

stan called on the Taliban to abandon violence and support the Afghan government in the name of Islam. They also called on the religious scholars of neighboring countries—including Pakistan—to help counter the activities and ideology of the Taliban and other insurgent organizations.<sup>29</sup> A number of Afghan Islamic clerics publicly supported the Afghan government and called the jihad un-Islamic.<sup>30</sup> Moreover, the Ulema Council and some Afghan ulama issued fatwas, or religious decrees, that unambiguously oppose suicide bombing. They argued that suicide bombing did not lead to an eternal life in paradise, did not permit martyrs to see the face of Allah, and did not allow martyrs to have the company of 72 maidens in paradise. These efforts were more effective than U.S.-led information operations, such as dropping leaflets.

This strategy was accomplished successfully during the Cold War when applied appropriately. During the Cold War, the United States believed that internal security assistance was critical to prevent certain countries from falling under Soviet influence.<sup>31</sup> The Office of Public Safety, which was established in 1962 in USAID, trained more than 1 million foreign police during its 13-year tenure.<sup>32</sup> President John F. Kennedy, for example, believed that Moscow sought to strengthen its international position by pursuing a strategy of subversion, indirect warfare, and agitation designed to install communist regimes in the developing world. In March 1961, President Kennedy told the U.S. Congress that the West was being "nibbled away at the periphery" by a Soviet strategy of "subversion, infiltration, intimidation, indirect or non-overt aggression, internal revolution, diplomatic blackmail, guerrilla warfare or a series of limited wars."<sup>33</sup> He concluded that providing assistance to police and other internal security forces was critical

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<sup>29</sup> "Religious Scholars Call on Taliban to Abandon Violence," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, July 28, 2005.

<sup>30</sup> "Taliban Claim Killing of Pro-Government Religious Scholars in Helmand," *Afghan Islamic Press*, July 13, 2005.

<sup>31</sup> Gaddis (1982); Brands (1993).

<sup>32</sup> Call (1998, p. 317); also see Huggins (1998, p. 111).

<sup>33</sup> Kennedy (1962).