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FROM

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 (b)(3):10 USC 424

PASS: (b)(3):10 USC 424, (b)
SERIAL: (U) (3):50 USC 403-1(i)

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

BODY

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

SUBJ: (b)(3):10 USC 424 THE TALIBAN AND THEIR LEADERS

(U)

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 971003.

REQS: (b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE: (S) (b)(1), 1.4 (c)

SUMMARY: (S) (b)(3):10 USC 424 BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SOME OF THE SENIOR TALIBAN
LEADERSHIP.

TEXT: 1. (S) (b)(3):10 USC 424 THE FOLLOWING ENTAILS
TIDBITS OF BIO DATA AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON VARIOUS
TALIBAN LEADERS. THIS INFORMATION COMPLIMENTS AND ADDS
TO THE AMCONSUL, PESHAWAR CABLE, DTG 031128Z OCT 96,
AFGHANISTAN: TALIBAN BIODATA.

2. (S) (b)(3):10 USC 424 MULLAH MOHAMMAD ((OMAR)) (AKA

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MULLAH MOHAMMAD OMAR AKHUND AND MULLAH MOHAMMAD OMAR MUJAHED): OMAR IS CONSIDERED THE FOUNDER AND SUPREME LEADER OF THE TALIBAN MOVEMENT. HE WAS AWARDED THE RELIGIOUS/POLITICAL TITLE OF AMIR-UL-MOMINEEN "THE RULER OF THE FAITHFUL" BY A CONGRESS OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN KANDAHAR LAST SPRING.

OMAR, 35 YRS OLD, HAILS FROM THE MAIWAND DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE. HE IS A GHILZAI PASHTUN FROM THE HOTAK TRIBE. HE HAS STUDIED IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS (MADRASA) IN KANDAHAR AND URUZGAN PROVINCES. DURING THE WAR WITH THE SOVIET OCCUPATION FORCES, MULLAH OMAR WAS A GROUP COMMANDER WITH MAULAWI FAIZULLAH'S FRONT IN THE PASHMOL REGION WEST OF KANDAHAR CITY. THE FRONT WAS AFFILIATED WITH THE HAKKAT-I-INQILAB-I-ISLAMI FACTION LED BY MAULAWI MOHAMMAD NABI MOHAMMADI. LATER, MULLAH OMAR SET UP A RESISTANCE UNIT OF HIS OWN (UNDER MOHAMMADI) IN THE REGION. TWO OTHER TALIBAN FIGURES, MULLAH ((BERADER)) AND MULLAH ((YARANA)), WERE ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH HIM IN THE UNIT. LOSING ONE EYE IN COMBAT, OMAR ATTAINED A REPUTATION OF BRAVERY DURING THE JIHAD.

AFTER THE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL, MULLAH OMAR RETURNED TO A PEACEFUL LIFE IN HIS HOME TOWN. HOWEVER, SOON AFTER, HE INITIATED A NEW STRUGGLE TO FIGHT THE PERVASIVE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CORRUPTION THAT FOLLOWED THE MUJAHEDIN'S TAKEOVER IN 1992.

OMAR IS KNOWN TO BE A SIMPLE MUJAHED WHO FOUGHT PASSIONATELY FOR THE FAITH. HE IS A MODEST PERSON WITH AN AVERAGE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. HE IS NOT CONSIDERED AN IMPRESSIVE ORATOR. THOSE WHO HAVE MET HIM DESCRIBE HIM AS A QUIET AND WITHDRAWN PERSON WHICH BELIES HIS ABILITY TO PERSUADE HIS FELLOW MULLAHS AND TALIBS (STUDENTS). HIS LOW PROFILE AND LACK OF ELOQUENCE HAVE LED TO PERCEPTIONS (AMONG SOME) SUGGESTING THAT HE IS MERELY A FIGUREHEAD WHILE THE REAL LEADERSHIP IS EXERCISED BY A NUMBER OF PROMINENT FIGURES THAT SURROUND HIM (AS WELL AS FOREIGN SUPPORTERS).

