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ACTION SA-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 DS-00 FBIE-00
TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 MMP-00 NEA-01 NSAE-00 SCT-00
DSCC-00 /003W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3400
INFO USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA J5//
AMCONSUL JEDDAH
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
USIA WASHDC 6237
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

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DEPT FOR SA/PAB, S/CT, AND EUR/CEN; LONDON FOR

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POL/TUELLER; PARIS FOR POL/RAVELING; ROME FOR
POL/NDEMPSEY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/26/06

TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PREL, AF, PK

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: BRITISH JOURNALIST VISITS
SITE OF TRAINING CAMPS; HUA ACTIVITY ALLEGED

REFS: (A) STATE 243713 (NOTAL)

- (B) ISLAMABAD 9517 (NOTAL)

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR DAN
MOZENA. REASON: 1.5 (C) (D).

2. (C) SUMMARY: A BRITISH JOURNALIST TOLD EMBOFFS
THAT SHE VISITED THE SITE OF TWO TERRORIST TRAINING
CAMPS IN PAKTIA PROVINCE, ON NOVEMBER 14. ALTHOUGH
SHE DID NOT ENTER THE CAMPS, SHE THOUGHT THEY SEEMED
OCCUPIED. IN ADDITION, SHE SAID "TALIBAN SOURCES"
TOLD HER THAT ONE OF THE CAMPS IS OCCUPIED BY
HARAKAT-UL-ANSAR (HUA) MILITANTS. END SUMMARY.

3. (C) IN A MEETING ARRANGED AT HER REQUEST,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A BRITISH NEWSPAPER, TOLD POLOFF AND
THE USIS INFORMATION OFFICER NOVEMBER 19 THAT SHE HAD
VISITED THE SITE OF TRAINING CAMPS IN PAKTIA
PROVINCE, IN SOUTHEASTERN AFGHANISTAN, ON NOVEMBER 14.
SHE SAID THAT THE TWO CAMPS, AL BADR I AND AL BADR
II, WERE THE SAME CAMPS REFERRED TO IN RECENT

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ARTICLES IN THE PAKISTANI PRESS (REF B). (NOTE:
ACCORDING TO THESE ARTICLES, THE CAMPS WERE
ORIGINALLY CONTROLLED BY HEZB-I-ISLAMI BEFORE THE
TALIBAN SHUT THEM DOWN IN THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
TIMEFRAME. THE ARTICLES ASSERT THAT THE CAMPS HAVE
REOPENED FOR TRAINING OF HUA MILITANTS. END NOTE.)
LEES ADDED THAT THE CAMPS WERE LOCATED A "DIFFICULT"
DRIVE SOUTH OF THE CITY OF KHOST NEAR THE
AFGHAN-PAKISTAN BORDER.

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4. (C) [] SAID SHE VISITED THE AREAS OF THE CAMPS ON ASSIGNMENT FOR HER NEWSPAPER TO COLLECT INFORMATION FOR A SERIES OF ARTICLES SHE IS WRITING ON AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. HER TRIP BEGAN IN KHOST, WHERE SHE SAID SHE WAS REFUSED A MEETING WITH MULLAH SAYED ABDULLAH, THE TALIBAN GOVERNOR, ALTHOUGH SHE WAS COVERED IN A BURQA (ISLAMIC HEAD-TO-TOE GARMENT FOR WOMEN). HOWEVER, HIS ASISTANTS PROVIDED HER A MESSAGE FROM HIM "DENYING THAT THE CAMPS ARE BEING USED AND WARNING HER NOT TO GO NEAR THEM." IGNORING HIS ADVICE, [] RELATED THAT SHE PROCEEDED TO THE CAMPS. SHE SAID THAT SHE COULD NOT GET INSIDE THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE PROTECTED BY NUMEROUS GUARD POSTS. NONETHELESS, SHE SAID THAT FROM HER VANTAGE POINT THE CAMPS LOOKED "OCCUPIED AND ACTIVE."

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5. (C) [] TOLD EMBOFFS THAT "TALIBAN SOURCE" SHE WOULD NOT NAME HAD TOLD HER THAT ONE OF THE CAMPS IS OCCUPIED BY HUA MILITANTS, AND THAT THE OTHER CAMP IS OCCUPIED BY "ASSORTED FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING CHECHENS, BOSNIAN MUSLIMS, AS WELL AS SUDANESE AND OTHER

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ARABS." IN ADDITION, THIS SOURCE ASSERTED THAT THE INSTRUCTORS AT THE CAMPS ARE THE SAME ONES WHO TAUGHT THERE BEFORE THE CAMPS WERE SEIZED BY THE TALIBAN IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER.

6. (C) COMMENT: [] STORY ADDS TO THE GROWING EVIDENCE THAT, CONTRARY TO TALIBAN CLAIMS, THE AL BADR CAMPS ARE BACK IN BUSINESS. EMBASSY AND CONSULATE PESHAWAR WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CAMPS IN LINE WITH REF A ACTION REQUEST.
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