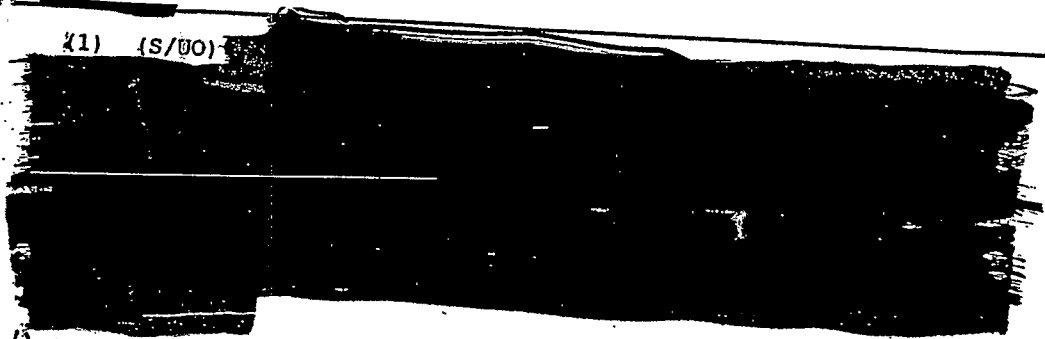
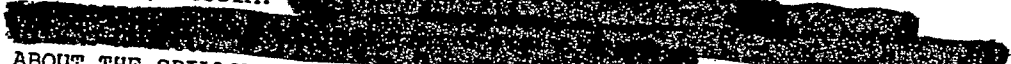


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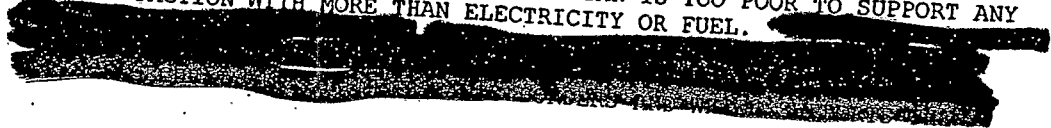


(S) (2) ~~(S)~~ PAKISTAN. CONSISTENT REPORTING INDICATES PAKISTAN PROVIDES BOTH MILITARY AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE TALIBAN. ISLAMABAD'S PRIMARY GOALS ARE TO ACHIEVE STRATEGIC DEPTH WITH REGARD TO INDIA, AND SECURING ACCESS TO CENTRAL ASIAN TRADE ROUTES. CULTURAL TIES ALSO EXIST BETWEEN THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP AND PAKISTAN, WHERE SEVERAL TALIBAN LEADERS LIVED FOR MANY YEARS FOLLOWING THE 1979 SOVIET INVASION. PAKISTAN FEARS A COMPLETE TALIBAN VICTORY MAY INCITE IRREDENTIST ASPIRATIONS WITHIN ITS OWN PASHTUN POPULATION, AND WILL LIKELY ATTEMPT TO PRESSURE THE TALIBAN INTO MODERATING SOME OF ITS POLICIES.

(S) (3) ~~(S)~~ RUSSIA.

 RUSSIA IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPILLOVER OF ISLAMIC MILITANCY INTO CENTRAL ASIA AND VIEWS THE TALIBAN AS A SIGNIFICANT THREAT. MOSCOW DEFINES ITS NEAR-ABROAD BORDERS AS THOSE OF ITS FORMER CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS, AND HAS PLEDGED TO USE MILITARY FORCE SHOULD THE TALIBAN PUSH INTO NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN.

(S) (4) ~~(S)~~ TURKMENISTAN. TURKMENISTAN IS TOO POOR TO SUPPORT ANY AFGHAN FACTION WITH MORE THAN ELECTRICITY OR FUEL.

