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B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

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	PMB-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/027W	

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 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2213
 INFO AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY
 DIA WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 AMEMBASSY RIYADH
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 AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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FOR POL - TUELLER; PARIS FOR POL - ALLEGRONE; ROME FOR
POL - NDEMPSEY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/29/06
TAGS: PREL, PTER, MOPS, PGOV, PK, AF, RU, IR, TI
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: TALIBAN OFFICIAL SAYS THAT
RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND IRAN "TENSE"

REF: ISLAMABAD 8055

1. (C) CLASSIFIED BY JOHN HOLZMAN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF
MISSION. REASON: 1.5 (C) (D).

SUMMARY

2. (C) IN THE WAKE OF THE TALIBAN'S SEPTEMBER 27 CAPTURE
OF KABUL, THE TALIBAN'S DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIR'S ADVISER
ABDUL JALIL TOLD POLOFF THAT RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND
IRAN ARE "TENSE." JALIL SAID MEETINGS IN KANDAHAR
BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP AND UN SPECIAL
ENVOY HOLL WERE "POSITIVE." HE STATED THAT OSAMA BIN
LADEN AND OTHER "ARABS" ARE NOT IN TALIBAN-CONTROLLED
TERRITORY.

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END SUMMARY.

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TENSIONS WITH RUSSIA AND IRAN

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3. (C) IN AN HOUR-LONG PHONE CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF ON SEPTEMBER 28, MULLAH ABDUL JALIL, THE TALIBAN'S DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIR'S ADVISER, WHO WAS IN KANDAHAR, SAID THE TALIBAN'S RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND IRAN ARE "TENSE" AFTER THE SEIZURE OF KABUL BY THE TALIBAN ON SEPTEMBER 27. JALIL BITTERLY ATTACKED THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 27 CONCERNING THE CAPTURE OF KABUL AS "JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN AFGHAN AFFAIRS, WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE THEY PUT THE COMMUNISTS IN POWER IN KABUL IN 1978." (NOTE: THE RUSSIAN STATEMENT CONDEMNED THE EXECUTION OF FORMER PRESIDENT NAJIBULLAH AS A "BARBARIC ACT" AND SAID THAT THE SEIZURE OF KABUL "ONLY AGGRAVATES THE CRISIS INTO WHICH AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN PLUNGED." END NOTE.) JALIL PROJECTED THAT THE TALIBAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA WILL REMAIN NEGATIVE FOR THE CONCEIVABLE FUTURE. QUERIED AS TO WHETHER THE TALIBAN HAD HAD ANY CONTACTS WITH THE TAJIK OPPOSITION, JALIL SAID THEY HAD NOT AND HAD NO PLANS TO COMMENCE ANY SORT OF RELATIONSHIP IN THE FUTURE.

4. (C) JALIL STATED THAT TALIBAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS ARE "DEADLOCKED" BECAUSE IRAN "CONTINUES TO RECOGNIZE COMMANDER MASOOD AND BURHANUDDIN RABBANI AS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN." ASKED HOW HE KNEW THIS, JALIL SAID THAT IRAN RADIO'S PASHTU AND DARI SERVICES ANNOUNCED IT ON SEPTEMBER 27. ANOTHER SERIOUS ISSUE WITH IRAN, JALIL SAID, WAS THAT IT HARBORS "SEVERAL THOUSAND ANTI-TALIBAN AFGHANS, WHO IT MAY USE TO INVADE
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WESTERN AFGHANISTAN."

MEETING WITH HOLL "POSITIVE"

5. ACCORDING TO JALIL, TALKS BETWEEN UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ENVOY FOR AFGHANISTAN NORBERT HOLL AND TALIBAN LEADERS ON SEPTEMBER 28 IN KANDAHAR HAD BEEN "POSITIVE."

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JALIL SAID DR. HOLL HAD MET WITH A TALIBAN DELEGATION LED BY KANDAHAR GOVERNOR MOHAMMED HASAN. TOPICS UNDER DISCUSSION INCLUDED NEXT STEPS IN THE UN PEACE PROCESS, AND THE UN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN, HE RECOUNTED. JALIL CONFIRMED THAT HOLL WILL TRAVEL TO KABUL ON SEPTEMBER 29 TO MEET WITH MULLAH MOHAMMED RABBANI, THE HEAD OF THE SIX-MEMBER COUNCIL FORMED BY THE TALIBAN ON SEPTEMBER 28, AFTER THE SEIZURE OF KABUL.



