UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-03412 Doc No. C05192695 Date: 02/21/2013 (U) PRC/Taleban: The Locals Are Friendly?

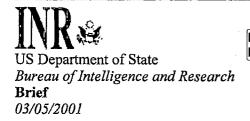
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Page 1 of 1

B1

B1 1.4(C) 1.4(D)

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

(U) PRC/Taleban: The Locals Are Friendly?

(S//NF) A PRC foreign ministry official in mid-January met in Islamabad with Taleban Foreign Minister Mutawakil

the 1.4(C) foreign ministry, and other offices, a fact-finding team from a PRC think tank recommended holding 1.4(D) regular bilateral exchanges and rebuilding Afghanistan's roads and telecommunications. The team noted negative PRC perceptions of the Taleban derived from misleading western and Russian sources; it accepted Taleban assertions that "Xinjiang dissidents" are training to fight anti-Taleban factions inside Afghanistan and are not targeting China.

(S//NF) Comment: The encounters are indicative of broadening PRC-Taleban engagement. Evidence of growing commercial contacts includes the presence of PRC telecommunications firms--the same ones implicated in the Iraq controversy--which last year signed protocols to install digital phone systems in Kandahar and Kabul.

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Classification Extended on : 02/21/2013 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify on: 03/05/2021