

S E C R E T

TEHRAN 5246

DE RUQMR #5246 141 **
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
R 210832Z MAY 79
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO RUSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0101
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1563
RUSBLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0114
BT
S E C R E T TEHRAN 05246

class
CLASS: SECRET
CHRG: STATE 5/21/79
APPRV: CHARGE:CWNAAS
DRFTD: POL:DMCGAFFEY:M
CLEAR: POL:VTOMSETH
DISTR: CHG POL-3 OR
ECON ICA RF

E.O. 12065: XGDS45/21/09 (MC GAFFEY, DAVID C.) OR-P
TAGS: PEPR, IR, AF, PK
SUBJECT: LIMITED IRANIAN RESPONSE TO AFGHAN REBEL APPEAL

REF: TEHRAN 5208

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: AFGHAN FUND RAISER NASSRY REPORTED SOME ASSISTANCE FROM IRANIANS, TALK OF "HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE." REPORTS 30-35,000 AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN. END SUMMARY.

3. AMCIT AFGHAN ZIA NASSRY CALLED POLOFF MAY 21 TO REPORT RESULTS OF HIS TALKS WITH IRANIAN AUTHORITIES. HE STATES THAT HE DID TRAVEL TO QOM AND MET WITH AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI. HE SAID THEIR TALK WAS FRIENDLY, BUT NOT TOO PRODUCTIVE. HE WAS ASKING FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE, AND THE AYATOLLAH SPOKE INSTEAD OF "HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE." HE SPOKE AGAIN WITH AYATOLLAH KHALKHALI, WHO SAID THAT THIS COULD BE A BEGINNING. HE DID NOT MEET WITH FONMIN YAZDI, BUT INSTEAD MET WITH MR. TAGHAVI, CHIEF OF THE MFA SECTION DEALING WITH AFGHANISTAN, AND HAS A SECOND MEETING SCHEDULED WITH HIM IN APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS.

4. YESTERDAY, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, AYATOLLAH ROHANI, A MAJOR RELIGIOUS FIGURE AND CLOSE RELATIVE OF KHOMEINI, CALLED ON "THE AFGHAN PEOPLE TO REVOLT AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENT AS THE IRANIS DID HERE." HE URGED THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT TO "INTERVENE IN AFGHANISTAN TO ASSIST MUSLIMS. SUCH STATEMENTS BY UNOFFICIAL, SECOND-LEVEL FIGURES, CARRY LITTLE WEIGHT UNTIL THEY ARE CONFIRMED EITHER BY KHOMEINI OR BY THE GOVERNMENT.

5. NASSRY STATES THAT THE PCOI DID ASSIST HIM IN CONTACTING AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN. HE TRAVELLED TO MASHAD, WHERE THE AFGHANS HAVE A SMALL OFFICE, AND WAS ESCORTED TO THE REFUGEE CAMPS. HE STATES THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 30-35,000 AFGHANS LOCATED IN AN AREA STRETCHING TWENTY MILES ALONG THE BORDER FROM THE TOWN OF "TYBAD," SOUTH OF MASHAD. MOST ARE SHEPHERD FAMILIES, WITH THEIR FLOCKS, AND BECAUSE OF LACK OF FODDER, MANY HAVE ALREADY RETURNED TO AFGHANISTAN. INCLUDED IN THE NUMBER, HOWEVER, ARE OVER ONE HUNDRED AFGHAN MILITARY OFFICERS—GROUND FORCES, ARTILLERY, AND AIR FORCE. THESE ARE ATTEMPTING TO TRAIN A GUERRILLA FORCE (MOST MALE REFUGEES HAVE PERSONALLY-OWNED RIFLES) AND, NASSRY SAYS, ARE CONDUCTING SOME OPERATIONS INSIDE AFGHANISTAN. NASSRY HOPES THAT THE IRANIS

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WILL AT LEAST TAKE THE BURDEN OF THE ACTUAL REFUGEES OFF THE HANDS OF THE OFFICERS, FREEING THEM FOR MORE TRAINING AND OPERATIONS.

6. NASSRY INTENDS TO TRAVEL TOMORROW TO PAKISTAN, AND WILL PLAN TO RETURN TO IRAN AFTER APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK THERE. NAAS

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