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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [redacted]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Afghanistan

DATE DISTR. 28 February 1949

SUBJECT Plans for Road Construction in Gardez-Matun Area
25X1A

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]
DATE OF INFO [redacted]

NO. (LISTED) [redacted]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. During the summer and fall of 1948, [redacted] engineers, employed by the Afghanistan government, laid out a new road from Gardez to Matun. This new road is reported to follow the course of the old road, except from Ghalgai (N33°29' - E69°22') to Lakka Tiggai (N33°20' - E69°31') where it takes a slightly lower pass in order to follow a less tortuous path. As the primary reason for the road is military, the project has the backing of the governor of that particular province*, who is also the military commander. Economically, the only commercial significance will be that the proposed road will open up lumber country, hitherto inaccessible.

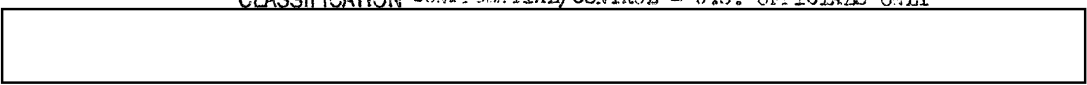
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ms During 1948 the Pakistan government proposed to Afghanistan that a good road be opened up from the area of Matun leading into the Kurrum valley of Pakistan. The primary motive in the building of this road was to bring under better control the tribesmen of this region. The safety of the road was to be placed under the control of a tribal chief in the same manner as the control of the Khyber pass, which is the responsibility of the Shinwari tribes. However, this proposition by Pakistan was finally dropped, owing to lack of interest on the part of the Afghans.

25X1A * [redacted] Comment. It is presumed that source refers to the governor of the Southern Province of Afghanistan.

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