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ACTION SA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ACQ-01	CIAE-00
	SMEC-00	INL-01	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EUR-01	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	IMCC-01	SNIS-00	NISC-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-04	G-00	MR-00	NEAT-00	SAS-00
	SWCI-00	/025W					

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O 291237Z JUL 98
 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8806
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
 AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
 AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMCONSUL JEDDAH
 DIA WASHINGTON DC
 USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2/CCJ3/CCJ5/POLAD//

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 005710

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DEPT FOR SA/PAB, INR/NESA, AND EUR/CACEN; LONDON FOR POL/SUTPHIN;

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PARIS FOR POL/RAVELING; USUN FOR POL/JGLASSMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/29/08

TAGS: PREL, KISL, PINR, AF, PK, SA

SUBJ: AFGHANISTAN: TALIBAN SET TO SHIFT "DIPLOMATIC" PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK, RIYADH, AND ISLAMABAD

(U) CLASSIFIED BY JOE NOVAK, ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR.
REASONS: 1.5 (C) (D).

1. (U) THIS MESSAGE WAS COORDINATED WITH CONSULATE PESHAWAR.
2. (SBU) VARIOUS SOURCES CONFIRM THAT THE TALIBAN ARE SET TO SHIFT AROUND "DIPLOMATIC" PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THEIR OFFICE IN NEW YORK, AND THEIR EMBASSIES IN ISLAMABAD AND RIYADH. FROM WHAT WE UNDERSTAND THE SHIFTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: ABDUL HAKIM MUJAHID, WHO IS NOW "AMBASSADOR" TO PAKISTAN, WILL GO TO NEW YORK; ABDUL WAHAB, WHO WAS IN NEW YORK, WILL GO TO RIYADH; AND SYED-UR RAHMAN HAQQANI, IN HIS FIRST TALIBAN "DIPLOMATIC" ASSIGNMENT, TAKES OVER IN ISLAMABAD. "THE VOICE OF THE SHARI'A," THE TALIBAN'S RADIO STATION AND OFFICIAL MOUTHPIECE, HAS NOT ANNOUNCED THE CHANGES YET, BUT ACTING POLCOUNS WAS TOLD BY A TALIBAN SOURCE THAT IT WOULD SOON.
3. (C) EMBASSY HAS THE FOLLOWING BRIEF BIO-DATA ON THE TALIBAN "DIPLOMATS" MENTIONED ABOVE:

-- ABDUL HAKIM MUJAHID: MUJAHID, AFTER A HALF-YEAR IN ISLAMABAD, IS RETURNING TO HEAD THE TALIBAN'S OFFICE IN NEW YORK ONCE AGAIN. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHEN HE WILL TAKE UP HIS NEW
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POST.

THE TALIBAN ARE BELIEVED TO BE SENDING HIM BACK TO NEW YORK BECAUSE OF THE WIDESPREAD VIEW THAT HE WAS AN EXCELLENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR THEM AT THE UN, AND WITH

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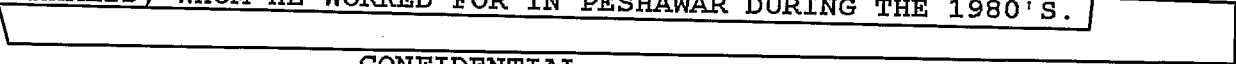
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THE U.S., THE PRESS, AND LOCAL AFGHANS. INVOLVED IN AFGHAN RESISTANCE POLITICS WITH NABI MOHAMMADI FOR MUCH OF THE 1980'S, MUJAHID IS ABOUT 45 AND FROM THE SOUTHERN PAKTIA REGION.

-- ABDUL WAHAB: WAHAB IS SET TO GO TO RIYADH IN AUGUST, AFTER ABOUT SIX MONTHS IN NEW YORK. HE WILL BE A FIRST SECRETARY AT THE AFGHAN EMBASSY THERE, SUBORDINATE TO MAULAWI DILAWAR. HE TOLD ACTING POLCOUNS JULY 29 THAT HE WAS UNHAPPY IN NEW YORK BECAUSE HIS FAMILY COULD NOT SETTLE IN AND HE WAS LIVING ON A VERY SMALL SALARY.



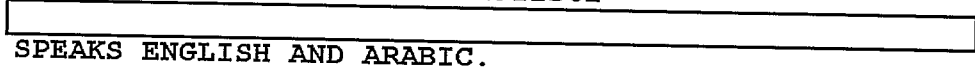
LIKE MUJAHID, WAHAB IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE KANDAHARI STREAM OF TALIBS, WHICH IS DOMINANT ON ALL ISSUES. HE IS FROM NANGARHAR PROVINCE IN THE EAST AND IS CLOSE TO RESISTANCE LEADER YUNIS KHALIS, WHOM HE WORKED FOR IN PESHAWAR DURING THE 1980'S.



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HE

SPEAKS ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

-- SYED-UR RAHMAN HAQQANI: WE DO NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT RAHMAN; HE JUST ARRIVED FROM KABUL, WHERE HE WAS A MID-LEVEL TALIBAN FUNCTIONARY. HE IS EXPECTED TO BE A CARETAKER IN ISLAMABAD, UNTIL A TALIBAN FROM KANDAHAR SHOWS UP. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE IS FROM LAGHMAN PROVINCE IN THE EAST. DURING THE RESISTANCE, HE WAS AFFILIATED WITH ABDUL RASUL SAYYAF'S ISLAMIST-ORIENTED PARTY. WE HAVE HEARD THAT HE IS ONE OF THE FEW TALIBAN WHO IS NON-PASHTUN; HE REPORTEDLY BELONGS TO A TRIBE RELATED TO THE NURISTANIS. HE IS ABOUT 47 YEARS OLD AND WAS EDUCATED AT THE HAQQANIYA MADRASSAH (AS CAN BE SEEN FROM HIS EPONYMOUS LAST NAME) LOCATED IN PAKISTAN'S NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

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