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SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(2)

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) PAKISTAN (PK); AFGHANISTAN (AF).

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SUBJECT: IIR (b)(2) TALIBAN LEADERSHIP, PART 1 - MULLAH ((OMAR)) AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (U)

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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SUMMARY: (U) (b)(2) **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON MULLAH ((OMAR)) AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE TALIBAN**

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

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2. (U) ((OMAR)) AND HIS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

A. MULLAH MOHAMMAD ((OMAR))

MUJAHID AMIR UL MOMINEEN

(LEADER OF THE FAITHFUL)

ETHNICITY HOTAK PASHTUN

RESIDENT OF SANGESAR, MAIWAND KANDAHAR

BORN IN THE VILLAGE OF NOORI NEAR KANDAHAR IN 1960, MULLAH OMAR COMES FROM A RELIGIOUS FAMILY OF THE HOTAK PASHTUN TRIBE IN BABUZAI VILLAGE, DEHRAWUT DISTRICT, URUZGAN PROVINCE. HE WAS AN ONLY SON. FATHER DIED DURING CHILDHOOD. FOLLOWING THE COMMUNIST COUP OF 1978, OMAR JOINED THE MUJAHIDEEN MOVEMENT AND WAS WOUNDED TWICE. MOVED TO SANG-I-HESSAR IN PANJWAI DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE TO WAGE ANTI-SOVIET JIHAD UNDER THE COMMAND OF ((NEK)) MOHAMMAD OF HEZB-I-ISLAMI (KHALIS) AGAINST SOVIET FORCES. WOUNDED FOR THE THIRD TIME DURING AN ENCOUNTER WITH A RUSSIAN FORCE, LOSING AN EYE. SOME SAY HE IS ALSO MISSING A LEG. SERVED AS IMAM OF A MADRASSAH SPONSORED BY HAJI BASHAR IN THE DISTRICT OF MAIWAND IN KANDAHAR PROVINCE BEFORE FOUNDING THE TALIBAN IN 1994. ACCORDING TO JOURNALIST AHMED ((RASHID)), THE ABDUCTION OF A WOMAN BY MUJAHIDEEN COMMANDERS IN MAIWAND DISTRICT PROVOKED MULLAH OMAR TO FOUND THE TALIBAN MOVEMENT. MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE AGE OF 31. REPORTED TO HAVE FOUR WIVES, ONE OF WHOM IS THE DAUGHTER OF USAMA ((BIN LADEN)). ONE OF HIS SONS REPORTEDLY KILLED DURING OCTOBER 2001 AIR STRIKES. THE RECLUSIVE OMAR HAS MET ONLY A HANDFUL OF NON-MUSLIMS. IN HIS FREE TIME,

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MULLAH OMAR REPORTEDLY ENJOYS LAUNCHING ROCKETS AND DRIVING AUTOMOBILES, WHICH HE LEARNED TO DO ONLY A YEAR AGO.

B. MULLAH MOHAMMAD ((HASSAN AKHUND))
VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ETHNICITY BABAR
RESIDENT OF PANJAVAI, KANDAHAR

IN HIS LATE THIRTIES, HASSAN AKHUND RESIDES IN SHAMOZAI VILLAGE IN THE ARGHANDAB DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE. BORN INTO A BABAR TRIBAL FAMILY AND STUDIED AT VARIOUS MADRASSAHS IN PAKISTAN. DURING THE WAR AGAINST THE SOVIETS, COLLABORATED WITH HEZB-I-ISLAMI (KHALIS) UNDER ((HAJI MOHAMMAD)) IN THE AREA OF MOHALLAJAT NEAR KANDAHAR. ONE OF 30 ORIGINAL TALIBAN, HE IS A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF MULLAH OMAR. PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS GOVERNOR OF KANDAHAR AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. TRANSFERRED TO HIS CURRENT POSITION AFTER A FEUD WITH MULLAH RABBANI, OMAR'S LATE DEPUTY. HASSAN AKHUND HOLDS PREJUDICES AGAINST BOTH WESTERNERS AND THE MUJAHIDEEN. CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST INEFFECTIVE AND UNREASONABLE TALIBAN LEADERS. EXTREMELY COMMITTED TO THE MOVEMENT AND HAS PUSHED PURGES OF NON-TALIBAN ELEMENTS. IN FEBRUARY 2001, SANCTIONED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BAMIYAN BUDDHAS, DECLARING IT A RELIGIOUS QUOTE DUTY UNQUOTE. IN JUNE 2001, CONFISCATED THE UNSMA OFFICE IN KABUL AFTER A SPECIOUS LEASE DISPUTE. INEFFECTIVE, SUBJECT TO MOOD SWINGS, AND DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH. PARTICULARLY POOR RELATIONS WITH DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER MAULAWI KABIR.

