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PTO7551

~~RELEASED IN PART~~
~~B1, 1.4(D)~~

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09215 01 OF 02 181258Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO LOG-00 CCOE-00 SAS-00 /000W
-----8E7921 181259Z /38

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2324

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 009215

DECAPTIONED

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DEPT FOR P, SA, SA/PAB, AND S/CT; PLEASE ALSO PASS TO ABU DHABI,
CAIRO, RIYADH, AND PESHAWAR

E.O. 12958: DECL: EXEMPT UNDER 1.6X4
TAGS: PREL, PTER, AF, PK
SUBJ: USAMA BIN LADIN: PAKISTAN SEEMS TO BE LEANING AGAINST BEING
HELPFUL

REFS: (A) ISLAMABAD 9184
- (B) ISLAMABAD 9157
- (C) ISLAMABAD 9091 (ALL NODIS)

(U) CLASSIFIED BY CDA ALAN EASTHAM PURSUANT TO 1.5 (B) AND (D).
EXEMPT UNDER 1.6X4.

1. ~~(S)~~ TWO WEEKS AFTER PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF'S VISIT TO
WASHINGTON, AND AFTER HAVING SPOKEN TO NUMEROUS PAKISTANI
INTERLOCUTORS [REDACTED], OUR IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT THE GOP IS NOT
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DISPOSED TO BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL ON THE MATTER OF TERRORIST USAMA
BIN LADIN.

2. ~~(S)~~ THIS VIEW COMES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, MOST PARTICULARLY
RECENT COMMENTS MADE IN SEPARATE MEETINGS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] IN THESE MEETINGS, WHICH WERE USED TO EXPRESS
OUR CONCERNS ABOUT BIN LADIN'S LATEST ACTIVITIES AND TO ASK
PAKISTAN TO EXERCISE ITS INFLUENCE TOWARD A SOLUTION TO THE
PROBLEM. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ALL TOOK THE LINE THAT THE ISSUE
OF BIN LADIN IS A PROBLEM THE U.S. HAS WITH THE TALIBAN, NOT WITH
PAKISTAN. [REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
APEAL ACTION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASED
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(D)
DATE/CASE ID: 03 SEP 2009 200706003

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 25 MAR 2008 200706003

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4. (S) WHY IS THIS? FIRST, THERE'S A HISTORY OF NEGATIVE PUBLIC REACTION WHEN PAKISTAN ASSISTS IN TURNING OVER TERRORISTS TO THE U.S. IN THAT LIGHT, WE BELIEVE THE ESTABLISHMENT HERE WAS SURPRISED AT THE VIGOR OF THE NEGATIVE PRESS AND PUBLIC REACTION TO THE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON AT THE END OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE U.S. HAD ASKED PAKISTAN TO HELP "SOLVE" THE BIN LADIN PROBLEM, WITH THE ACCOMPANYING SPECULATION THAT THIS WOULD MEAN SOME SORT OF EXTRA- OR SEMI-LEGAL OPERATION TO RENDER HIM INTO U.S. CUSTODY.

5. (S) THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM HAS COALESCED AROUND A POINT OF VIEW MOST RECENTLY EXPRESSED IN PUBLIC IN A DECEMBER 18 ARTICLE IN "THE NEWS," A LOCAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, WRITTEN BY NASIM ZEHRA, A COLUMNIST WHO IS WELL-KNOWN FOR HER CLOSE CONNECTIONS TO BOTH THE MFA AND THE ISI, WHOSE HANDS ARE EVIDENT IN HER ARTICLE TODAY.

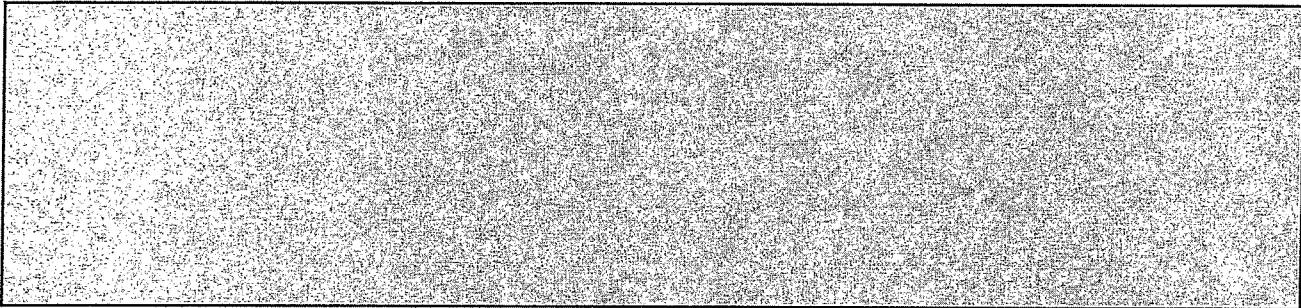
6. (S) IN THE ARTICLE, ZEHRA DRAWS TOGETHER A NUMBER OF THREADS THAT SEEM TO EXPLAIN THE DRIFT OF PAKISTANI POLICY ON BIN LADIN. IN THE PIECE (WHICH HAS BEEN FAXED TO SA/PAB), ENTITLED "OSAMA AND PAK-U.S. TIES," ZEHRA MAKES THE FOLLOWING ARGUMENT: THE U.S. HAS PUT PAKISTAN UNDER IMMENSE PRESSURE TO HELP OUT ON THE BIN LADIN ISSUE, INCLUDING WHEN U.S. OFFICIALS MADE PUBLIC COMMENTS ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR DESIRE FOR GOP ASSISTANCE DURING THE PM'S RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S. THE U.S. HAS COME TO EXPECT SUCH HELP BECAUSE THE GOP HAS HELPED IN THE PAST IN APPREHENDING TERRORISTS LIKE RAMZI YUSUF, (THE MURDERER MIR AIMAL KASI), ETC. WITH THE TALIBAN UNLIKELY TO TURN BIN LADIN OVER TO THE U.S. OR ANYONE ELSE,

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THE ONLY WAY TO EXTRACT HIM WOULD SEEM TO INVOLVE
MILITARY/CLANDESTINE METHODS. HOWEVER, PAKISTAN HAS REPEATEDLY

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TOLD THE U.S. IT HAS NO PLANS TO HELP SUCH AN EFFORT AND HAS
PUBLICLY CONDEMNED ANY EFFORTS SINCE THEY ARE "TANTAMOUNT" TO
INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A "NEIGHBORING BROTHERLY
COUNTRY." IN ADDITION, THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT, DESIRING
CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS WITH "ALL BRANDS OF MUSLIM STATES AND
ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS," DOES "NOT WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH
WASHINGTON'S ANTI-OSAMA CRUSADE." IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT THE
U.S. WILL DO SOMETHING ON ITS OWN, BUT "PAKISTAN MUST STAY AWAY
FROM TROUBLED WATERS," ZEHRA CONCLUDES.



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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2325

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 009215

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[REDACTED] WE WILL KEEP TRYING, THROUGH ALL
THE CHANNELS WE HAVE WITH THE PAKISTANIS (AND OF COURSE DIRECTLY
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WITH THE TALIBAN), BUT IT'S AN UPHILL SLOG. IF WASHINGTON IS
CONSIDERING ANY FOLLOWUP CORRESPONDENCE AFTER THE VISIT, IT WOULD
BE WORTHWHILE TO REMIND NAWAZ SHARIF DIRECTLY OF ANY UNDERTAKINGS
HE MAY HAVE MADE.

END COMMENT.

EASTHAM

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