

INFO MEMO

~~S~~-2375/DR

December 3, 2003

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: L. E. Jacoby, Vice Admiral, USN, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: ~~(S)~~ Pakistan's Failure to Stem Islamic Extremism

~~(S//NF)~~ Musharraf recently renewed efforts to rein in extremism, but his efforts are not likely to overcome obstacles that thwarted earlier reform efforts. In mid-November, Musharraf announced a ban on five militant groups and moved to tighten regulations on madrassas, the Islamic schools that are the biggest sources of militants.

- ~~(S//NF)~~ The current crackdown is aimed at domestic violence (Sunni-Shia) in Pakistan, although one mostly Kashmiri group is listed.  (b)(1),1.4 (c)

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- ~~(C)~~ Two previous efforts at madrassa reform floundered on meeting resistance.

~~(S)~~ Given Musharraf's past track record, we believe these reforms are likely to fail. He is not likely to act with greater resolve than he has in the past.

- (b)(1),1.4 (c)

- ~~(C)~~ Musharraf probably fears that jihadis will turn on his government; they are angered at his support for the United States and have attempted to kill him several times.

- (U) The collapse of Pakistan's public education since the 1980s spurred the growth of madrassas, which now total 40,000-50,000. Some 55 percent of Pakistanis are illiterate.

- ~~(C)~~ Musharraf thinks and acts tactically—a trait evident in his policies [redacted] (b)(1),1.4 (c)  
[redacted] Under pressure, he is prone to sacrifice long-term objectives for short-term advantage.

(b)(1),1.4 (c) • [redacted]

~~(S)~~ Musharraf's renewed efforts provide an opportunity to reduce terrorism and the risk of regional instability and conflict. But, Pakistan must better address the root causes of rising militancy.

- ~~(S)~~ [redacted] Musharraf reportedly plans to close schools promoting jihad and compel all to teach skills essential to a modern work force, according to press. [redacted]

(b)(1),1.4 (c) [redacted]

- ~~(S)~~ Pakistan must sustain and broaden its crackdown on extremist groups. [redacted] (b)(1),1.4 (c)

[redacted] These groups pose the greatest threat of sparking conflict and directly threaten US forces in Afghanistan. Musharraf will be cognizant of the threat they pose to his government and his life.

(b)(1),1.4 (c) • [redacted]

(b)(3):10 USC 424 cc: [redacted]

(b)(3):10 USC 424 Prepared by: [redacted]