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~~SECRET~~

PT00848

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

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04254 01 OF 02 291158Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO LOG-00 CCOE-00 SAS-00 /000W  
-----CEBC82 291212Z /38

O 291159Z MAY 99  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7130

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 004254

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

E.O. 12958: DECL: (1.6X4)  
TAGS: PREL, PTER, ASEC, AF, PK  
SUBJ: USAMA BIN LADIN: U.S. POINTS DELIVERED TO  
TALIBAN AND PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT

DECAPTIONED

- REFS: (A) STATE 100503
- (B) ISLAMABAD 3640 (LAHORE 214)
- (C) ISLAMABAD 3491
- (D) ISLAMABAD 815

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAM MILAM.  
EXEMPT UNDER 1.6X4.

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 04254 01 OF 02 291158Z  
1. ~~(S)~~ SUMMARY: IN SEPARATE MAY 29 MEETINGS,  
AMBASSADOR REVIEWED REF A U.S. POINTS CONCERNING  
THE ACTIVITIES OF USAMA BIN LADIN WITH TALIBAN  
"CHARGE" HAQQANI AND HIGH-LEVEL PAKISTANI  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL IFTIKHAR  
MURSHED. HAQQANI PROMISED TO CONVEY THE U.S.  
MESSAGE TO THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP. ASSERTING  
THAT THE GOP TOOK THE ISSUE VERY SERIOUSLY,  
MURSHED SAID PAKISTAN WOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH  
THE TALIBAN. END SUMMARY.

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NOTHING NEW FROM TALIBAN  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL  
APPEAL ACTION: RELEASED IN FULL  
DATE/CASE ID: 10 AUG 2009 200706003

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

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2. (S) THE AMBASSADOR MET MAY 29 WITH "CHARGE D'AFFAIRES" OF THE TALIBAN-CONTROLLED AFGHAN EMBASSY, SYEDUR RAHMAN HAQQANI. AMBASSADOR CAREFULLY REVIEWED REF A POINTS, UNDERSCORING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, AND REQUESTING THAT THE U.S. POINTS BE PROVIDED TO THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. (S) HAQQANI LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY. HE REPLIED THAT THE U.S. POINTS WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE AMIR AL-MUMINEEN (TALIBAN LEADER MULLAH OMAR) AND THE TALIBAN "MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS" IN KABUL. HE SAID THE TALIBAN IN THE PAST HAD INFORMED THE U.S. THAT BIN LADIN WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO UNDERTAKE ANTAGONISTIC ACTIONS AGAINST ANYONE, INCLUDING THE U.S. HOWEVER, THE U.S.

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INSISTED, AND THE TALIBAN REMOVED HIS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. BIN LADIN WAS VERY UPSET AND HAD LEFT (TALIBAN-DOMINATED) TERRITORY. HAQQANI ASSERTED THAT HE AND THE TALIBAN HAVE NO IDEA OF WHERE BIN LADIN NOW WAS. HOWEVER, HAQQANI ADDED, HE "BELIEVED" THAT BIN LADIN WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST THE U.S. HOWEVER, THE U.S. SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT SOME THIRD PARTY MIGHT CREATE AN INCIDENT IN ORDER TO BLAME BIN LADIN AND THE TALIBAN.

4. (S) CONTINUING, HAQQANI SAID THE TALIBAN WANTED TO REPAIR RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. THE TALIBAN UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE OBSTACLES THAT THE U.S. IS WORRIED ABOUT. THE TALIBAN WANT THOSE OBSTACLES TO BE REMOVED. TO DO THIS, (TALIBAN KANDAHAR-BASED "DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER") MULLAH JALIL HAD MET WITH (ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS) INDERFURTH AND THEN (CHARGE D'AFFAIRES) EASTHAM (SEE REFS C AND D, WHICH REVIEWED THE FEBRUARY AND MAY MEETINGS, RESPECTIVELY). THE TALIBAN HAVE NO BAD INTENTIONS AGAINST ANY COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY THE U.S. THE TALIBAN WANT TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER, BUT BIN LADIN IS LIKE "A BOMB" FOR THEM. IF THE TALIBAN EXPEL HIM, THEN THE PEOPLE--WHO ALL SUPPORT HIM-- WILL RISE UP AGAINST THE TALIBAN. THE TALIBAN CANNOT ASSUME THAT RISK. THAT IS WHY THE TALIBAN HAVE BEEN WORKING QUIETLY TO URGE BIN LADIN TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY VOLUNTARILY. THE AMBASSADOR

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COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED THAT HAQQANI WAS CORRECT

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AND THAT BIN LADIN WAS INDEED NOT PLANNING  
ANYTHING. HOWEVER, THE U.S. HAS SOLID  
INFORMATION TO THE CONTRARY AND IT WAS INCUMBENT  
THAT THE TALIBAN EXPEL HIM IMMEDIATELY.

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PAKISTANI OFFICIAL SAYS GOP TAKES ISSUE SERIOUSLY  
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5. ~~(S)~~ THE AMBASSADOR ALSO MET MAY 29 WITH  
PAKISTANI MFA ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (AFGHANISTAN)  
IFTIKHAR MURSHED AND REVIEWED REF A POINTS.  
MURSHED PROMISED THAT PAKISTAN WOULD PRESS THE  
TALIBAN ON THE MATTER. THE NEXT BEST OPPORTUNITY  
FOR THE GOP MIGHT BE ON TUESDAY, JUNE 2, SINCE  
THIS MATTER WAS TOO SENSITIVE TO DISCUSS ON THE  
PHONE.

(NOTE: UZBEKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER  
KAMILOV IS DUE TO VISIT KANDAHAR THAT DAY.  
MURSHED SEEMED TO BE INTIMATING THAT GOP  
OFFICIALS WOULD BE GOING ALONG ON THAT VISIT AND

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WOULD DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP THEN.) MURSHED ADDED THAT THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING THE BIN LADIN MATTER VERY SERIOUSLY. PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED, AND THE GOP HAD ARRANGED A MEETING BETWEEN SAUDI PRINCE SULTAN AND TALIBAN OFFICIALS IN MAY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER (SEE REF B).

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COMMENT  
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6. (S) WE ARE RELATIVELY CONFIDENT THAT HAQQANI WILL PASS THE REF A MESSAGE TO THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE IS SAID TO HAVE CLOSE LINKS WITH KANDAHAR, INCLUDING WITH MULLAH OMAR. UNFORTUNATELY, ALTHOUGH HE SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO BE SOLICITOUS AND FRIENDLY, NOTHING HAQQANI ACTUALLY SAID WAS NEW, I.E. HE MADE NO PROMISES THAT THE TALIBAN PLANNED TO DEAL WITH THE BIN LADIN MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL. HE ALSO REPEATED THE TALIBAN CANARD THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHERE HE IS. AS FOR MURSHED, HE ALSO SAID NOTHING NEW. HE ADMITTED THAT--IN HIS OTHER GUISE AS CHIEF OF THE MFA'S POLICY PLANNING OFFICE--HE WAS NOW PREOCCUPIED WITH THE RECENT INCREASE IN INDO-PAKISTANI TENSIONS OVER KASHMIR. NONETHELESS, HE PROMISED THAT THE GOP WOULD PRESS THE TALIBAN ON THE MATTER. END COMMENT.

MILAM

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