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FM AMBASSAD OT ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9879
INFO AMBASSAD O ASHGABAT PRIORITY
AMBASSAD O DUSHANBE PRIORITY
AMBASSAD O TASHKENT PRIORITY
AMBASSAD O PESHAWAR PRIORITY
USMISSION US NEW YORK
AMBASSAD O ALMATI
AMBASSAD O BISHKEK
AMBASSAD O ANKARA
AMBASSAD O NEW DELHI
AMBASSAD O LONDON
AMBASSAD O PARIS
AMBASSAD O RIYADH
DIA WASHINGTON DC

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AMBASSAD O MOSCOW
USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2//CCJ3//CCJ5//POLAD//
AMBASSAD O ABU DHABI
AMBASSAD O KARACHI
AMBASSAD O CAIRO
AMBASSAD O DHAKA

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DEPT FOR SA/PAB, S/CT, AND EUR/CACEN; LONDON FOR POL/SUTPHIN; PARIS FOR POL/RAVELING

E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/9/08
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, KISL, AF, PK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 8 SEP 2013
DATE/CASE ID: 21 JUL 2006 200500832
SUBJ: AFGHANISTAN: REPORTED ACTIVITIES OF EXTREMIST ARABS AND PAKISTANIS SINCE AUGUST 20 U.S. STRIKE ON KHOST TERRORIST CAMPS

REFS: (A) ISLAMABAD 6709
- (B) ISLAMABAD 6360
- (C) ISLAMABAD 5964

(U) CLASSIFIED BY JOHN R. SCHMIDT, POLITICAL COUNSELOR.
REASONS: 1.5 (C)(D).

1. (U) THIS MESSAGE WAS COORDINATED WITH CONSULATE PESHAWAR.

2. (C) SUMMARY: A NUMBER OF SOURCES REPORT THAT MANY ARAB AND PAKISTANI EXTREMISTS HAVE LEFT KHOST PROVINCE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE AUGUST 20 U.S. STRIKES. IN THE MEANME, TERRORIST MASTERMIND USAMA BIN LADIN REPORTEDLY IS STAYING IN THE KANDAHAR AREA, WHERE THE TALIBAN CAN KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON HIM. SOURCES ALSO ASSERT CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT PAKISTANI EXTREMIST GROUPS WERE INVOLVED IN THE PURPORTED EXECUTION OF ELEVEN "MISSING" IRANIANS IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF AND THE KILLING OF A UN EXPATRIATE IN KABUL. AMID A REPORT THAT EIGHT WERE KILLED IN THE WAR AND THEIR BODIES RECENTLY RETURNED TO PAKISTAN, PAKISTANI EXTREMISTS REPORTEDLY CONTINUE TO FLOW OVER THE BORDER TO JOIN THE TALIBAN. END SUMMARY.

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TERRORISTS SAID TO MOVE OUT OF KHOST
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3. (C) SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE TOLD POLOFF THAT THEY HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT EXTREMIST ARABS WHO HAD BEEN TRAINING AT THE KHOST TERRORIST CAMPS THAT WERE HEAVILY DAMAGED IN THE AUGUST 20 U.S. MISSILE STRIKE HAVE BEEN MOVING TO THE KABUL AREA.

TOLD POLOFF SEPTEMBER 7 THAT AFGHAN UN EMPLOYEES BASED IN KABUL HAVE NOTICED MORE ARABS IN THE CITY IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS. THE RUMOR THAT THE AFGHAN UN EMPLOYEES HAVE HEARD IS THAT THESE ARABS HAVE COME TO KABUL AFTER THEIR FACILITIES IN KHOST WERE DESTROYED. IN A SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING WITH POLOFF, OF THE ANTI-TALIBAN NATIONAL ISLAMIC MOVEMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, RELATED THAT HE HAD ALSO HEARD THAT ARABS HAVE BEEN TRANSLITING KABUL IN ORDER TO JOIN TALIBAN FORCES ON FRONTS IN THE NORTH OF THE COUNTRY, ZEKI SAID.

4. (C) IN ANOTHER REPORT ABOUT THE CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OF THE KHOST TERRORISTS, A CORRESPONDENT WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE TALIBAN, WROTE AN ARTICLE ABOUT HIS RECENT POST-STRIKE VISIT TO THE AREA IN KHOST
WHERE THE CAMPS WERE LOCATED. ACCORDING TO A TALIBAN GOVERNOR OF KHOST SYED ABDULLAH AS
STATING THAT THOSE WHO HAD BEEN USING THE CAMPS "HAD BEEN MOVED TO
COMPARATIVELY SAFER PLACES."

