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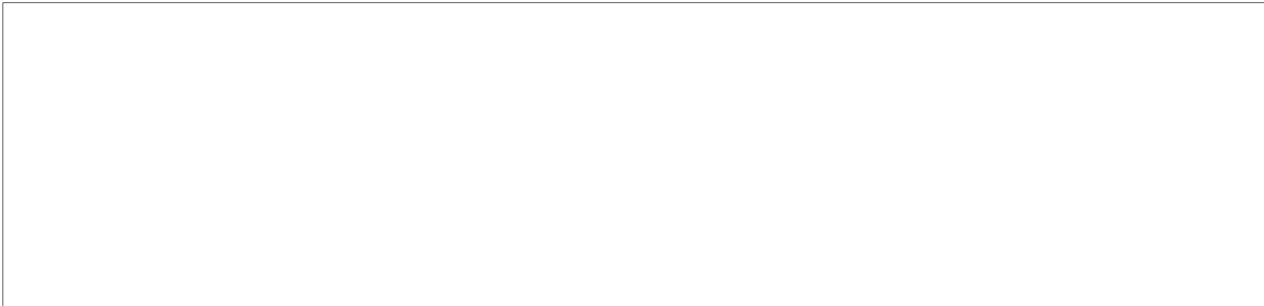
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THE FOLLOWING CIA 852950 SERIAL [REDACTED] DATED 11/21/2001, SENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 202455 240232Z



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ NOFORN

DIST: 21 NOVEMBER 2001
COUNTRY: BANGLADESH/PAKISTAN/INDIA/NEPAL

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: ILLEGAL DRUG CONSUMPTION IN SOUTHWEST ASIA

PAGE 5 RUEAIIA 1364 ~~SECRET~~

DOI: [redacted]

SOURCE: [redacted]

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PAGE 03 STATE 202455 240232Z

SUMMARY: BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN, INDIA, AND NEPAL ALL HAVE SERIOUS DRUG PROBLEMS AND TAKE A HARD-NOSED APPROACH TO DRUG TRAFFICKING AND CONSUMPTION. WHILE THERE ARE SOME TOKEN EFFORTS AT REHABILITATION ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF PAKISTAN, INDIA, NEPAL, AND BANGLADESH, MOST OF THESE EFFORTS ARE THE WORK OF NGOS. THE RAMPANT CORRUPTION THROUGHOUT OFFICIALDOM IN THE SOUTHWEST ASIAN COUNTRIES IS ALSO A MAJOR FACTOR IN THWARTING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COUNTERDRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS. HEROIN IS THE MAJOR PROBLEM DRUG THROUGHOUT SOUTHWEST ASIA, ALTHOUGH IN NEPAL, MOST OF THE POPULATION IS TOO POOR TO AFFORD ANYTHING OTHER THAN LOCALLY GROWN MARIJUANA OR HASH.

TEXT: 1. [redacted]

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PAGE 6 RUEAIIA 1364 ~~SECRET~~

[redacted]

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2. [redacted] THERE ARE ONE MILLION DRUG ADDICTS IN COUNTRY, BUT NO STATISTICAL SURVEY HAS BEEN TAKEN. READILY AVAILABLE AND POPULAR DRUGS INCLUDE MARIJUANA, PHENSYDIL (A COUGH SYRUP CONTAINING EIGHT PERCENT CODEINE AND 10 PERCENT EFFEDRINE), TIDIGESIC (AN INJECTION CONTAINING BUPRENORPHINE) AND EXTREMELY POOR QUALITY HEROIN. THE CLAIMED ONE-MILLION ADDICTS ARE PART OF A 129 MILLION POPULATION OF WHICH HALF ARE BELOW THE AGE OF 18 AND 40.6 PERCENT OF THOSE ARE BELOW THE AGE OF 14. HEROIN CONSUMPTION IS

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PAGE 04 STATE 202455 240232Z

INCREASING AND SPREADING TO RURAL AS WELL AS URBAN AREAS, BUT THERE REPORTEDLY IS NO COCAINE NOR ANY ECSTASY TYPE SYNTHETICS IN BANGLADESH. THE VERY POOR QUALITY OF HEROIN IN BANGLADESH MAY REFLECT THE VERY LOW INCOMES PREVALENT IN THE COUNTRY. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE PACKET OF STREET HEROIN (0.020-0.025 GRAM OF 2-30 PERCENT PURITY) COSTS 50 TAKA. [REDACTED] COMMENT: IN MID-JUNE 2001, 50 BANGLADESHI TAKA WAS EQUIVALENT TO APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$.87 AT THE EXCHANGE RATE OF U.S. \$1 TO 58 TAKA.) [REDACTED]

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PAGE 7 RUEAIIA 1364 ~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED] THERE REPORTEDLY IS NO OPIUM SMOKING IN BANGLADESH.

