RELEASE IN FULL

From:

Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>

Sent:

Tuesday, January 8, 2013 12:22 PM

To:

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Subject:

FW: Karzai

Interesting.

From: Pearce, David D

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 10:13 AM

To: Sullivan, Jacob J Subject: FW: Karzai

We needed this like a hole in the head.

From: Olson, Richard G

Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 9:15 AM

To: Pearce, David D Subject: Karzai

David: I need to pass on something I learned, and I think you are one of the few people who will have the historical sense to appreciate it. I saw Saad Mohseni last week in Dubai, and he told me he had given Karzai William Dalrymple's "Return of a King," and that Karzai has been staying up late reading it – the inner circle at the palace has been asking Saad what he gave Karzai. (The book is about the first Anglo-Afghan War, and the return of Shah Shujah – as you know, Karzai is obsessed with Shah Shuja.) Unfortunately, the last twenty pages of Dalrymple's otherwise exemplary book is a superficial analogy between the first Afghan war and our efforts over the past decade. And it compares Karzai to Shah Shuja explicitly. As well as arguing that Shah Shuja would have been better off throwing out British forces.

I can't imagine a worse thing to have Karzai read before he visits the President.

I suppose the damage is done, but thought I would at least let you know.

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Rick Olson

U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan

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