

SECRET

PT00634

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO LOG-00 CCOE-00 SAS-00 /000W
-----86FA3B 191237Z /38

O 191239Z SEP 00
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0086

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 005779

NODIS DECAPTIONED

FOR SA, SA/PAB, S/CT

ALSO FOR P

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1.6X6
TAGS: PTER, PREL, SNAR, AF
SUBJ: TALIBAN [REDACTED] SEEKS REPEAT MEETING IN
FRANKFURT OR DUBAI

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REF: ISLAMABAD 5749

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAM B. MILAM.
REASON: 1.6X6.

1. (S) SUMMARY: TALIBAN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] SENT WORD [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THAT HE WANTS A FOLLOW-UP MEETING
WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 30,
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PROBABLY IN FRANKFURT. [REDACTED] ALSO PROMISED THAT
THE TALIBAN WOULD BURN POPPY PROCESSING
LABORATORIES IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT MULLAH OMAR'S
POPPY CULTIVATION BAN. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] END SUMMARY.

2. (S) AFGHAN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MET WITH AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 19,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] REPORTED THAT TALIBAN
[REDACTED] HAD DEPARTED

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FOR KANDAHAR THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 19 (FLYING TO QUETTA AND GOING BY ROAD FROM THERE TO KANDAHAR), BUT HAD ASKED [] TO SAY [] HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH HIS SEPTEMBER 17 MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR (REF). []

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[] FAILURE TO DEFEND BIN LADIN IN THE MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR WAS NO ACCIDENT; THE TALIBAN MIGHT CONTINUE TO DEFEND UBL PUBLICLY, BUT WOULD NO LONGER DO SO IN PRIVATE.

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3. (S) [] WANTS A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WHERE, [] WOULD BE ABLE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT TALIBAN PLANS FOR BIN LADIN. [] IS ARRANGING A MEETING OF [] TALIBAN MINISTER FOR POWER AND ELECTRICITY AHMED JAN []

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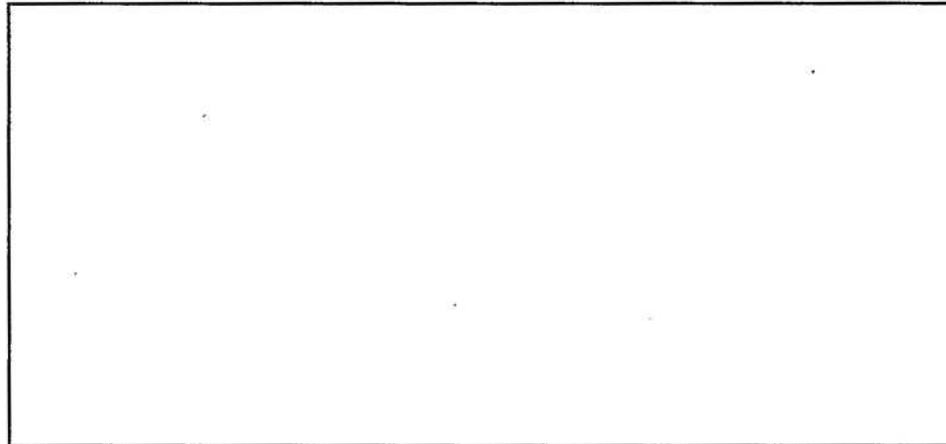
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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 05779 01 OF 02 191236Z [] AND POSSIBLY OTHER TALIBAN OFFICIALS WITH "INVESTORS AND BUSINESS PEOPLE" (NFI) IN EITHER DUBAI OR FRANKFURT FOR SEPTEMBER 30.

[] PROPOSED THAT HE STAY ON ALONE AFTER THE BUSINESS-ORIENTED MEETING TO TALK FURTHER WITH THE AMBASSADOR OR SOME OTHER DESIGNATED USG OFFICIAL. AMBASSADOR NOTED HE WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE IN THAT TIME FRAME AND SUGGESTED FRANKFURT WOULD BE MUCH MORE CONDUCTIVE FOR SUCH A MEETING, ASSUMING WASHINGTON CHOSE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE. [] TOOK THE SUGGESTION ON BOARD AND PROMISED TO BE IN CONTACT, MOST LIKELY WITH SA/PAB, TO PIN DOWN DETAILS.

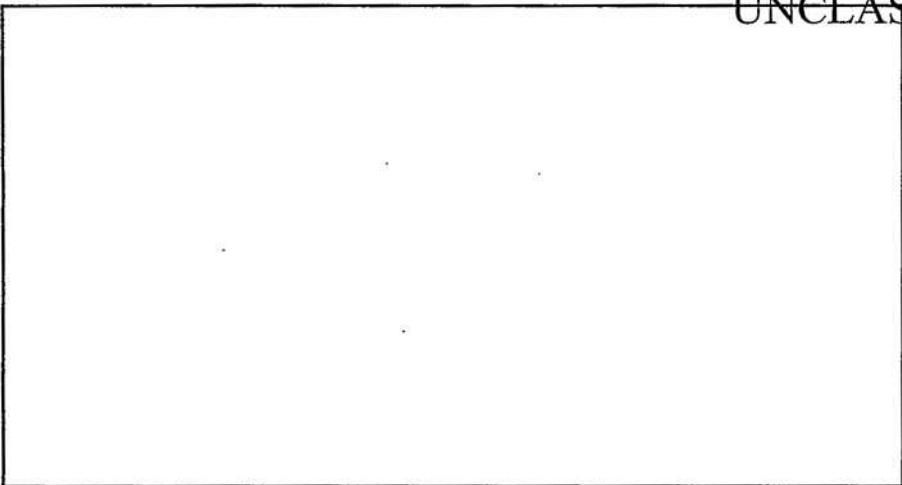
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5. (S) [] COMMENTED THAT BASED ON HIS