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3. [REDACTED] A DRUG TREATMENT CENTER, THEY ARE OBSERVING JUST THE "TIP OF THE ICEBERG" IN TERMS OF NUMBERS OF ADDICTS. MOST OF THEIR PATIENTS ARE POLYDRUG USERS (SINGLE DRUG ADDICTION IS REPORTEDLY RARE). OVER THE LAST 14 YEARS THEY HAVE TREATED ABOUT 20,000 DRUG ADDICTS, BUT THE RECIDIVISM RATE IS GREATER THAN 70 PERCENT. [REDACTED] MANY DOCTORS AND NURSES ALSO USE DRUGS. THE MOHAMMADPUR REGION REGION IN BANGLADESH HAS A POPULATION OF 800,000 OF WHICH "TENS OF THOUSANDS" LIVE IN THE SLUMS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: IN MAKESHIFT SHELTERS SERVING AS HOMES IN THE SLUMS ONE CAN WITNESS GROUPS OF 10-20 MEN SITTING AROUND A LONG TABLE "CHASING-THE-DRAGON" - I.E. SMOKING FUMES FROM HEATED HEROIN - NEARLY ALL DAY LONG.)

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4. SMUGGLING IS A VERY BIG BUSINESS IN BANGLADESH AND CORRUPTION IS RAMPANT. [REDACTED] ALL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES ARE INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING OF SOME TYPE. THE

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PAGE 05 STATE 202455 240232Z

HEROIN IS SMUGGLED IN FROM INDIA AND BURMA BY LAND, AIR, AND SEA. IN

PAGE 8 RUEAIIA 1364 ~~SECRET~~

SOME CASES, THE POLICE EVEN TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HELPING SOME TRAFFICKERS. CORRUPTION IS REPORTEDLY SO INGRAINED THAT IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND AN OFFICIAL WHO HASN'T BEEN DOING SOMETHING ILLEGAL, REPORTEDLY INCLUDING THE MAYOR OF CHITTAGONG. MOREOVER, THERE REPORTEDLY IS NO IN-DEPTH EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT TO STEM THE DRUG PROBLEM, AND NO COORDINATION AMONG GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN BANGLADESH. LIKE THE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH HAS TOO MANY OTHER PROBLEMS TO DEVOTE SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES TO COUNTERING DRUG ABUSE.

5. THE CONTAINER PORT AT CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH, STRETCHES 5.5 KILOMETERS ALONG THE SHORELINE AND HANDLES SOME 400,000 TEU'S (TWENTY FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS) PER YEAR. THIS IS A PRIME TRANSIT POINT FOR DRUGS ENTERING OR TRANSITING BANGLADESH, BOTH IN TERMS OF THEIR

CONCEALMENT IN CONTAINER TRAFFIC AND IN TERMS OF LIGHTERING FROM SHIPS MOORED IN THE HARBOR AREA. APPROXIMATELY 10,000 TRUCKS (OF THE TYPE SHOWN IN FIGURE 1) MOVE GOODS INTO AND OUT OF THE PORT AREA EVERY DAY. THERE ARE 811 SECURITY PERSONNEL BILLETTS AT THE PORT, BUT ONLY ABOUT 700 ARE FILLED. THE SECURITY STAFF'S MAIN JOB IS TO PROTECT THE GOODS THAT FLOW THROUGH THE PORT, NOT TO SCREEN THE

PAGE 9 RUEAIIA 1364 ~~S E C R E T~~

CONTENTS OF CONTAINERS FOR CONTRABAND. THE PORT ALSO HANDLES BULK CARRIERS, AND MUCH OF THE LIGHTERAGE TYPE SMUGGLING ACTIVITY OCCURS

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PAGE 06 STATE 202455 240232Z

FROM THESE VESSELS. THERE IS A DESOLATE AREA ALONG THE COAST (ABOUT 50-60 KM FROM THE PORT) WHERE MUCH OF THIS LIGHTERING TAKES PLACE. THE AREA IS VIRTUALLY DESERTED (EXCEPT FOR THE SMUGGLERS) AND HAS MANY LITTLE INLETS WHERE SMALL BOATS OPERATE UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS.

