

The Beginning

Baharak, Afghanistan...Present day

The mountainous air at 10:30 p.m. in mid-November in the border town of Baharak, just east of Kabul, Afghanistan, was cold, dark, and exceptionally quiet. Three Afghani guards stood outside a stone hedge with a large closed wooden gate surrounding a brick home. Each of the guards held a loaded AK-47. The automatic machine guns were unintended gifts left by the Russians as spoils of their war with Afghanistan from 1979-1989. The guards were alert for any unexpected movements around the perimeter of the house. They were expecting a very special guest and security precautions were at a high.

At about 10:45 p.m., they sighted the dust trail of fast-moving vehicles heading toward the residential destination under watch. As they neared, the sound of the powerful SUV engines began to echo throughout the village. They arrived and, once identified, were immediately passed through the opened security gate. Three black, bullet-proofed Mercedes SUVs came to a halt, and six armed guards emerged, forming a protective

ring around the vehicles. One of the guards opened the back door on the second car, and an Arab man in full ethnic garb stepped out. Who he was, where he was from, and the purpose of his visit were question marks, but it was obvious he was a major figure, and at the very least a representative of an existing power; one whose middle of the night meetings were conducted under concealment for good reason.

He entered the house with two of his personal guards and was greeted by five men wearing Afghani robes and hats. After the usual cordial greetings were completed, the entourage moved into the larger living room furnished with a long, rectangular wooden table and chairs. An offer of food and drink was declined by the guest of honor.

His presentation addressed the need to step up the suicide bombings and other disruptive political activities on an international level. He further explained that random acts of violence would effectively serve to break down the infrastructure of those nations considered hostile. A continued argument was made to defend the violent actions as militarily disadvantaged responses by third world countries against the super powers. “The word ‘terrorism,’” he said, “was nothing more than a

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westernized term for retaliation by oppressed nations that have been targeted by massive military forces.” He went on to explain how the American military and financial support of Israel has been and always will be an affront to most Middle Eastern countries.

There were no actual details discussed about who was funding or supplying the proposed retaliation attacks. No specific targets were mentioned, while those present already had their own assigned geographic areas. At the conclusion of the meeting, the guest of honor handed each man a sealed manila envelope. In it were the necessary details of suggested targets, religious groups, and political factions, and a proposed timetable for initiating the actions discussed. The farewell greetings were made, and the SUV convoy departed into the darkness of night. The business was done. It was time for action.