANISTAN.

WE URGE YOU TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE POINTS OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE SIX PLUS TWO, INCLUDING THE U.S., ON SEPTEMBER 21 AND HOPE THAT THE TALIBAN WILL ENGAGE IN A SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH AMBASSADOR BRAHIMI DURING HIS TRAVEL TO THE REGION IN FURTHERANCE OF PEACE.

THE U.S. VERY MUCH DESIRES A PEACEFUL SOLUTION FOR

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AFGHANISTAN AND ONLY HAS INTEREST IN FRIENDSHIP FOR THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN WHICH WE UNDERSTAND FROM YOUR MESSAGE IS RECIPROCATED BY THEM.

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ON ISLAM AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

YOUR MESSAGE IMPLIED THAT THE U.S. IS IN SOME WAY ACTING AGAINST OR OPPOSING ISLAM. THIS IS NOT TRUE.

THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE OPENING SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 21 THAT ISLAM IS ONE OF OUR FASTEST GROWING FAITHS AND THAT THERE ARE 1200 MOSQUES AND ISLAMIC CENTERS IN THE U.S., AND THE NUMBER IS RAPIDLY INCREASING. THE SIX MILLION AMERICANS WHO WORSHIP IN THESE MOSQUES AND ISLAMIC CENTERS WILL TELL YOU THERE IS NO INHERENT CLASH BETWEEN ISLAM AND AMERICA. AMERICANS RESPECT AND HONOR ISLAM. WE WILL REMAIN ON A COURSE OF FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW ISLAM ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE ARE COMMITTED TO RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND WE REJECT HATRED AND DISCRIMINATION DIRECTED AT RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, INCLUDING THOSE OF MUSLIMS, JEWS, AND CHRISTIANS.

TERRORISM AND USAMA BIN LADEN

THE U.S. NOTES THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE AFGHAN ULEMA TO CONDEMN TERRORISM AND TO DECLARE THAT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN AFGHANISTAN.

THE U.S. HAS LONG URGED THAT THE TALIBAN ADOPT AND PUT INTO PRACTICE SUCH A POLICY.

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UNFORTUNATELY, AS STATED IN OUR PREVIOUS MESSAGE, USAMA BIN LADEN, HIS ORGANIZATION, AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS HAVE EXTENSIVELY UTILIZED AFGHAN SOIL IN THE PAST IN VIOLATION OF THE AFGHAN ULEMA'S DECLARATION. THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR FROM HIS OWN STATEMENTS THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF USAMA BIN LADEN ARE TO ATTACK THE U.S. AND ITS PEOPLE. IN DOING SO, HE HAS KILLED AND WOUNDED MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE, INCLUDING MUSLIMS. THE U.S. HAS VERY STRONG EVIDENCE THAT BIN LADEN

AND HIS ORGANIZATION CONTINUE TO THREATEN THE LIVES OF U.S. CITIZENS.

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IT IS ESSENTIAL USAMA BIN LADEN BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR HIS TERRORIST ACTS. THOSE WHO ABUSE YOUR HOSPITALITY, AS WE HAVE NOTED BEFORE, NO LONGER DESERVE TO BE RECEIVED AND TREATED AS FRIENDS.

THE WORLD AGREES. ONE OF THE POINTS ADOPTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX PLUS TWO IN ITS MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21 WAS THAT THE TALIBAN CEASE PROVIDING SAFEHAVEN TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS RESIDING ON AFGHAN SOIL.

THAT SAME DAY, AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENT CLINTON ENCOURAGED ALL NATIONS TO PUT THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA. TERRORISM THREATENS PEOPLE EVERYWHERE: NO ONE IS IMMUNE. EACH OF US -- MUSLIMS AND OTHER "PEOPLE OF THE BOOK," OR OF OTHER RELIGIONS -- ARE POSSIBLE VICTIMS.