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THERE ARE SOME 3.5 - 4 MILLION DRUG USERS IN PAKISTAN, ABOUT 1.5 MILLION OF WHOM USE HEROIN. HOWEVER,

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ONLY ONE-THIRD OF ONE PERCENT (.0033) OF THE TOTAL POPULATION (144 MILLION) ARE HARD-CORE HEROIN ADDICTS (471,000).

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[REDACTED]

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THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) UN ESTIMATES OF HEROIN ADDICTS IN PAKISTAN ARE VASTLY OVERSTATED, AND THAT THERE PROBABLY ARE NOT MANY MORE THAN HALF A MILLION REAL HEROIN ADDICTS IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY. UN COUNTERNARCOTICS

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SERIAL: [REDACTED]

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PROGRAMS AR INEFFECTIVE LARGELY BECAUSE THE UNITED NATIONS COMES INTO THE COUNTRY AND STARTS A PROGRAM, BUT NEVER FOLLOWS-UP. IN ADDITION, THERE IS SO MUCH CORRUPTION WITHIN PAKISTANI OFFICIALDOM THAT ONLY ABOUT 30-35 PERCENT OF THE FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ACTUALLY ARE SPENT ON THE PROJECTS. THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS FOR POPPY GROWING IS ANOTHER INHIBITOR OF SUCCESS.

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THE GOVERNMENT TELLS THE FARMERS THAT IF THEY STOP GROWING POPPY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER SOME OTHER TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, BUT THEY MAKE NO PROMISES. COMMENT:

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PAGE 07 STATE 202455 240232Z

POPPY GROWING IS LIKELY TO RESTART IN THE TRIBAL AREAS OF PAKISTAN, SINCE THE FARMERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN NO ALTERNATIVE.)

PAGE 5 RUEAIIA 1365 ~~S E C R E T~~

7. HEROIN AND HASHISH ARE REPORTED TO BE THE DOMINANT DRUGS IN PAKISTAN. ALMOST NO ONE IS SMOKING OPIUM ANY MORE. MOST HEROIN USERS ARE SMOKING THE DRUG, BUT INJECTION IS GROWING RAPIDLY, PARTICULARLY AMONG HARD-CORE ADDICTS IN PAKISTANI CITIES SUCH AS QUETTA, PESHAWAR, AND KARACHI. THE PURITY OF WHOLESALE HEROIN IS ABOUT 70 PERCENT, [REDACTED]

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BUT STREET SALES IN QUANTITIES OF 1-2 GRAMS ARE ONLY ABOUT 8-10 PERCENT PURE. ABUSE OF SYNTHETICS IS NOT VERY PREVALENT AT PRESENT. SOME AMPHETAMINES ARE ABUSED (E.G., BENZODIAZAPINE AND BUPRENOPHINE) BUT NO ECSTASY HAS YET BEEN NOTED (ALTHOUGH IT IS EXPECTED IN THE FUTURE). SOME COCAINE HAS BEEN NOTED IN KARACHI FOR THOSE WITH LOTS OF MONEY. [REDACTED] COMMENT: COCAINE IS CONSIDERED A DESIGNER DRUG, AND IS BROUGHT INTO PAKISTAN BY NIGERIANS IN EXCHANGE FOR HEROIN.)

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8. [REDACTED] PAKISTANIS TAKE DRUGS TO COPE WITH THE MISERY THAT IS EVERYWHERE (EXCEPT ISLAMABAD WHICH JOKINGLY IS REFERRED TO AS BEING ONLY 10 MINUTES FROM PAKISTAN). PAKISTANIS WORRY MORE ABOUT SATISFYING THEIR BASIC NEEDS THAN ABOUT DRUG ADDICTS. BECAUSE THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT HAS SO MANY MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS, IT TAKES THE ATTITUDE THAT IF YOU GET HOOKED ON

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PAGE 6 RUEAIIA 1365 ~~S E C R E T~~

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PAGE 08 STATE 202455 240232Z

DRUGS, IT'S YOUR PROBLEM. EVEN SO, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REHABILITATION FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH MOST ARE THE WORK OF NGOS. THE MOST CRITICAL PROBLEM FOR THE PAKISTAN ECONOMY, [REDACTED] IS THE CONTINUAL BRAIN DRAIN AND CAPITAL OUTFLOW. WHAT'S LEFT IN PAKISTAN IS MISERY, WHICH IS IN EVIDENCE ALMOST EVERYWHERE.

