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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-01
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00
	INL-01	OASY-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-01
	EB-00	EUR-01	OIGO-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	H-01	IMMC-01
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	MMP-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03
	OIC-02	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
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 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4110
 INFO AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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AMEMBASSY BISHKEK
AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 000154

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (HEADER)

DEPT FOR SA/PAB AND EUR/CEN; USVIENNA FOR US DEL OSCE; LONDON FOR
POL/TUELLER; PARIS FOR POL/RAVELING; ROME FOR POL/DEMPSEY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/7/07

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, KISL, PTER, KWMN, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: JALALUDDIN HAQQANI'S EMERGENCE AS A KEY
TALIBAN COMMANDER

"SOCIAL MODERATE, WHO IS NOT STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE TALIBAN'S
POSITIONS ON THE TREATMENT OF WOMEN." HE EXPLAINED THAT HAQQANI'S
TRIBE, THE ZADRANS, ARE CONSIDERED MORE LIBERAL IN THEIR TREATMENT
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HAQQANI SEEN AS INFLUENCED BY ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS

7. (C) IN A JANUARY 6 CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF, [REDACTED]
TALIBAN SUPPORTER [REDACTED] SAID HE
KNOWS HAQQANI AND AGREES THAT HE IS AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY
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THESE RELATIONSHIPS, [REDACTED] ASSERTED, HAVE CONTINUED AND, IN EXCHANGE FOR WEAPONS AND MONEY, HAQQANI IS "OFFERING SHELTER FOR VARIOUS ARABS IN AREAS OF PAKTIA PROVINCE." BRUSHING ASIDE POLOFF'S REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT, [REDACTED] STATED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE THE DETAILS, BUT THAT HAQQANI'S ROLE WITH THE "ARABS" IS "WELL-KNOWN." (NOTE: REPORTING IN OTHER CHANNELS INDICATE THAT HAQQANI MAINTAINS THESE LINKS.)

NOT SEEN AS INFLUENTIAL WITH TALIBAN

8. (C) TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF HAQQANI'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TALIBAN, [REDACTED] CONCURRED WITH WAHAB'S ASSESSMENT THAT HAQQANI PROBABLY DID NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE WITH THE TALIBAN ON POLITICAL OR SOCIAL ISSUES. "ALTHOUGH HE IS A MULLAH," HE RELATED, "HAQQANI IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A TALIBAN AND HE HAS LITTLE CREDIBILITY WITH THEM ON ISSUES OUTSIDE OF THE MILITARY REALM." HE OBSERVED THAT HAQQANI'S TIES TO ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS ARE ALSO OPPOSED BY A NUMBER OF TALIBAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING "ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER" GHAUS. (NOTE: IN A MEETING WITH DCM IN EARLY DECEMBER,
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ONE OF THE "HARD MEN"

9. (C) GENERAL PAYENDA, DOSTAM'S REPRESENTATIVE IN ISLAMABAD, TOLD POLOFF JANUARY 3 THAT MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL ARE AWARE OF HAQQANI'S EMERGENCE AS AN IMPORTANT TALIBAN COMMANDER AND THEY SEE HIS RISE AS A MANIFESTATION OF A TALIBAN POLICY TO PLACE "HARD MEN" IN KEY MILITARY POSITIONS. (NOTE: PAYENDA CHARACTERIZED THE TALIBAN'S RECENT SELECTION OF ABDUL RAZAQ AS GOVERNOR OF HERAT AS PART OF THIS TALIBAN POLICY-- REF B.) HAQQANI'S ZADRAN TRIBESMEN ARE "QUITE WILD," HE CONTINUED, "AND THE

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TALIBAN WANT THEM ON THE FRONT-LINES TO HARASS OUR FORCES." PAYENDA EVINced LITTLE CONCERN ABOUT HAQQANI, HOWEVER, ASSERTING THAT HE AND HIS FORCES GENERALLY LACK DISCIPLINE AND WILL INEVITABLY DEVELOP TENSIONS WITH THE TALIBAN.

COMMENT

10. (C) THE PRESENCE OF HAQQANI'S FORCES NORTH OF KABUL--WHETHER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 000154

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TALIBAN COMMANDER

REFS: (A) ISLAMABAD 25

- (B) 96 ISLAMABAD 10882

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR THOMAS PRICE. REASON:
1.5 (C) (D).

