AFGHANISTAN: SITUATION UPDATE {U}
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1. {(C)} ISLAMIC MIGIANT TALIBAN FORCES ENTERED THE KEY WESTERN CITY OF HERAT ON 5 SEPTEMBER.


(b)(2)
3. (G) Masood probably will try to reinforce commanders still loyal to Ismael Khan to counterattack the Taliban. Iran also may attempt to resupply remaining Ismael Khan forces. Nonetheless, the fall of Shindand and Herat will greatly complicate any relief efforts.

4. (G) The expectation of renewed hostilities in Kabul may spark a mass exodus of the city's residents. Opposition predictions of the fall of Kabul, however, appear premature. Despite opposition claims that Masood forces are demoralized by Taliban advances in the west, Masood's troops are well armed, experienced, and dug in and would be more than a match for the Taliban in a battle for Kabul. (SEG:OABR)