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9. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE TALIBAN'S ONLY PURPOSE IN BANNING POPPY CULTIVATION WAS TO RAISE THE PRICE OF OPIUM (WHICH SOARED FROM 2000 RUPEES/KG TO 18,000 RUPEES/KG) AND TO GARNER INTERNATIONAL APPROVAL. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE AFGHAN FARMERS WILL BE REPLANTING THIS FALL, ALTHOUGH CULTIVATION WILL PROBABLY NEVER RETURN TO THE LEVEL OF THAT IN 2000.

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10. OFFICIALS IN INDIA BLAME ALL THEIR PROBLEMS ON PAKISTAN, INCLUDING A SUGGESTION THAT PAKISTAN WAS BEHIND THE TALIBAN'S BAN ON POPPY CULTIVATION TO DRIVE UP OPIUM AND HEROIN PRICES. THEY CLAIMED THAT THERE WERE ONLY 69,000 HEROIN ADDICTS IN INDIA AND THAT

PAGE 7 RUEAIIA 1365 ~~S E C R E T~~

VIRTUALLY ALL THE HEROIN CONSUMED IN INDIA COMES FROM BURMA AND PAKISTAN. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE PURITY OF HEROIN ENTERING INDIA WAS ABOUT 40-45 PERCENT, BUT AFTER CUTTING, THE HEROIN SOLD ON THE STREET WAS ONLY 10-20 PERCENT PURE. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE AVERAGE STREET BUY WAS ONLY 0.015 GRAMS (15

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PAGE 09 STATE 202455 240232Z

MILLIGRAMS). [REDACTED] COMMENT: THIS SEEMED EXTREMELY LOW. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11.

[REDACTED] A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF LICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION IS DIVERTED TO THE ILLICIT MARKET, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] METHAMPHETAMINE IS COMING INTO INDIA FROM BURMA AND IS USED MOSTLY BY LONG-HAUL TRUCKERS TO STAY AWAKE. [REDACTED]

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WEST AFRICANS WERE BRINGING IN COCAINE IN EXCHANGE FOR HEROIN AND THAT SOME OF THE MORE WEALTHY INDIAN YOUTH WERE INTO ECSTASY. [REDACTED]

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PAGE 8 RUEAIIA 1365 ~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED] A DRUG CALLED PROXIMON WAS BEING SUBSTITUTED FOR HEROIN IN THE VERY POOR AREAS. APPARENTLY PROXIMON IS A PILL THAT CAN BE CRUSHED AND HEATED TO CREATE A LIQUID FOR INJECTION. THE HIGH ONLY LASTS ABOUT 15 MINUTES, BUT THE DRUG IS VERY CHEAP. THE DOWN SIDE IS THAT IT CREATES OPEN SORES ON THE SKIN.

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12. NEPAL IS KNOWN MORE AS AN "EDDY" THAN A "FLOW-THROUGH" COUNTRY FOR DRUGS. THERE IS NO LOCAL HEROIN MARKET EXCEPT FOR THE VERY RICH AND PERHAPS SOME HEROIN FOR THE TOURIST TRADE. MOST OF THE POPULATION IS TOO POOR TO AFFORD ANYTHING OTHER THAN LOCALLY GROWN MARIJUANA OR HASHISH. [REDACTED] NO SYNTHETICS IN NEPAL; THEY'RE MUCH TOO EXPENSIVE. [REDACTED] SOME MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WERE KNOWN FOR TAKING DRUGS, AND WERE EVEN RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING. THE ADDICT POPULATION IN NEPAL IS VERY

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PAGE 10 STATE 202455 240232Z

SMALL, BUT MIGHT BE GROWING. FINALLY, WHILE NEPAL HAD SOME REHABILITATION FACILITIES, THEY WERE VERY RUDIMENTARY.

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PAGE 9 RUEAIIA 1365 ~~SECRET~~

POC: [REDACTED] COMMENTS, EVALUATIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS WELCOME.

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ACQ: [redacted]

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DISSEM: [redacted]

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WARNING: REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~ -- NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

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[redacted] ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

END OF MESSAGE

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CABLETYPE: [redacted] UNQUOTE POWELL

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PAGE 11 STATE 202455 240232Z

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