SUPERVISES THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES- DEFENSE, INTELLIGENCE, INTERIOR, SUPREME COURT, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS, ACADEMY.

C. MAULAWI ABDUL ((KABIR))
GOVERNOR OF NANGARHAR AND
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF EASTERN ZONE (PROVINCES OF KUNAR, NANGARHAR AND LAGHMAN)
FINANCIAL DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
ETHNICITY ZADRAN PASHTUN

AGE 32, KABIR COMES FROM KHOIST PROVINCE. BORN IN BAGHLAN BUT FAMILY ORIGINALLY FROM PAKTIA. HIS FAMILY LATER SETTLED IN THE NORTH AND LIVED IN THE ZADRAN VILLAGE OF NAHRIN DISTRICT IN BAGHLAN PROVINCE.

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GRADUATING FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL IN HIS AREA, HE LEFT FOR PAKISTAN IN 1982 TO CONTINUE HIS EDUCATION AT RELIGIOUS MADRASSAHS. GRADUATED FROM DARUL ULOOM-I-HAQQANIA AT AKORA KHATTAK IN N.W.F.P. SERVED AS A GROUP COMMANDER OF COMMANDER JALALUDDIN HAQQANI OF PAKTIA (NOW MINISTER OF FRONTIER AND TRIBAL AFFAIRS) DURING THE SOVIET OCCUPATION. WOUNDED DURING FIGHTING WHEN KHOST FELL TO THE MUJAHIDEEN IN 1989. KABIR TAUGHT AT HAQQANI'S MADRASSAHS IN THE PAKISTANI BORDER TOWN OF MIRANSHAH BEFORE THE EMERGENCE OF THE TALIBAN IN 1994. LOST A BROTHER DURING THE TALIBAN MARCH ON KABUL. SERVED AS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OF HESSARAK DISTRICT (IN NANGARHAR PROVINCE) AND GOVERNOR OF LOGAR PRIOR TO THE FALL OF KABUL TO THE TALIBAN IN SEPTEMBER 1996. FOLLOWING THE FALL OF KABUL, APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF NANGARHAR AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF EASTERN ZONE (PROVINCES OF KUNAR, NANGARHAR AND LAGHMAN). REPUTATION FOR CORRUPTION AND FOR RULING WITH AN IRON FIST. CONTROLLING THE NEXUS OF THE SMUGGLING ROUTE IN THE EASTERN ZONE, HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO LAUNDER A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY. ALTHOUGH OUTWARDLY LOYAL TO MULLAH OMAR, HE IS ALSO KEEN ON PLAYING AN INDIVIDUAL ROLE. ONE OF THE FEW TALIBAN TO TAKE INITIATIVES WITHOUT PRIOR CLEARANCE FROM HIGHER AUTHORITIES. SPEAKS OUT AGAINST PAKISTAN, YET WELL-LIKED BY PAKISTANI CONTACTS. MAINTAINS CONTACTS WITH PIR ((GAILANI)).

SUPERVISES THE FOLLOWING (ECONOMIC) MINISTRIES - FINANCE, AGRICULTURE, BANKING, COMMERCE, MINES AND INDUSTRIES, WATER AND POWER, CENTRAL STATISTICS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT, CIVIL AVIATION, PUBLIC WORKS, PLANNING, AND COMMUNICATIONS.

D. MULLAH ((ABDUL RAZAQ)) AKHUND
MINISTER OF INTERIOR
ETHNICITY ACHAKZAI
RESIDENT OF BULDAK, KANDAHAR

MANY AFGHANS BELIEVE MULLAH ABDUL RAZAQ IS IN FACT PAKISTANI, NOT AFGHAN. HE COMES FROM AN ACHAKZAI FAMILY OF JALALUDDIN VILLAGE, SPIN BOLDAK DISTRICT, KANDAHAR PROVINCE; OTHERS SAY HE COMES FROM THE CHAMAN AREA OF PAKISTAN'S BALOCHISTAN PROVINCE. ONE OF THE FIRST CABINET MEMBERS TO SEND HIS FAMILY OUT OF AFGHANISTAN; THEY ARE CURRENTLY LIVING IN PESHAWAR.

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SOMEWHAT INCOMPETENT IN ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, BUT CONSIDERED A STRONGMAN IN THE TALIBAN HIERARCHY. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND MAINTAINS A CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE **MULLAH ((OBAIDULLAH))** AKHUND. RAZAQ AKHUND HAS AN ARMED GROUP WITH NO OFFICAL DESIGNATION, AND IS A FIELD COMMANDER ON PAR WITH ((DADAULLAH)) AND ((BARADAR)).