SUMMARY

2. (C) RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THAT FORMER AFGHAN RESISTANCE
COMMANDER JALALUDDIN HAQQANI MAY NOW BE IN CHARGE OF THE TALIBAN'S
FORCES NORTH OF KABUL. VIEWS OF HAQQANI'S ROLE WITH THE TALIBAN

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ARE MIXED. SOME OBSERVERS SEE HIM AS AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY LEADER
WITH SOCIALLY MODERATE VIEWS. OTHERS EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT
HAQQANI'S LINKS TO ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS. OBSERVERS TEND TO AGREE
THAT HAQQANI AT THIS TIME PROBABLY HAS MORE INFLUENCE WITH THE
TALIBAN ON MILITARY STRATEGY THAN ON POLITICAL OR SOCIAL ISSUES.
END SUMMARY.

NEW ROLE AS KEY COMMANDER NORTH OF KABUL

3. (C) RECENT PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS INDICATE THAT FORMER AFGHAN
RESISTANCE COMMANDER JALALUDDIN HAQQANI MAY NOW BE IN CHARGE OF THE
TALIBAN'S FORCES NORTH OF KABUL. THERE HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION
FROM THE TALIBAN THAT HAQQANI HAS BEEN PLACED IN SUCH A POSITION
AND HIS FORMAL TALIBAN TITLE REMAINS "ACTING MINISTER OF TRIBES AND
BORDERS." IF HAQQANI HAS ASSUMED THE LEAD ROLE NORTH OF KABUL--THE
WAR'S MOST IMPORTANT SECTOR--HE WILL HAVE TAKEN OVER A POSITION
PREVIOUSLY HELD BY MULLAH BORJAN, FORMERLY THE TALIBAN'S CHIEF
MILITARY COMMANDER, WHO WAS KILLED NEAR KABUL IN LATE SEPTEMBER
1996.

4. (C) HAQQANI, 50, HAS BEEN A COMMANDER FOR THE TALIBAN SINCE THE
GROUP'S BEGINNING IN 1994. BEFORE 1994, HE WAS A MAJOR COMMANDER
FOR HEZB-I-ISLAMI (KHALIS) IN PAKTIA PROVINCE DURING THE SOVIET-
AFGHAN WAR. REPORTEDLY, HE COMMANDS THE RESPECT OF HIS FELLOW
ZADRAN TRIBESMEN FROM THE PAKTIA-PAKTIKA AREA AND HAS BROUGHT A
LARGE NUMBER OF THEM WITH HIM TO THE KABUL FRONT. A MULLAH,
HAQQANI STUDIED FOR SIXTEEN YEARS IN AFGHAN AND PAKISTANI
MADRASSAHS.

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A TOUGH MILITARY LEADER

5. (C) ABDUL WAHAB, FIRST SECRETARY AT THE AFGHAN EMBASSY IN

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ISLAMABAD AND A TALIBAN SUPPORTER, TOLD POLOFF JANUARY 1 THAT HE
COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT HAQQANI HAS ASSUMED THE ROLE OF CHIEF
COMMANDER ON THE KABUL FRONT. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT HAQQANI
HAD BECOME ONE OF THE "TALIBAN'S KEY MILITARY COMMANDERS BECAUSE HE
IS KNOWN FOR HIS TOUGHNESS AND MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS." WAHAB, A
FORMER HEZB-I-ISLAMI (KHALIS) COMMANDER LIKE HAQQANI, CLAIMED THAT
HAQQANI PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE TALIBAN'S DEFEAT OF HEZB-I-ISLAMI
(HEKMATYAR) FORCES IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1996.
HE EXPLAINED THAT GHILZAIS (A MAJOR BRANCH OF THE PASHTUN ETHNIC
GROUP) IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN HAD "DEFECTED FROM HEKMATYAR TO THE
TALIBAN LARGELY BECAUSE OF HAQQANI'S SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO TURN
THEM AGAINST THE KABUL REGIME." (NOTE: GULBUDDIN HEKMATYAR SERVED
AS THE FORMER KABUL REGIME'S PRIME MINISTER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS
BEFORE THE TALIBAN SEIZED KABUL IN SEPTEMBER 1996.)

PORTRAYED AS A "SOCIAL MODERATE"

6. (C) ASKED ABOUT HAQQANI'S VIEWS ON THE TALIBAN'S SOCIAL
POLICIES, WAHAB REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT OF HAQQANI AS A

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COMMENT

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HAQQANI IS OVERALL COMMANDER OF THE SECTOR OR NOT--IS SIGNIFICANT
AND HAS UNDOUBTEDLY ADDED TO THE MILITARY CLOUT OF THE TALIBAN. AT
THE SAME TIME, THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT HE IS
INFLUENTIAL IN TALIBAN CIRCLES. BECAUSE OF HAQQANI'S LINKS TO
EXTREMISTS, HOWEVER, HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TALIBAN BEARS CLOSE
SCRUTINY.

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