LAST SUMMER, AS HE WAS ACCEPTING THE TITLE OF AMIR-UL-MOMINEEN, MULLAH OMAR SAID THAT AFTER THE JIHAD HE HAD INTENDED TO CONTINUE HIS RELIGIOUS STUDIES. HOWEVER, HE FELT THE TRAGIC SITUATION IN HIS COUNTRY--CAUSED BY INFIGHTING, COMMANDERS' PIRACY, CORRUPTION AND MORAL

DETERIORATION--FORCED HIM TO BEGIN A NEW JIHAD AIMED AT DISARMING THE NUMEROUS LOCAL WARLORDS WHO BROUGHT MISERY, INSECURITY, MORAL DECAY AND LAWLESSNESS TO THE PUBLIC. THE NEW MOVEMENT PROMISED TO ESTABLISH WHAT IS REFERRED TO AS THE TRUE ISLAMIC ORDER.

SOON AFTER OMAR BEGAN HIS MOVEMENT IN MAIWAND DISTRICT, HUNDREDS OF AFGHAN RELIGIOUS STUDENTS CAME ACROSS THE PAKISTAN BORDER TO SWELL THE TALIBAN RANKS. INITIALLY THE MOVEMENT DEMANDED THAT THE LOCAL COMMANDERS REMOVE ROAD BLOCKS AND TOLL GATES IN THEIR AREAS AND ABIDE BY THE ISLAMIC SHARI'A. SOME NON-TALIBAN COMMANDERS TRIED TO MANIPULATE THE MOVEMENT AGAINST THEIR FACTIONAL RIVALS AND BEGAN TO DEAL WITH THE TALIBAN. THIS LED TO THE EVENTUAL REMOVAL OF THE TOLL GATES (KNOWN LOCALLY AS "PATAKS") AND THE BEGINNING OF A DIALOGUE AMONG PROVINCIAL ELDERS TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT A HEALTHY ADMINISTRATION IN KANDAHAR. BUT, THE REFUSAL OF THE SPIN BOLDAK COMMANDERS ON THE PAKISTANI BORDER SERVED AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE VIOLENCE WHICH LED TO THE SEIZURE OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT BY TALIBAN IN JULY 1994. SHORTLY AFTERWARD THE MOVEMENT EXPANDED ITS CONTROL ACROSS THE KANDAHAR PROVINCE.

3. ~~(C)~~ (b)(3): 10 USC 424 MULLAH MOHAMMAD ((RABBANI)): RABBANI IS DEPUTY TO MULLAH MOHAMMAD OMAR. HE WAS ASSIGNED AS THE HEAD OF A SIX MEMBER COUNCIL TO RUN THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AFTER THE TALIBAN SEIZED CONTROL OF KABUL.

RABBANI, 36 YRS OLD, IS FROM ARGHESTAN DISTRICT OF KANDAHAR. HE IS A KAKAR PASHTUN AND STUDIED IN MADRASAS IN AFGHANISTAN. DURING THE JIHAD, HE ALONG WITH ANOTHER ARGHESTANI, **MULLAH YAR MOHAMMAD** (THE POPALZAI PASHTUN WHO IS NOW THE GOVERNOR OF HERAT) SERVED AS DEPUTIES TO HEZB-I-ISLAMI (KHALIS) COMMANDER ABDUL RAZEQ IN ARGHESTAN AND KANDAHAR. ONE OF RABBANI'S BROTHERS, ALSO A MULLAH, SIDED WITH THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT AND WAS KILLED IN A CLASH WITH MUJAHEDIN IN PANJWAYEE DISTRICT WEST OF KANDAHAR IN 1982.

AS MULLAH OMAR BEGAN HIS TALIBAN STRUGGLE IN MAIWAND, RABBANI JOINED THE UPRISING IN HIS DISTRICT. RABBANI IN COOPERATION WITH MULLAH MOHAMMAD GHAUS, BEGAN TO REMOVE TOLL GATES AND DISARMING LOCAL GUNMEN THROUGHOUT ARGHESTAN. HE HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE SWIFT