

UNCLASSIFIED

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Page: 1

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PTQ0968

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 11584 061224Z
ACTION SA-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	EUR-01	FBIE-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PM-00
	P-01	SNIS-00	NISC-01	PMB-00	DRL-09	/032W	
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P 061227Z DEC 94
 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9231
 INFO USMISSION GENEVA
 USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
 AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
 USIA WASHDC 2727
 AMCONSUL JEDDAH
 AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
 AMCONSUL LAHORE
 AMCONSUL KARACHI
 ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY TASHKENT

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 011584

LONDON FOR POL: TUELLER

USIA FOR NEA - OBEE

CENTCOM FOR POLAD

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SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 11584 061224Z

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, KISL, MOPS, PINS, PK, AF
 SUBJECT: BELIEVE PAKISTAN IS BACKING TALIBAN

B1

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Current Class: SECRET

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E. AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 22 APR 2003 200200101

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: SECRET
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Document Number: 1994ISLAMA11584

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200200101

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: A WELL-INFORMED [REDACTED] SOURCE CLAIMS THAT THE BURGEONING TALIBAN (STUDENTS) MOVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN IS BEING DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY PAKISTAN. [REDACTED] BELIEVES PAKISTAN'S INTERIOR MINISTER IS THE PRINCIPAL PATRON OF THE TALIBAN, AND THAT ISI ADVISED AGAINST SUPPORTING THEM. END SUMMARY.

3. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CONFIDED TO POLOFF NOVEMBER 29 THAT HE HAD ACCOMPANIED [REDACTED] TO KABUL AT A MEETING WITH ISI DIRGEN LTGEN. GENERAL ASHRAF THE PREVIOUS WEEK. IN THE MEETING, [REDACTED] ASHRAF HAD VEHEMENTLY DENIED THAT HIS AGENCY HAD ANY ROLE IN SUPPORTING THE AFGHAN TALIBAN MOVEMENT IN KANDAHAR (SEE REFTEL).

4. THE ISI DIRGEN REPORTEDLY TOLD [REDACTED] THAT HE HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO PM BHUTTO THAT THE GOP NOT SUPPORT THE TALIBAN IN ANY WAY.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE GENERAL PREDICTED THAT THE TALIBAN COULD BECOME A DANGEROUS AND UNCONTROLLABLE FORCE WHICH COULD HARM BOTH AFGHANISTAN AND -- POTENTIALLY -- PAKISTAN.

5. [REDACTED] COMMENTED THAT ASHRAF'S REMARKS TRACKED WITH OTHER INFORMATION [REDACTED] HAD RECEIVED ABOUT THE TALIBAN. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE TALIBAN'S SEPTEMBER SEIZURE OF THE SPIN BOLDAK ARMORY WAS PRECEDED BY ARTILLERY SHELLING OF THE BASE -- FROM PAKISTANI FRONTIER CORPS POSITIONS. THE ENSUING CONFUSION HAD HELPED THE TALIBAN TO CAPTURE THE WELL-DEFENDED OUTPOST. [REDACTED] CLAIMED TO HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THREE SEPARATE TALIBAN UNITS WERE INVOLVED IN ASSAULTING THE BASE, WITH COORDINATION PROVIDED BY PAKISTANI OFFICERS ON THE SCENE. THE TALIBAN'S MILITARY COMPETENCE (QUICKLY ROUTING TWO MAJOR BATTLE-TESTED COMMANDERS IN KANDAHAR -- NIFA COMMANDER LALLAIE AND HIG COMMANDER SAR

Current Class: SECRET

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: SECRET
Current Handling: NOFORN
Document Number: 1994ISLAMA11584

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200200101

KHATIB), AND THEIR USE OF TANKS AND HELICOPTERS, STRONGLY
SUGGESTED PAKISTANI TUTELAGE OR DIRECT CONTROL, [REDACTED]

5. COMMENT: [REDACTED] IS AN EXTREMELY WELL-INFORMED AND RELIABLE
SOURCE AND WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT HE HAS ACCURATELY CHARACTERIZED
ASHRAF'S COMMENTS [REDACTED] THERE APPEARS TO BE
LITTLE DOUBT THAT SOME ELEMENTS IN PAKISTAN (PRIVATE AND/OR
GOVERNMENTAL) HAVE SUPPORTED THE TALIBAN. WHETHER THAT SUPPORT
CONTINUES, IS AS MUCH AS [REDACTED] BELIEVE, AND, IF SO, WHETHER
IT GAVE THE GOP MUCH LEVERAGE OVER THE TALIBAN, REMAINS VERY
MUCH IN DOUBT. END COMMENT.

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PAGE 04 ISLAMA 11584 061224Z

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Current Class: SECRET

Page: 3

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