THE PRESIDENT OBSERVED THAT TERRORISM HAS A NEW FACE IN THE
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1990S. NEW TECHNOLOGIES RAISE THE CHILLING PROSPECT OF VULNERABILITY TO CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND OTHER KINDS OF ATTACKS. THIS IS A THREAT TO ALL HUMANITY.

WHEN IT COMES TO TERRORISM THERE SHOULD BE NO DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN US. THE ONLY DIVIDING LINE IS BETWEEN THOSE WHO PRACTICE, SUPPORT OR TOLERATE TERROR, AND THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS MURDER, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. TERRORISM IS NOT A POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS ACT.

THE PRESIDENT STATED AT THE UN THAT ALL NATIONS SHOULD TAKE THESE SPECIFIC STEPS TO PROTECT OUR COMMON DESTINY:

TO GIVE TERRORISTS NO SUPPORT, NO SANCTUARY, NO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE;

TO BRING PRESSURE ON STATES THAT DO;

TO ACT TOGETHER TO STEP UP EXTRADITION AND PROSECUTION OF TERRORISTS;

TO BECOME PARTY TO THE GLOBAL ANTI-TERROR CONVENTIONS;

TO STRENGTHEN THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND CHEMICAL CONVENTION;

TO ENFORCE THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION;

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TO PROMOTE STRONGER DOMESTIC LAWS AND CONTROL THE
MANUFACTURE AND EXPORT OF EXPLOSIVES;

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TO RAISE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR AIRPORT SECURITY; AND
TO COMBAT THE CONDITIONS THAT SPREAD VIOLENCE AND DESPAIR.

THE U.S. IS WORKING TO DO ITS PART BUT OUR PROGRESS WILL BE
ENHANCED BY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT WE ALL MUST THINK OF TERRORISM IN
NEW TERMS, IF NOT AS A CLASH OF CULTURES OR POLITICAL ACTION
BY OTHER MEANS, OR A DIVINE CALLING, BUT A CLASH BETWEEN
THE FORCES OF THE PAST AND THE FORCES OF THE FUTURE,
BETWEEN THOSE WHO TEAR DOWN AND THOSE WHO BUILD UP, BETWEEN
HOPE AND FEAR, CHAOS AND COMMUNITY.LW

THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO HARBOR AND WELCOME TERRORISTS MUST
ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIONS OF TERRORISTS WHO
ABUSE SUCH HOSPITALITY AND WE EXPECT THE TALIBAN TO HONOR
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS REGARD.

AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY INFORMED YOU, THE UNITED STATES WILL
HOLD THE TALIBAN RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FURTHER TERRORISM
CONDUCTED BY THE USAMA BIN LADEN NETWORK, AS LONG AS THE
TALIBAN PROVIDES SANCTUARY TO MEMBERS OF THAT NETWORK.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO EXCHANGING VIEWS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM BETWEEN US AND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND
THE VIEWS AND THE VISION OF THE TALIBAN AND ITS LEADERSHIP.

3. (C) TRANSLATION OF MULLAH OMAR'S FAXED MESSAGE OF 9/24:

IN THE NAME OF GOD WHO IS KIND AND MERCIFUL
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THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN
THE SPECIAL OFFICE OF THE AMIR-UL-MOMENEEN

DATE 2/6/1419 (23SEP98) NO. 110

TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

(SUBTITLE) GOOD ADVICE FOR SELECTING A POLICY
APPROPRIATE TO YOUR ELEVATED STATUS

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YOU SHOULD DO WHAT WILL NOT MAKE YOU HATED BY THE WORLDS MUSLIMS. KNOW THAT THE TALIBAN ISLAMIC MOVEMENT HAS BROUGHT A REAL ISLAMIC SYSTEM IN ACCORD WITH THE MOVEMENT'S DESIRES.