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6. (S) [] ALSO ASKED [] TO CONVEY TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT WHILE THE POPPIES PLANTED THIS YEAR COULD NOT BE REVERSED, THE TALIBAN WOULD BURN POPPY PROCESSING LABORATORIES IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO OMAR'S POPPY BAN. IN THE FUTURE, WE WOULD SEE A DECREASE IN PRODUCTION AS WELL, HE RELAYED. AMBASSADOR WARNED [] THAT THE U.S. HAD SEEN THIS KIND OF PLOY BY THE TALIBAN BEFORE -- "FACTORIES" HAD

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BEEN BURNED FROM WHICH ALL PROCESSING EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN REMOVED AND RELOCATED TO NEW FACILITIES, WITH ONLY EMPTY SHELLS REMAINING FOR DESTRUCTION. SUCH A RUSE WILL NOT WORK AND WILL ONLY CONVINCED THE U.S. THAT THE TALIBAN ARE AGAIN PLAYING GAMES. AMBASSADOR RECOMMENDED THAT, IF SERIOUS, THE TALIBAN MUST HAVE NEUTRAL OBSERVERS FROM THE UN, WESTERN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, OR AT THE LEAST A NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS TO OBSERVE

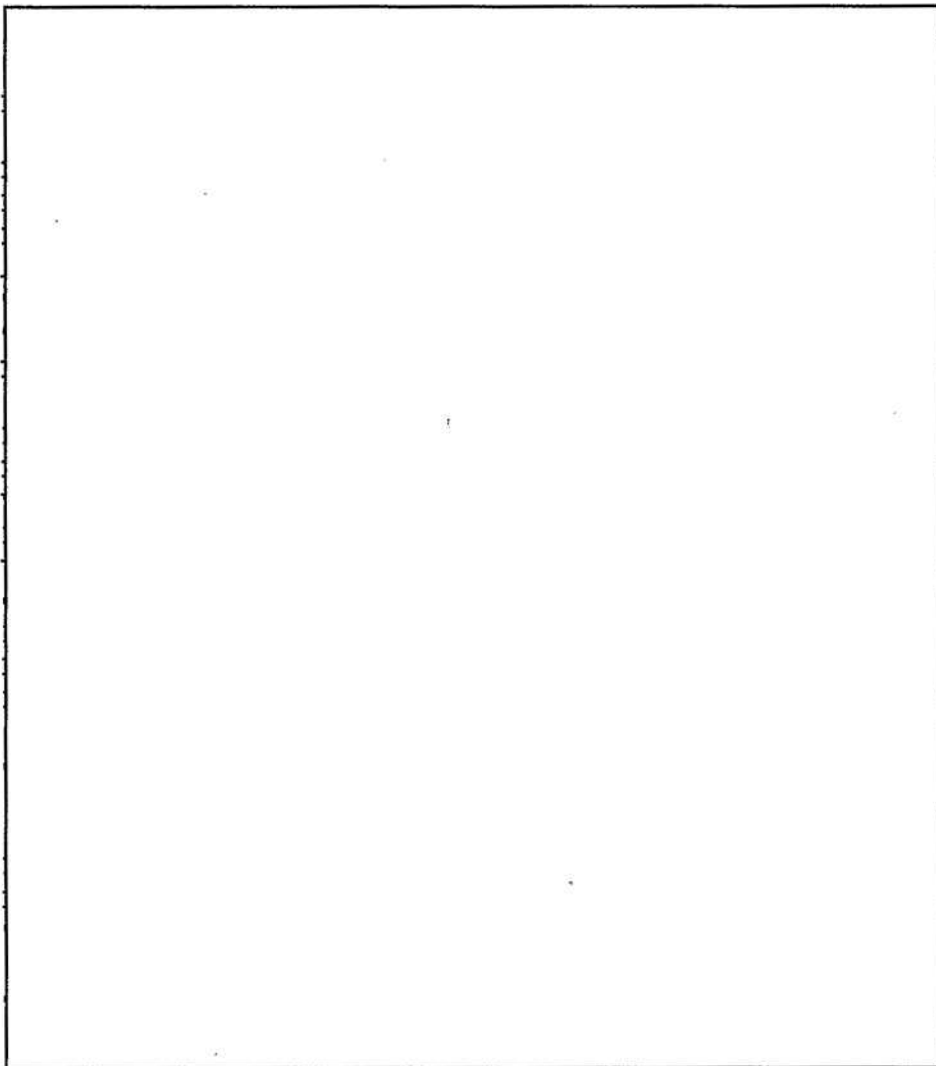
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THE EVENT. [] EXPLAINED THAT THE TALIBAN
COULD NOT BE SEEN AS DESTROYING POPPIES OR
FACILITIES IN RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL PRESSURE; IT
HAD TO BE A "PASHTUN OPERATION," HE SAID. THUS,
IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE GOVERNMENT
OBSERVERS, BUT HE PROMISED TO WARN [] THAT THE
ACT MUST BE GENUINE AND VERIFIABLE.

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[REDACTED]

8. (S) COMMENT: IF [REDACTED] AGAIN PRODUCES [REDACTED]
FOR A MEETING, WE RECOMMEND WASHINGTON RESPOND
POSITIVELY. WHILE THE TALIBAN COULD WELL JUST BE
PLAYING ANOTHER GAME -- PERHAPS HOPING TO AVOID
NEW SANCTIONS -- WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE
POSSIBILITY THAT THEY ARE REASSESSING THEIR BIN
LADIN POLICY AND WANT TO SEE WHAT THEY MIGHT GET
FOR IT.
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