E. MAULAWI WAKIL AHMAD ((MUTTAWAKIL))

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ETHNICITY KAKAR PASHTUN

RESIDENT OF MAIWAND, KANDAHAR

IN HIS MID THIRTIES, MUTTAWAKIL RECEIVED HIS PRIMARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FROM HIS FATHER, MAULAWI ABDUL ((GHAFFAR)), WHO WAS KILLED BY THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF NOOR MOHAMMAD ((TARAKI)) IN 1978. MUTTAWAKIL DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE JIHAD BECAUSE HE WAS STILL IN A MADRASSAH DURING THAT TIME. ALTHOUGH OFTEN REGARDED AS A KAKAR PASHTUN, HE COMES FROM A TARRAKI-GHILZAI FAMILY OF KISHK-I-NAKHUD, MAIWAND DISTRICT, KANDAHAR PROVINCE. HIS FAMILY WAS AFFILIATED WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES. HIS MATERNAL UNCLE, ((KHADAM)), WAS A WELL-KNOWN KHALQI COMMUNIST. MUTTAWAKIL RECEIVED HIS EDUCATION DURING THE JIHAD ERA IN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS OF AHMADIA, NOORUL MADRIS, AND ASHAFIA IN QUETTA, BALOCHISTAN. DURING THE SOVIET ERA, HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HARAKAT-I-TULABA-I-ISLAM, THE STUDENT-WING OF HARAKAT-I-INQILAB-I-ISLAMI (MOHAMMADI) IN SOUTHWESTERN AFGHANISTAN. HIGHLY INTERESTED IN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, HE OCCASIONALLY ACCOMPANIED THE MUJAHIDEEN OF MULLAH ((BASHAR)) TO KANDAHAR. SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE AND SECRETARY TO MULLAH OMAR BEFORE RECEIVING HIS CURRENT PORTFOLIO. CLOSE TO MULLAH OMAR AND SERVES AS A KEY PROPONENT OF HIS POLICIES. DURING THE ASHGABAT PEACE TALKS TWO YEARS AGO, HOWEVER, HE LOST SOME OF HIS CLOUT WHEN HE CONDUCTED PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PERMISSION. SINCE THEN, HE HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT MISTRUSTED DESPITE HIS SELF-PROCLAIMED ALLEGIANCE TO MULLAH OMAR. VIEWED AS ONE OF THE MAIN QUOTE MODERATES UNQUOTE IN THE TALIBAN. IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNSMA, HOWEVER, HE HAS CONSISTENTLY BROKEN PROMISES.

F. MULLAH ABDUL ((JALIL)) AKHUND

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DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS

ETHNICITY ALIZAI PASHTUN

RESIDENT OF KANDAHAR CITY

AROUND FORTY, JALIL AKHUND IS FROM A TRIBAL FAMILY OF URUZGAN PROVINCE. ALTHOUGH NEITHER HE NOR MUTTAWAKIL ACTUALLY MAKES FOREIGN POLICY, MULLAH JALIL IS BELIEVED TO BE FAR MORE INFLUENTIAL THAN MUTTAWAKIL OR THE OTHER DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, MULLAH ((ZAHID)). REPUTED FOR TELLING CRITICAL STORIES ABOUT PAKISTANIS.

G. ABDUL RAHMAN ((ZAHID))

DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ETHNICITY PASHTUN

RESIDENT OF LOGAR

AGE 35, RAHMAN ZAHID IS CONSIDERED A KEY PERSON IN THE TALIBAN. PREVIOUSLY DIRECTOR OF BANKING. AT THE START OF THE ANTI-SOVIET JIHAD, HE WAS IN DUBAI AS A YOUNG MAN COLLECTING FUNDS FROM TRADERS.

H. MULLAH KHAKSAR ((AKHUND))

DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR FOR SECURITY AFFAIRS

ETHNICITY NOORZAI

RESIDENT OF KANDAHAR CITY

AGE 38, MULLAH AKHUND COMES FROM A NOORZAI FAMILY RESIDING IN KANDAHAR. RECEIVED HIS EDUCATION IN MADRASSAS IN SOUTHWESTERN AFGHANISTAN. JOINED THE JIHAD DURING THE REGIME OF NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI. SERVED AS A GROUP COMMANDER OF COMMANDER ABDUL ((RAZIQ)) OF HEZB-I-ISLAMI (KHALIS) IN KANDAHAR. CHIEF OF THE INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT BEFORE APPOINTMENT TO HIS CURRENT POSITION IN SEPTEMBER 1996. HAS HAD A FAIR AMOUNT OF DEALINGS WITH FOREIGNERS. POWERFUL TALIB WHOSE INFLUENCE IS GREATER THAN TITLE INDICATES. ADDITIONALLY, MAINTAINS A NUMBER OF LOYAL FIGHTERS.

