

19 0400 MAR10

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Document Approved for
Release by US Central
Command. See FOIA
#10-0238.

President Karzai Lacks Commitment to Tackle Corruption

The government was forced to make a move after foreigners gave serious ultimatums to Mr Karzai's Government for its lack of commitment in tackling administrative corruption and for involvement in corruption of his own relatives. Foreigners required Hamed Karzai to take immediate action in this respect. Senior officials of foreign countries had in particular been arguing with Hamed Karzai's Government about this problem for some time. Mr Karzai then announced his preparedness to tackle administrative corruption by holding a 3-day conference in Kabul. He called the conference National Conference for Fighting Corruption and Seeking Methods to Tackle It. In a critical speech delivered at the start of the conference, Mr Karzai criticized his administration and described the visits of his officials to Dubai and other countries for leisure beyond the financial means of a minister or director. However, he also said that most corruption takes place in the provision of foreign development assistance and by foreigners. He accused foreigners of having set up a parallel government in Afghanistan. He said that foreigners give money and vehicles to a number of Afghan government officials to exert influence on them. It was at this conference that Mr Karzai began to defend the Mayor of Kabul, Amanollah Sahebi, who was arrested on the orders of the judicial body of the country. Mr Karzai described Sahebi as someone who enjoys a name and reputation. Even then many people believed that Mr Karzai had no intentions of fighting corruption. They knew that Mr Karzai cannot deny corruption in his own government and is, therefore, admitting it and at the same time criticizing foreigners and their actions to portray administrative corruption in his own government as insignificant compared to corruption in foreign agencies and practices. By defending the mayor of Kabul that too after he was arrested on the orders of the Prosecutor General, Mr Karzai negated the freedom of the judiciary and demonstrated that he thinks he is above the law. However, the fact of the matter was and still is that Mr Karzai lacks the necessary tools and resources and thus the ability to successfully take on such a major task. This is something that the head of the high office tasked with the monitoring of implementation of the anti-corruption strategy, Mr (b)(6), says. He has said that the President is closing the doors of this office if he is not giving it executive powers. This office, which was founded last year, had only two members of staff for four months. Mr (b)(6) also spoke about the influence of powerful elements in matters related to administrative corruption as well as about the weakness of the laws. It is obvious that by powerful elements he meant persons with government power and within the government. These elements within the government will alize every resolve and prevent it from materializing into action. Source: (b)(6)

(b)(6) ; (b)(2)

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