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**CONTROLS**

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(b)(1),(b)  
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(b)(6),1.4 (c)

**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) AFGHANISTAN (AFG).

**SUBJ:**

[REDACTED] IN A SECRET MEETING AT THE AFGHAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, TWO NAMES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AS THE FUTURE MOD FOR AFGHANISTAN, MAJOR GENERAL HOMAYUN FAWZI AND GUL AGHA SHERZAI, THE NANGARHAR GOVERNOR ~~(S)~~.

~~WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED~~

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

DOI: (U) 20091120.

SUMMARY: (U) SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, TEXT PARAGRAPH 1, BELOW.

TEXT: 1 [REDACTED] EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. IN A SECRET MEETING, GENERAL DOSTUM PERSONALLY NOMINATED MAJOR GENERAL HOMAYUN FAWZI FOR THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE BUT ANOTHER NAME BEING

PASSED AROUND IS **GUL AGHA SHERZAI**, THE NANGARHAR GOVERNOR.

2. [REDACTED] ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL COMBINATION, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE SHOULD BE APPOINTED BY GENERAL DOSTUM AND NOT BY PRESIDENT KARZAI. IN A SECRET MEETING, GENERAL DOSTUM NOMINATED MAJOR GENERAL HOMAYUN FAWZI, THE ASSISTANT MINISTER OF PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION, FOR THE POSITION. ANOTHER CHOICE THAT IS SECRETLY BEING PASSED AROUND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS **GUL AGHA SHERZAI**, THE NANGARHAR GOVERNOR.

3. (U) BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GENERAL DOSTUM. GENERAL DOSTUM EARNED HIS REPUTATION AS A WARLORD DURING THE 1980S AND 1990S AND HELPED THE U.S. DEFEAT THE TALIBAN AS PART OF THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE IN 2001. HE RAN FOR PRESIDENT IN 2004 AND RECEIVED 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE, AND HAS SINCE SERVED AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AFGHAN ARMY. DOSTUM BECAME SOMETHING OF A POLITICAL MAVERICK AFTER HIS 2004 PRESIDENTIAL BID. HE HAS AT DIFFERENT TIMES SUPPORTED BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION, AND UNTIL LATE 2008 WAS A LEADING MEMBER OF THE UNITED FRONT (UF), THE MAIN OPPOSITION TO THE PRESIDENT HAMID KARZAI'S GOVERNMENT.

4. [REDACTED] BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON **GUL AGHA SHERZAI**. ANOTHER CHOICE THAT IS SECRETLY BEING PASSED AROUND THE MOD IS **GUL AGHA SHERZAI**, THE NANGARHAR GOVERNOR. **GUL AGHA SHERZAI**, A BARAKZAI PASHTUN FROM KANDAHAR, HAS SERVED AS THE NANGARHAR PROVINCE GOVERNOR SINCE JUNE 2005. **SHERZAI** WAS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TALIBAN. HE IS THE EPITOME OF A PASHTUN LEADER -- HE CONSTANTLY BALANCES TRIBES AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, HE MAKES A GREAT SHOW OF HIS HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY, AND HE OFTEN MAKES VIOLENT THREATS AGAINST HIS RIVALS. ALTHOUGH HE HAS ONLY BEEN IN NANGARHAR FOR THREE YEARS, HE IS THE DOMINANT FIGURE IN NANGARHAR POLITICS. HE IS NICK-NAMED "THE BULLDOZER" FOR HIS VERY AGGRESSIVE AND CONFRONTATIONAL STYLE AND HIS AFFECTION FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. HE NARROWLY ESCAPED AT LEAST THREE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS SINCE COMING TO NANGARHAR.

5. [REDACTED] MR. HAJI BAHLUL. THE GOVERNOR OF PANJSHER, MR. HAJI BAHLUL, ANNOUNCED HE WILL DISOBEY ALL ORDERS IF GENERAL HOMAYUN FAWZI IS NOMINATED AND WILL USE HIS INFLUENCE IN THE OTHER PROVINCES TO DISOBEY AS WELL.

