

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02
IO-13 MCT-01 H-01 DODE-00 PM-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 /058 W
-----096028 121040Z /17

O 121000Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7360

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2789

FOR INR/RNA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PLO, AF, ASEC
SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 091578

1. THE PLO HAS NO OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION IN KABUL. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 15 TO 17 PALESTINIAN STUDENTS AT KABUL UNIVERSITY, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY CURRENTLY REFRAIN FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON THE DIRECT ORDERS OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. PRIOR TO HIS REASSIGNMENT LAST YEAR, FORMER IRAQI AMBASSADOR AL-HADITHI HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN STIRRING UP POLITICAL ACTIVITY AMONG SOME OF THESE PALESTINIAN STUDENTS, BUT THE IRAQIS NO LONGER APPEAR TO BE ENGAGED IN SUCH AGITATION. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION REGARDING PALESTINIANS WHO MIGHT BE OPERATING HERE UNDER ANY DIPLOMATIC OR OTHER COVER, AND WE DOUBT THAT THE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN EXTENDS BEYOND THE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY.

2. ASIDE FROM A MARCH ON THE EGYPTIONEMBASSY HERE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO BY SOME OF THESE PALESTINIAN STUDENTS, AN EPISODE WHICH RESULTED IN THEIR RINGLEADERS' EXPULSION, THE ONLY OTHER RECENT EVENT WHICH CONCEIVABLY COULD HAVE REPRESENTED POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF LOCAL PALESTINIANS WAS THE ALLEGED JANUARY 1978

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KIDNAPPING FROM PAKISTAN TO AFGHANISTAN OF A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO. THIS PLOT WAS REPORTEDLY CARRIED OUT WITH SOME SORT OF SUPPORT FROM THE "PLO IN PAKISTAN." WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, CONNECTING THIS AFFAIR WITH PALESTINIANS IN AFGHANISTAN.

3. THIS EMBASSY IS CURRENTLY UNDER A TERRORIST ALERT BECAUSE OF

A RECENT WARNING NOTE FROM AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE "PEOPLE'S SACRIFICE GUERRILLAS" WHICH COMPLAINED ABOUT AMERICA'S PRO-ISRAELI, ANTI-PLASETINIAN POLICIES, AND THREATENED "ARMED ACTION AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS" IF THE THEN-USIS DID NOT TERMINATE ITS LOCAL OPERATIONS ON MARCH 30. THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE ORGANIZATION -- NOR ANY FOLLOW-UP ACTION.
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
DecapTION Date: 20 Mar 2014
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL02789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780157-0204
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780466/aaaaceff.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f436d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 91578
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2996642
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: PDIP, ASEC, AF, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f436d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014