BIN LADIN REPORTED TO BE IN KANDAHAR AREA

5. (C) IN TERMS OF THE LOCATION OF USAMA BIN LADIN, THE MASTERMIND
BEHIND THE EAST AFRICA BOMBINGS, POLOFF'S SOURCES SAY THAT HE HAS
BEEN KEEPING A VERY LOW-PROFILE AND IT IS NOT CLEAR WHERE HE MIGHT
BE HIDING. MOST SOURCES POLOFF HAS SPOKEN TO, HOWEVER, BELIEVE
THAT BIN LADIN PROBABLY IS SPENDING MOST OF HIS TIME IN THE AREA OF
KANDAHAR CITY. A RESISTANCE COMMANDER WHO KNOWS
MANY TALIBAN LEADERS, TOLD POLOFF SEPTEMBER 9 THAT BIN LADIN HAS
PROBABLY BEEN ORDERED TO STAY IN KANDAHAR CITY BY TALIBAN LEADER
MULLAH OMAR WHO CAN MORE EASILY KEEP A WATCH ON HIM THERE. IN
ADDITION, UNLIKE OTHER PARTS OF AFGHANISTAN WHICH ARE UNSTABLE,
KANDAHAR AREA REMAINS RELATIVELY QUIET AND EASY FOR THE TALIBAN TO
CONTROL. WHEN IN KANDAHAR, SAID BIN LADIN WAS KNOWN TO STAY
AT MULLAH OMAR'S RESIDENCE, WHICH IS ADJACENT TO THE KANDAHAR

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2/CCJ3/CCJ5/POLAD//
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DHAKA

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GOVERNOR'S HOUSE, OR AT A COMPLEX NEAR KANDAHAR AIRPORT.

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SIPAH-I-SAHABA IMPLICATED IN KILLING OF IRANIANS

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6. (C) [ADDED THAT HE HAD HEARD UNCONFIRMED REPORTS
THAT MEMBERS OF THE PAKISTANI EXTREMIST GROUP SIPAH-I-SAHABA (SSP)
EXECUTED THE ELEVEN "MISSING" MAZAR-I-SHARIF-BASED IRANIAN
OFFICIALS. (NOTE: IRAN HAS ACCUSED THE TALIBAN OF CAPTURING THE
IRANIANS WHEN THEY TOOK MAZAR-I-SHARIF ON AUGUST 8 -- SEE REF A.)
ACCORDING TO [ ] A TEAM OF PRO-TALIBAN SSP VOLUNTEERS, ALL OF
WHOM WERE PAKISTANI NATIONALS, ENTERED MAZAR-I-SHARIF ON AUGUST 8
UNCLASSIFIED

JUST AFTER IT HAD FALLEN TO THE TALIBAN, THE SSP TEAM PURPORTEDLY CONFIDENTIAL

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WENT DIRECTLY TO THE IRANIAN CONSULATE, CAPTURED THE IRANIANS, AND THEN EXECUTED THEM IN COLD BLOOD. QUERIED ABOUT HIS SOURCES, __________Said they were good, but even they had stressed that the report was unconfirmed.

7. (C) IN A SEPTEMBER 4 MEETING WITH PESHAWAR PO, __________ADDED THE TWIST THAT THE SSP TEAM HAD NOT ONLY KILLED THE IRANIANS, BUT ALSO THE CONSULATE'S AFGHAN STAFF AND DOZENS OF NEIGHBORS WHO HAD WITNESSED THE ATTACK. IN TOTAL, SOME 60 PERSONS WERE KILLED. QUERIED ABOUT HIS SOURCES, __________Said he had picked up the information from a trader who had recently returned to PESHAWAR FROM MAZAR-I-SHARIF.

A KASHMIRI MILITANT CONNECTION TO UN KILLING?


