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KABUL 1031

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E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: PAKISTAN/AFGHANISTAN TENSION

REF: KABUL 956

1. EMBOFF INFORMED BY (PROTECT) THAT THERE "WAS A STORY GOING AROUND KABUL" THAT PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO HAD REACHED A SECRET (SIC) AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DURING HIS RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT FOR AMERICAN NAVAL FORCES TO USE THE PORT OF GWASAR (SOUTHWESTERN PAKISTAN) IN RETURN FOR RESUMPTION OF LETHAL ARMS SALES. (IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH WAS TRYING TO ELICIT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER ON FEBRUARY 13 WHEN HE SPOKE TO U.S. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE OF "RUMORS" RELATING TO THE PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S VISIT.)

AID HE TOO HAD BEEN SUMMONED BY WAHEED ABDULLAH ON FEBUARY 13 TO BE TOLD OF ALLEGED PAKISTAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS ALONG AFGHAN FRONTIER, ABDULLAH TOLD WE ARE READY" FOR MILITARY REPERCUSSIONS.

3. IN SAME CONVERSATION, EMBOFF WAS TOLD BY THAT GOA HAD SENT A SPECIAL EMISSARY TO "ARAB CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN THE AFGHAN POSITION ON THE PAKISTAN SITUATION."





MFA INDICATED TO US TODAY THAT A MEMBER OF THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS TRAVELLED TO GOA EMBASSIES TO BRIEF AFGHAN AMBASSADORS ON THE SITUATION AND THE AMBASSADORS IN TURN WILL MAKE REPRESENTATIONS.

4. ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE INFORMATION THAT AJMAL KHATTAK (EXILED PEOPLES' PARTY (NAP) LEADER IN RESIDENCE IN KABUL) HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH IRAQI AMBASSADOR ABDUL KADER AL-HADITHI. REGULARLY HAS LINKED THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR HERE WITH POTENTIAL TROUBLE-MAKING IN KABUL AND IN PAKISTAN PREDICTED THAT PAK INSTALLATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN WOULD BE THE TARGET OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. PARENTHETICALLY, KABUL RADIO ON NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 17 CARRIED MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCEMENT THANKING CITIZENS FOR OFFER TO DEMONSTRATE IN FRONT OF PAK EMBASSY HERE IN KABUL BUT, ACCORDING TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, "SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE."

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification ***

UNCLASSIFIED