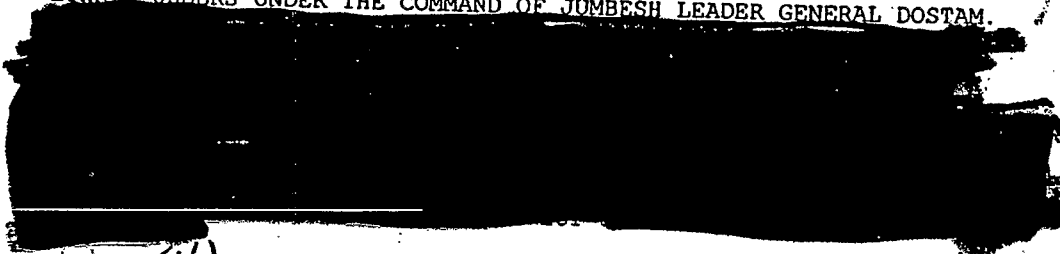


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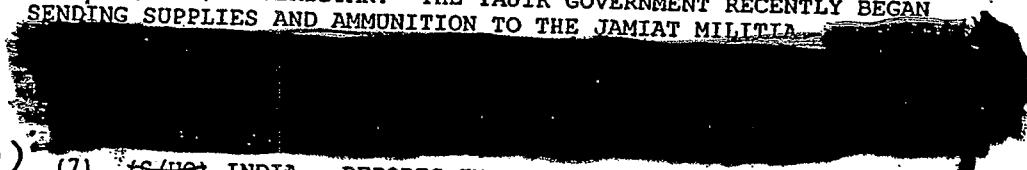
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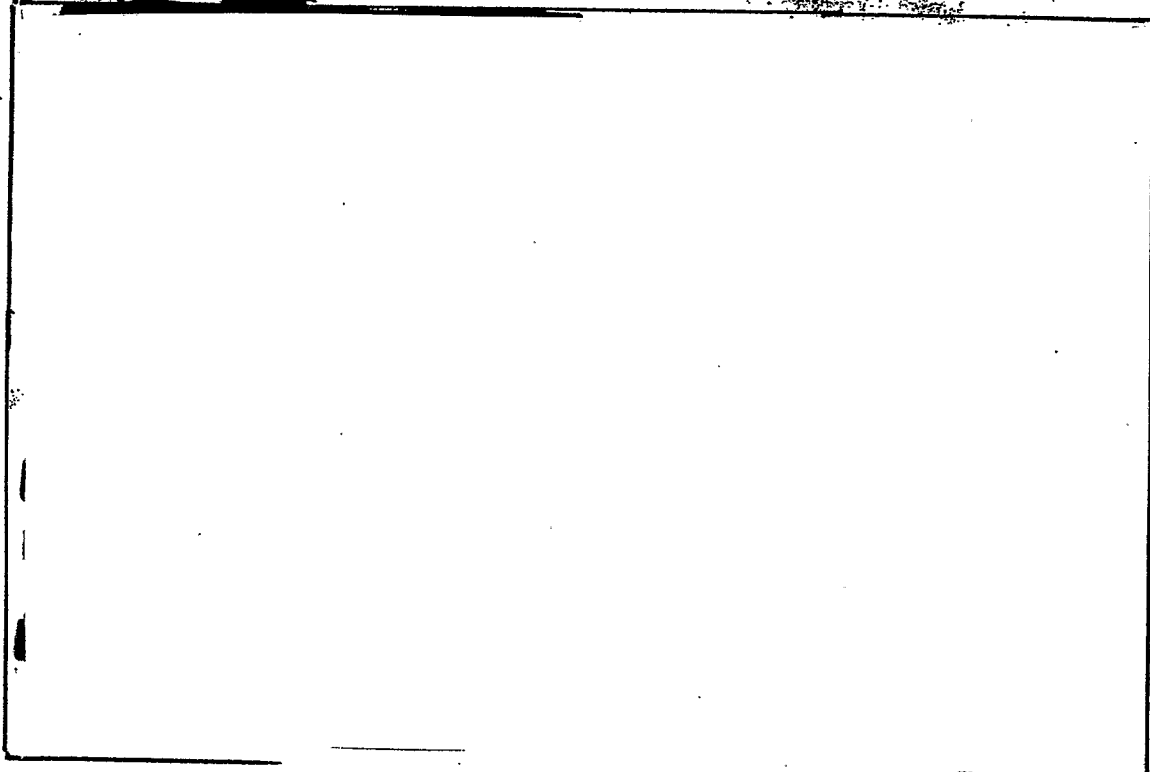
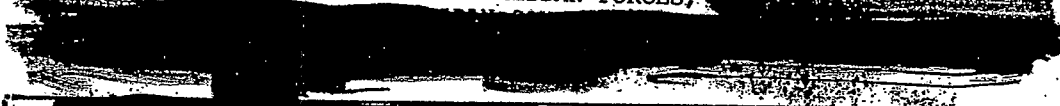
~~(S)~~ (U) UZBEKISTAN. UZBEKISTAN PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO ITS FELLOW ETHNIC UZBEKS UNDER THE COMMAND OF JUMBESH LEADER GENERAL DOSTAM.



(U) (S/NO) TAJIKISTAN. THE TAJIK GOVERNMENT RECENTLY BEGAN SENDING SUPPLIES AND AMMUNITION TO THE JAMIAT MILITIA.



(U) (S/NO) INDIA. REPORTS INDICATE INDIA IS SUPPLYING WEAPONS AND OTHER UNSPECIFIED AID TO ANTI-TALIBAN FORCES.



b.1

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