

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

C16

P B1, 1.5(d)

DOCUMENT_ID: 179158250
DOCNO: 00242
PRODUCER: PESHAWAR
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19980324
TOR: 002947
DOCPREC: P
ORIGDATE: 199803240523
MHFNO: 98 0928343
DOCCLASS: C

HEADER
PP RUEAIIB
DE RUSBPW #0242 0830523
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
MSI0045
PP RUEHC
DE RUSBPW #0242 0830523
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P R 240523Z MAR 98
FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2263
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 3602
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0990
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY 0787
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0020
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 1015
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 0772
RUEHDB/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 1050
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0134
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0988
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0146
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0950
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0947
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0118
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 1038
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0300
RUEHAD/AMCONSUL DUBAI 0161
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH 0942
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 1815
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0185
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1070
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC 0943
BT

CONTROLS
CONFIDENTIAL PESHAWAR 00242

DEPT ALSO FOR EUR/CEN

USIA FOR NEA - LARSEN

LONDON FOR POL - TUELLER

PARIS FOR POL - RAVELING

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 6/9/03 Exemption B1

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

(16)

CONFIDENTIAL
UNCLASSIFIED

ISLAMABAD ALSO FOR LAHORE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/23/08

TEXT

TAGS: MOPS, PINR, PREL, PGOV, AF, PK
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: A REPORT OF PAKISTANI MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TO THE TALIBAN

REF: PESHAWAR 239

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY: BRAD HANSON, PRINCIPAL OFFICER,
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR. REASON: 1.5 (D).
2. (C) SUMMARY: SOME 2000 ALLEGED PAKISTANI FIGHTERS WERE
TRANSPORTED TO KABUL AIRPORT BOUND FOR KUNDUZ TO ASSIST THE
TALIBAN, ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN POLITICAL CONTACT WHO CLAIMED TO
HAVE TALKED TO ONE OF THE AFGHAN TRUCK DRIVERS INVOLVED IN THE
OPERATION. POST CANNOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY THIS REPORT. END
SUMMARY.
3. (C) DURING A DISCUSSION MARCH 20 (OTHER TOPICS REFTEL).

TOLD PO OF A RECENT INCIDENT OF ALLEGED
PAKISTANI MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE TALIBAN. SAID HE HAD
SPOKEN TO ONE OF THE AFGHAN TRUCK DRIVERS INVOLVED IN THE
OPERATION.

4. (C) ACCORDING TO THE TRUCK DRIVER, ABOUT 12 DAYS BEFORE THE
DISCUSSION (I.E., O/A MARCH 8), 25 LARGE MERCEDES BENZ TRUCKS
WITH COVERED CARGO HAULS TRAVELED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT FROM
JALALABAD TO KABUL. THE TRUCKS WERE TRANSPORTING PAKISTANI
FIGHTERS TO KABUL AIRPORT, FOR PROBABLE TRANSPORT TO KUNDUZ TO
ASSIST THE TALIBAN. THE TRUCK DRIVER ESTIMATED THE TOTAL NUMBER
OF MEN AT 2000 (COMMENT: THIS SEEMS RATHER HIGH FOR 25 TRUCKS.
END COMMENT.) HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THE PAKISTANIS GOT TO
JALALABAD. THE TRUCK DRIVER SAID THE DRIVERS HAD BEEN WARNED NOT
TO DIVULGE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPERATION OR THEY WOULD BE
KILLED. (COMMENT: IT WAS NOT CLEAR ON WHAT BASIS
THE TRUCK DRIVER "KNEW" THE MEN WERE PAKISTANIS. END COMMENT.)

5. (C) DID NOT KNOW IF THE "PAKISTANIS" WERE PAKISTANI
TALIBAN, I.E., GRADUATES OF PAKISTANI MADRASSAHS, OR PAK
MILITARY, BUT IMPLIED, THAT GIVEN THE SCALE AND ORGANIZATION OF
THE TRANSPORT, THE OPERATION WAS ASSISTED BY SOME PART OF THE
PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT. USED THIS INCIDENT AND OTHERS TO
ARGUE THAT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE WAS THE GREATEST OBSTACLE TO
AFGHANS FINDING A PEACEFUL WAY OUT OF THEIR CONFLICT.

6. (C) COMMENT: POST CANNOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY THIS REPORT.
IT IS NO SECRET THAT HUNDREDS OF PAKISTANI TALIBAN HAVE JOINED
THE TALIBAN TO FIGHT THEIR OPPONENTS; THERE WAS A PARTICULARLY
LARGE INFUX THE SUMMER OF 1997. ALSO, POST HAS REPORTED THE

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

OCCASIONAL ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE OF PAKISTANI MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS ADVISING THE TALIBAN INSIDE AFGHANISTAN. IT IS ALSO NO SECRET THAT THE TALIBAN HAVE LONG OPERATED AN AIR BRIDGE TO FERRY SUPPLIES AND MEN TO THEIR NORTHERN BEACHHEAD OF KUNDUZ. IF THIS INCIDENT IS TRUE, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A MAJOR ESCALATION IN PAKISTANI ASSISTANCE TO THE TALIBAN IN PREPARATION FOR A THIRD TALIBAN NORTHERN OFFENSIVE THIS SPRING.

HANSON

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL