

RELEASE IN PART
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Executive Summary
Wikileaks release of Afghanistan/Pakistan-related documents
23 Jul 2010

Background: The USG has learned that Wikileaks has in its possession and intends to release publicly via its website on Sunday, July 25, 2010, tens of thousands of documents related to Afghanistan and Pakistan. The documents are believed to be both Dept. of Defense and Dept. of State originated documents and are suspected to be those compromised by PFC Manning, who has been charged and is in pretrial confinement in Kuwait awaiting possible court martial. The types of documents have been described by news organizations that reviewed them as situation reports, casualty reports, incident (SIGACT) reports, meeting notes and other internal documents. There are estimated to be as many as 90,000 documents, covering the period from Jan 2004 to Dec 2009.

Wikileaks' publication of the documents is expected to occur during the afternoon (EDT) of July 25. Wikileaks purportedly showed some number of the documents to news organizations, including The New York Times and Der Spiegel. The Times and Der Spiegel may be partnering to publish stories related to the Wikileak documents on Sunday evening (July 25) and Monday morning (July 26) – web and print respectively.

Representatives of the NYT have described to USG officials the nature of some documents as casting US-Pakistani relations in an unfavorable light, particularly with respect to the ISI. The ISI is allegedly described as continuing to support AQ, the Haqqani network and Taliban (Quetta Shura) in opposition to US and Afghan interests. The documents allegedly do not provide “blockbuster” revelations but instead present a richness of detail previously not known or released and a damning portrait of US – Pakistani relations sustained over several years. The documents related to Afghanistan portray day-to-day activities there through combat operations, incidents and accidents and casualty events, both civilian and military.

Actions:

[redacted] Talking points are being developed for use in response to query once news stories begin to appear. The statements and RTQ will strongly condemn the transfer of classified information to persons not authorized to receive it and publication by various organizations that could cause harm to U.S. service members and national security. The products will highlight the new, integrated Afghanistan-Pakistan strategy being implemented over the past six months and the differences in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2010 compared to period covered by the documents.

Assessment: The release of the documents and media reporting on them is likely to provoke negative public reactions in Pakistan and Afghanistan. There will be significant, but less volatile, public and government reaction in the U.S. and Europe.

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