OF THE UN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ATTACK, WHICH LEFT ONE ITALIAN NATIONAL UN EMPLOYEE DEAD FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS, TOLD POLOFF SEPTEMBER 8 THAT HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THE HUM CONNECTION, ALTHOUGH HE HAD HEARD ABOUT THE ALLEGATION FROM SEVERAL SOURCES. THE TALIBAN HAD NOT CONFIRMED THE INFORMATION DURING MEETINGS WITH THE UN ON THE TALIBAN'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE ATTACK. THE TALIBAN, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT THE TWO PERPETRATORS OF THE ATTACK WERE UNDER ARREST IN KANDAHAR AND WERE OF PAKISTANI NATIONALITY. BECAUSE OF THE TALIBAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE MEN WERE PAKISTANI, __________TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY THE CLAIM THAT THE ASSAILANTS COULD HAVE HUM CONNECTIONS SINCE HUM MEMBERS ARE INEVARIABLY PAKISTANI.

FLOW OF PAKISTANIS TO AFGHANISTAN CONTINUES

9. (C) MEANWHILE, A NUMBER OF SOURCES HAVE TOLD POLOFF THAT LARGE
UNCLASSIFIED

NUMBERS OF PAKISTANI NATIONALS CONTINUE TO FLOW OVER THE PAKISTANI BORDER WITH AFGHANISTAN TO JOIN THE TALIBAN. (NOTE: SOME SOURCES ESTIMATE THAT 20-40 PERCENT OF THE TALIBAN MILITARY FORCE IS MADE UP PAKISTANI NATIONALS -- SEE REF C.)

TOLD POLLOFF SEPTEMBER 2 THAT HIS SOURCES IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE (NWFP) AND IN BALUCHISTAN CONTINUE TO REPORT THAT BUSES FULL OF PAKISTANI VOLUNTEERS FOR THE TALIBAN CAUSE ARE CROSSING THE MAJOR BORDER POINTS AT TORKHAM (NWFP) AND CHAMAN (BALUCHISTAN). IN A SEPTEMBER 1 MEETING, A CONTACT WITH PRO-TALIBAN LEANINGS, SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT PRO-TALIBAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS IN RECENT EFFORTS TO LURE PAKISTANI MADRASSA STUDENTS TO VOLUNTEER TO FIGHT FOR THE TALIBAN.

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO  LOG-00  ACDA-08  ACDE-00  INLB-01  AID-00  A-00  CA-02
CCO-00  CG-00  CIAE-00  SMEC-00  COME-00  CTME-00  INL-01
DODE-00  DOEZ-00  DOTE-00  SRPP-00  DS-00  EB-00  EUR-01
FAAE-00  FBIE-00  H-01  IMMC-01  IM-01  TEDE-00  INR-00
INSE-00  IO-00  LAB-01  L-01  ADS-00  MMP-00  M-00
NEA-01  DCP-01  NRCE-00  NSAE-00  NSCE-00  OCS-03  OIC-02
OMB-01  OPIC-01  PA-00  PM-00  PRS-00  P-00  SP-00
SSO-00  TRSE-00  T-00  USIE-00  USSS-00  SA-01  ASDS-01
FMP-00  SNIS-00  NISC-00  PMB-00  DSCC-00  DRL-04  G-00
NFAT-00  SAS-00  /033W

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USSMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY AILMAT
AMEMBASSY BISHKEK
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
DIA WASHINGTON DC
DEAD PAKISTANIS RETURN HOME


COMMENT

11. (C) BASED ON WHAT WE ARE HEARING, IT APPEARS THAT THE U.S. STRIKES HAVE FLUSHED THE ARAB AND PAKISTANI MILITANTS OUT OF KHOST AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. THE PRESENCE OF SO MANY ARABS AND PAKISTANIS IN AFGHANISTAN IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE UN, WHICH IS WEIGHING WHETHER IT IS SAFE TO SEND SOME OF ITS EXPATRIATES BACK THERE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE KHOST STRIKES. ADMITTED TO POLOFF THAT THE UN JUST DOES NOT
HAVE A HANDLE ON WHETHER THE TALIBAN ARE WILLING TO CONTROL THEIR EXTREMIST ALLIES, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE SHOOTING INCIDENT WHICH TOOK THE LIFE OF THE UN OFFICIAL IN KABUL. THE REPORTS THAT PAKISTANIS CONTINUE TO CROSS THE BORDER SERVE TO HIGHLIGHT THE EXTENT THAT THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN HAS BECOME A CRUSADE FOR SUNNI EXTREMISTS IN PAKISTAN AS WELL AS THE TALIBAN. AS NOTED BY THE REPORT ON THE DEAD JUI(F) MEMBERS, IT IS A WAR IN WHICH PAKISTANI EXTREMISTS ARE WILLING TO MAKE THE HIGHEST SACRIFICE FOR THEIR ISLAMIST CAUSE.

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