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B1, 1.4(D)PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09278 211306Z  
ACTION SA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ACQ-01	CIAE-00
	SMEC-00	INL-01	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	FBIE-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	OIC-02	SSO-00	SS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/017W			

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O 211305Z DEC 98  
 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2401  
 AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE  
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
 AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY  
 DIA WASHINGTON DC  
 AMCONSUL JEDDAH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 009278

DEPT FOR SA/PAB AND INR/NESA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/21/08  
 TAGS: PREL, PINR, KISL, SA, AF  
 SUBJ: AFGHANISTAN: BIO-DATA ON MAULAWI ABDUL WAHAB, TALIBAN  
 EMBASSY OFFICIAL IN SAUDI ARABIA

REFS: (A) RIYADH 4240; (B) ISLAMABAD 5710

(U) CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ALAN EASTHAM. REASONS: 1.5  
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(C) (D).

1. (C) IN RESPONSE TO REF A REQUEST: PARA TWO CONTAINS BIO-DATA ON TALIBAN EMBOFF OFFICIAL IN RIYADH MAULAWI ABDUL WAHAB. THE BIO-DATA WAS CONTAINED IN REF B, WHICH WAS SENT (SEE ADDITIONS AND CHANGES IN PARENTHESES) TO ADDRESSEES EARLIER IN JULY, WHEN WE FOUND OUT THAT WAHAB WAS HEADED TO RIYADH. SOURCES HERE HAVE TOLD US THAT WAHAB HAS BEEN REFERRING TO HIMSELF AS "CHARGE D'AFFAIRES" OF THE AFGHAN EMBASSY IN RIYADH SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF MAULAWI DILAWAR, THE FORMER TALIBAN "CHARGE" TO SAUDI ARABIA, WHO WAS TOLD TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IN SEPTEMBER BECAUSE OF THE DISPUTE WITH THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT OVER THE ISSUE OF TERRORIST USAMA BIN LADIN.

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THAT SAID, WAHAB IS NOT A TALIBAN "INSIDER" AND HIS INFORMATION PROBABLY NOT DEFINITIVE ON WHERE THE TALIBAN STAND ON VARIOUS ISSUES.

2. (C) ABDUL WAHAB BIO-DATA:

-- WAHAB HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO GO TO RIYADH, AFTER ABOUT SIX MONTHS IN NEW YORK (WHERE HE WAS TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN SINCE EARLY 1998). HE WILL BE A FIRST SECRETARY AT THE AFGHAN EMBASSY THERE, SUBORDINATE TO MAULAWI DILAWAR (WHO WAS TOLD TO LEAVE SAUDI ARABIA IN SEPTEMBER 1998 AND REPORTEDLY IS NOW TALIBAN CONSUL GENERAL IN KARACHI). WAHAB TOLD ACTING POLCOUNS JULY 29 (1998) THAT HE WAS UNHAPPY IN NEW YORK BECAUSE HIS FAMILY COULD NOT SETTLE IN AND HE WAS LIVING ON A VERY SMALL SALARY [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

LIKE (ABDUL HAKIM) MUJAHID (THE CURRENT TALIBAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN), 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, FOR WHOM HE WORKED IN PESHAWAR DURING THE 1980'S. HE

[REDACTED] HE

SPEAKS ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

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