I. MULLAH MOHAMMAD ((ABBAS AKHUND))

MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ETHNICITY ACHAKZAI PASHTUN

RESIDENT OF VILLAGE SHAHI NAWA, URUZGAN

MULLAH ABBAS AKHUND, 42, WAS RAISED BY ONE OF HIS COUSINS WHEN HE LOST HIS FATHER IN CHILDHOOD. STUDIED IN VARIOUS MADRASSAHS IN AFGHANISTAN BEFORE SEEKING REFUGE IN QUETTA IN 1979. ONE REPORT SAYS HE IS A GRADUATE OF TWELFTH GRADE. SERVED AS A COMMANDER OF

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HARAKAT-I-INQILAB-I-ISLAMI (MOHAMMADI) AND ITTEHAD-I-ISLAMI (SAYYAF) IN KANDAHAR PROVINCE. WOUNDED THREE TIMES. ONE OF 30 ORIGINAL TALIBAN, HE IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THE TALIBAN CAUSE AND IS ONE OF MULLAH OMAR'S CLOSE CONFIDANTS. HE HAS EARNED THE WRATH OF SOME TALIBS, HOWEVER, FOR HIS OCCASIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE UN. BELIEVED TO HAVE PROFITED FROM VARIOUS AID PROGRAMS IN KABUL.

J. MULLAH NOORUDDIN ((TURABI))
MINISTER OF JUSTICE
ETHNICITY ACHAKZAI PASHTUN
RESIDENT OF URUZGAN

IN HIS LATE FORTIES, TURABI IS ONE OF THE OLDEST SENIOR TALIBAN FIGURES. HE LOST AN EYE AND A LEG WHEN HE WAGED WAR WITH HARAKAT-I-INQILAB-I-ISLAMI MOHAMMADI) AND ITTEHAD-I-ISLAMI (SAYYAF) DURING THE DAYS OF JIHAD IN KANDAHAR. HIGHLY COMMITTED TO TALIBAN IDEOLOGY. HAS PERSONALLY BEATEN PEOPLE FOR VIOLATION OF MULLAH OMAR'S DECREES ON BEARDS, DRESSES, ETC. SINCE THE DEATH OF MULLAH ((RABBANI)) AND THE RISE OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS VICE PRESIDENT HASSAN AKHUND, TO WHOM HE IS PARTICULARLY CLOSE, HIS POWER HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY. TURABI WAS A KEY FIGURE IN FIRING MANY EDUCATED GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS. CLOSE TO MULLAH OMAR, HE CONTROLS THE KEY MONETARY DECISIONS. PARTICULARLY INFLUENTIAL IN BANKING. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS MET SEVERAL TIMES AT THIS HOUSE. TURABI ALSO VERY CLOSE TO SYED MOHAMMAD ((HAQQANI)), FORMER TALIBAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN. FROM AN OUTSIDER'S POINT OF VIEW, TURABI'S DEPUTY, SHINWARI, IS MORE REASONABLE TO WORK WITH. SHINWARI IS MORE AFGHAN NATIONALIST AND ANTI-ARAB.

K. **MULLAH ((OBAIDULLAH))** AKHUND
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ETHNICITY ALIKOZAI
RESIDENT OF PANJVAI, KANDAHAR

AGE 40, **MULLAH OBAIDULLAH** IS FROM AN ALIKOZAI TRIBAL FAMILY OF KANDAHAR. HE WAS AFFILIATED WITH ITTEHAD-I-ISLAMI (SAYYAF) DURING ANTI-SOVIET JIHAD. POWERFUL FIELD COMMANDER IN THE SOUTH AND AN EFFECTIVE AND IMPORTANT SENIOR TALIBAN OFFICIAL. CLOSE TO MULLAH OMAR, BUT TENDS TO KEEP HIS DISTANCE FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHICH HE LOOKS DOWN UPON. KEY FIGURE IN

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THE MOVEMENT. PREPARED THE DEMOLITION PLAN FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BUDDHAS AND THE HOUSE BURNINGS IN BAMIYAN. RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING MANY OF THE OLD KHALQI COMMUNIST FIGURES INTO THE ARMED FORCES AND STRENGTHENING THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. AS A SOUTHERNER, HE HAS A RUNNING RIVALRY WITH NORTHERNER MAULAWI ((KABIR)), OVER ISSUES OF ECONOMICS AND POWER. FROM A FOREIGNER'S POINT OF VIEW, HE IS RELATIVELY ACCESSIBLE AND EASY TO TALK TO. HOWEVER, INSISTS ON EXCESSIVE PROTOCOL AND SECURITY MEASURES, AND TENDS TOWARD MILITARY FOCUS.

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