CDS
(b)(3):10 USC 424, (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

ZNY-********

HEADER
P 311156Z MAY 11
(b)(3):10 USC 424, (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

TO RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
(b)(3):10 USC 424, (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

BT

SECRET

NOFORN

SECTION 1 OF 2

QQQQ

SERIAL: (U) [b](b)(3):10 USC 424

/******* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *******/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) AFGHANISTAN (AFG); PAKISTAN (PAK).

(b)(3):10 USC 424, (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

DOI: (U) 20110524.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE:

SOURCE A.

(b)(3):10 USC 424, (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

(b)(1), 1.4 (b), 1.4 (c), 1.4 (d)

(b)(1), (b)(3):10 USC 424, 1.4 (b), 1.4 (c), 1.4 (d)

1. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MULLAH OMAR'S DISAPPEARANCE AND THE VARIOUS REACTIONS.

ON MAY 23, 2011, IN KABUL, LOTFOLLAH MASHAL, THE NDS'S SPOKESMAN BELONGING TO PRESIDENT HAMID (IKARZAI)'S INNER CIRCLE, ANNONCED TO THE AFGHAN PRESS THAT MULLAH OMAR HAD DISAPPEARED FOR FOUR DAYS, WHILE MOVING BETWEEN QUETTA (HIS ALLEGED HIDEOUT IN BALOCHISTAN...
PROVINCE) AND NORTH WAZIRISTAN (HAQQANI NETWORK'S SANCTUARY). MULLAH OMAR'S DISAPPEARANCE IS SAID TO HAVE STIRRED PANIC AMONG TALIBAN OFFICIALS. THOUGH HE CLAIMED HE WAS UNABLE TO SAY WHETHER THE TALIBAN'S LEADER HAD ACTUALLY DIED, MR. MASHAL DID NOT RULE HIS DEATH OUT, TALKING ABOUT A POSSIBLE BRAWL BETWEEN INSURGENT GROUPS, AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF SOME FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PAKISTANI INTER SERVICES INTELLIGENCE (ISI) WHO REPORTEDLY ORGANIZED MULLAH OMAR'S TRIP. HAMID ((GUL)), A FORMER ISI DIRECTOR, REJECTED THESE ALLEGATIONS. THE AFGHAN MEDIA VERY RAPIDLY REACTED, AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH WHAT THEY USUALLY DO, CHALLENGED DIRECTLY PAKISTAN AND ISI IN PARTICULAR. ZABIULLAH ((MODJAHED)), PURPORTED TO BE THE TALIBAN'S SPOKESMAN, DENIED IMMEDIATELY MULLAH OMAR'S DISAPPEARANCE. A COMMUNIQUE WAS POSTED ON THE SAME DAY ON THE INTERNET WEB SITE OF THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN, DEEMED THE NEWS A "VAIR PROPAGANDA ORGANIZED BY THE PUPPET GOVERNMENT AND THE INVADERS". THE PAKISTANI TALIBAN, THROUGH THEIR SPOKESMAN, EHSANULLAH ((EHSAN)), ALSO DENIED THE RUMORS. ISAF CLAIMED IT COULD NOT CONFIRM OR DENY THE NEWS OF MULLAH OMAR'S DISAPPEARANCE. THE PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES CLAIMED THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM THE INFORMATION (DECLARATION BY SALMAN ((BASHIR)), FOREIGN SECRETARY AND REHMAN ((MALIK)), INTERIOR MINISTER).
(b)(1), (b)(3): 10 USC 424, (b)(3): 50 USC 3024(i), 1.4 (b), 1.4 (c), 1.4 (d)