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ACTION NODS-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 CCOE-00 SAS-00 /000W
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O 290451Z DEC 98
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2558

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 009424

NODIS DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/27/08
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, ASEC, AF
SUBJECT: S) AFGHANISTAN: TALIBAN "THREAT WARNING"

REF: ISLAMABAD 9134 (NOTAL)

CLASSIFIED BY CDA ALAN EASTHAM PURSUANT TO 1.5 (B) AND
(D). EXEMPT UNDER 1.6X4.

1. (SBU) LATE ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 26TH, THE
TALIBAN-CONTROLLED AFGHAN EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD FAXED
THIS EMBASSY A LETTER EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERN OVER
POSSIBLE FUTURE BUT UNSPECIFIED ACTION AGAINST "US
EMBASSIES OR POLITICAL AGENCIES IN SOME UNKNOWN
COUNTRY" BY AGENTS OF AHMAD SHAH MASOOD, THEIR
POLITICAL AND MILITARY ENEMY, AND AGENTS OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF IRAN. EMBASSY QUESTIONS THE INFORMATION,
TIMING AND MOTIVATION OF THE LETTER BUT FORWARDS IT IN
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ITS ENTIRETY FOR REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION.

2. (C) BEGIN TEXT:

DECEMBER 26, 1998

THE EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN
PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA IN ISLAMABAD, AND HAS THE HONOR TO
STATE THAT BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED RECENTLY A
JOINT TERRORIST GROUP COMPOSED OF AHMAD SHAH MASOOD MEN
AND THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
IRAN IS PLANNING TO PERFORM A TERRORIST ACT, IN THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 21 MAY 2004 200400827

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NEAR FUTURE IN ONE OF THE US EBASSIES OR POLITICAL AGENCIES IN SOME UNKNOWN COUNTRY.

THIS ACT IS PLANNED TO DARKEN THE ATMOSPHERE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN.

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, THE ESTEEMED EMBASSY IS KINDLY INFORMED OF THE FACT.

THE EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

MR. JOHN WICK,
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ISLAMABAD

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END TEXT.

3. (U) FYI JOHN WICK IS UNDOUBTEDLY POLOFF JOE NOVAK.
4. (S) CHARGE CONVENED AN AD HOC MEETING OF CONCERNED SECTIONS TO DISCUSS THE LETTER, ITS CONTENTS AND ITS MEANING. IT WAS THE UNANIMOUS OPINION OF THE GROUP THAT THIS "UNSPECIFIC WARNING" WAS MORE OF A POLITICAL STATEMENT OR POSSIBLE DISINFORMATION BY THE TALIBAN THAN A THREAT WARNING, PERHAPS MOTIVATED BY A TALIBAN PERCEPTION, LARGELY BASED ON RUMOR, THAT THE USG AND MASOOD ARE MOVING CLOSER TOGETHER. IT OBVIOUSLY GAVE NO DETAILED OR VERIFIABLE INFORMATION, AND IN THAT REGARD PARALLELS THE LAST MESSAGE WE GAVE TO THE TALIBAN REGARDING BIN LADIN'S ACTIVITIES. IT IMPLICATED IRAN AND MASOOD, WHO, AT LEAST FOR NOW, ARE IMPLACABLE FOES OF THE TALIBAN. IT REINFORCES THE POINTS THE TALIBAN MADE IN AN EARLIER LETTER (REFTEL) DENYING ANY ASSOCIATION WITH TERRORIST ACTIONS CONDUCTED BY "SPITEFUL PEOPLE IN THE INTENTION TO DARKEN THE AUTMOPHERE (SIC) OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US". FINALLY, IT PROVIDES SOME, IF NOT MUCH, DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM AND UBL AFTER HIS LATEST STATEMENTS TO THE MEDIA.

EASTHAM

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