COMING FROM A REAL ISLAMIC SYSTEM, THE PLATFORM OF THE TALIBAN OFFERS NO HARM TO THE U.S. SO IF YOU DISAGREE WITH (OR OPPOSE) THE REAL ISLAM, THAT MAKES YOU HATED IN THE MUSLIM WORLD. IN DISAGREEING WITH (OPPOSING) THIS YOU MAKE A MAJOR ERROR.

MUSLIMS BELIEVE THAT THE USAMA BIN LADEN ISSUE IS JUST AN EXCUSE MADE BY THE U.S. AND THIS IS HARMING THE U.S.

THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN HAVE NOT BROUGHT ANY HARM TO YOU. (NOTE: THERE IS AN IMPLICATION HERE THAT WE ARE HARMING THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN.) THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN BROUGHT A MAJOR BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, SPECIFICALLY TO YOU -- THE DEFEAT OF RUSSIA. IF RUSSIA HAD SUCCEEDED IN AFGHANISTAN, HALF THE WORLD WOULD BE UNDER

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RUSSIAN INFLUENCE AND YOUR CURRENT POWER WOULD HAVE BEEN WEAKENED. YOU HELPED THE AFGHAN PEOPLE A GREAT DEAL TO DEFEAT RUSSIA, BUT THE SACRIFICE WAS MADE BY THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. THEREFORE, ANY IMPROPER ACT AND STEP THAT THE U.S. MIGHT TAKE REGARDING AFGHANISTAN IS NOT RIGHT AND NOT CALLED FOR AND IT MAKES THE U.S. LOOK BAD.

IF WE WERE YOUR ENEMIES, THAT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT ISSUE. IT IS NOT FITTING FOR YOU TO BE AGAINST US BECAUSE OUR PLATFORM/POLICY IS FOR YOUR SUCCESS. YOU SHOULD ALSO HAVE A POLICY THAT WOULD HELP US, BUT YOU CHOSE A DIFFERENT POLICY.

OUR POLICY IS REAL ISLAMIC POLICY. WE CANNOT CHANGE IT. IT IS NOT UP TO US TO CHANGE IT. WE HAVE NO POWER OR AUTHORITY TO CHANGE IT. ALMIGHTY GOD HAS OBLIGATED US TO FOLLOW THIS POLICY.

IF YOU HAVE OBJECTIONS TO OUR POLICY OR OUR DEEDS, OR IF YOU CALL IT UNISLAMIC, THAT IS NOT RIGHT. ALL MUSLIMS OF THE WORLD AGREE THIS IS ISLAMIC, BUT IF YOU STILL BELIEVE

THAT IT IS NOT ISLAMIC, THEN WE CAN TRY TO CONVINCING YOU. (NOTE: THIS MEANS WE CAN HAVE A DIALOGUE.) OUR ADVICE IS CHANGE YOUR POLICY. IF YOU DO IT WILL BE A MAJOR SUCCESS FOR YOU.

ANOTHER POINT IS THAT YOU ARE CHRISTIAN AND GOD ALMIGHTY

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SAYS (QUOTING FROM THE KORAN) "THE CHRISTIANS AID THE MUSLIMS. THE JEWS ARE THE ENEMIES OF MUSLIMS." (HERE MULLAH OMAR IS TRYING TO SHOW THAT HE IS LOOKING UP TO US AND CONSIDERS US AS FRIENDS.)

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SO THIS IS OUR ADVICE. THE REST IS UP TO YOU. YOU HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

AMIR-UL-MOMENEEN (COMMANDER OF THE FAITHFUL)
MULLAH MOHAMMAD OMAR MUJAHID

(NOTE: WE UNDERSTAND THAT MULLAH OMAR DICTATED THE ENTIRE MESSAGE. THUS ITS REPETITIVENESS AND SOMEWHAT RANTING TONE REFLECTS HIS PERSONAL SPEAKING STYLE. HE ALSO USES THE SECOND PERSON PLURAL FORM THROUGHOUT. THIS IS HIGHLY RESPECTFUL IN THAT PUSHTU CONTEXT.)
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