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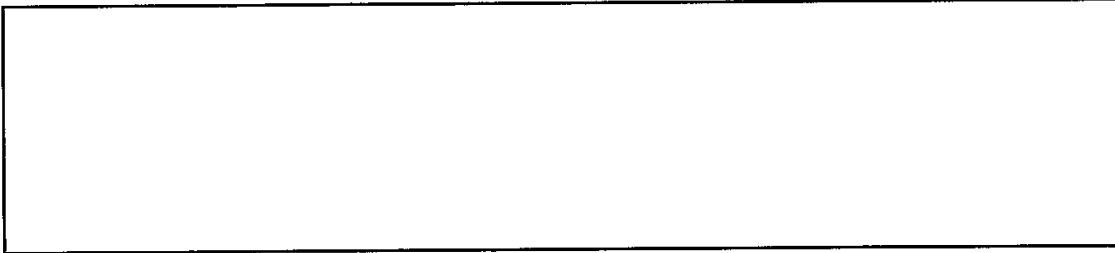
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NO TALIBAN SUPPORT FOR BIN LADEN AND "ARABS"

7. (C) AS HE DID IN A CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF AND AARMA ON SEPTEMBER 18 (REFTEL), JALIL DENIED THAT THE TALIBAN HAS ANY IDEA OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF FUGITIVE SAUDI FINANCIER OSAMA BIN LADEN OR ANY OTHER "ARABS" REPORTEDLY FLUSHED FROM TRAINING CAMPS DURING THE TALIBAN
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OFFENSIVE. POLOFF EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE TALIBAN PUT OUT THE WORD THAT OSAMA BIN LADEN'S PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN IS NOT WANTED. IN ADDITION, POLOFF URGED JALIL TO ENSURE THAT THE TALIBAN TAKE ACTIVE MEASURES TO GUARANTEE THAT THESE CAMPS ARE NOT REACTIVATED AND THAT NO FORM OF "SAFE HAVEN" IS EXTENDED TO TERRORISTS.

PURSUING MASOOD

8. (C) JALIL SAID THE TALIBAN IS PURSUING COMMANDER MASOOD, WHOM THEY BELIEVE HAS RETREATED WITH THE BULK OF HIS FORCES FROM THE TOWN OF JABAL US SERAJ, NORTH OF KABUL, TO BASES IN THE PANJSHIR VALLEY (MASOOD'S HOME AREA). HE SAID THERE IS NO FIGHTING AT THE PRESENT TIME, BUT TALIBAN UNITS ARE BEING SENT "NORTH AND NORTHEAST TO CONFRONT THE ENEMY." ASKED ABOUT THE DISPOSITION OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT CONTROLLED BY COMMANDER MASOOD, JALIL

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ASSERTED THAT THE TALIBAN HAD CAPTURED EIGHT SUKHOI BOMBERS AND FOUR MIG-21S IN THEIR SEIZURE OF BAGHRAM AIRBASE ON SEPTEMBER 27.

9. (C) JALIL NOTED THAT HE WAS NOT SURE OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF GULBUDDIN HEKMATYAR AND BURHANUDDIN RABBANI, BUT HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT BOTH WERE IN BADAKSHAN PROVINCE. (NOTE: POLOFF WAS TOLD BY A REPORTER ON SEPTEMBER 27 THAT HE HAD SPOKEN VIA SATELLITE PHONE WITH HEKMATYAR, WHO SAID BOTH HE AND RABBANI ARE IN BADAKSHAN, ALBEIT AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS. END NOTE.)

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THE "AFGHAN/TALIBAN GOVERNMENT"

10. (C) QUERIED AS TO WHAT THE TALIBAN WOULD LIKE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CALL THEIR ADMINISTRATION OF OVER TWO-THIRDS OF AFGHAN TERRITORY, JALIL FUMBLERD SOMEWHAT BEFORE SAYING THAT IT SHOULD BE CALLED "THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT UNDER THE TALIBAN MOVEMENT." THEN CORRECTING HIMSELF, HE SAID IT SHOULD BE CALLED THE "AFGHAN TALIBAN GOVERNMENT." ASKED TO NAME THE CAPITAL OF THE AREA UNDER THEIR CONTROL, HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL IS KABUL AND THE CAPITAL OF THE TALIBAN MOVEMENT IS KANDAHAR. TO POLOFF'S QUESTION AS TO WHO IS THEIR "HEAD-OF-STATE," JALIL ANSWERED AMIR AL-MUA'MINEEN (LITERALLY, PRINCE OF THE FAITHFUL) MULLAH MOHAMMED OMAR, THE TALIBAN FOUNDER AND LEADER, WHO LIVES IN KANDAHAR.

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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COMMENT

11. (C) JALIL SOUNDED ENERGIZED AND BUSY WITH THE TASK OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW GOVERNMENT FOR AFGHANISTAN. AS JALIL'S COMMENTS MAKE CLEAR, THE LEGACY OF THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN IS STILL FRESH IN THE MIND OF THE TALIBAN, AS IS IRAN'S SUPPORT FOR THE MASOOD/RABBANI GOVERNMENT. GIVEN THIS, IT APPEARS THAT IT WILL TAKE SOME VERY ADEPT DIPLOMACY BY RUSSIA AND IRAN TO NORMALIZE THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE TALIBAN IN THE NEAR TERM. CONCERNING DR. HOLL'S VISIT TO KANDAHAR, WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THE TALIBAN REGARD THE VISIT AS "POSITIVE," BUT NOTE THAT HE MET WITH ONLY MID-LEVEL TALIBAN OFFICIALS NONE OF WHOM IS A MEMBER OF THE INNER SHURA.
SIMONS

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