

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 5:01 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Press release [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 5:45 PM
To: peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au; Foley, Paul
Subject: Press release [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

Ambassador/Pete,

GEN Allen at the Palace now - he did not get the press release prior to departure. He does however have the full and accurate story in relation to the TF 66 raid. s 47C(1)

So you know the facts:

- Two persons killed were enemy - one going for a weapon and one with a radio device (lethal trigger potential)
- The raid was approved in advance by PGOV and PCOCP
- It was partnered NOT unilateral - 42% NDS
- There is no NATO - AFG SOF Night Raids MOU. There is a US-AFG SOF MOU. We aren't even in NATO.
- 12 personnel were detained not 9. One was a JPEL target who is known for facilitating exfiltration of green on blue shooters from URZ. \$750000 Afghanis were taken - the fund source to get the shooter out most likely. All other detainees were released today.
- PGOV and PCOP were calm and had no issues once the detainees were released.

COMISAF knows all this and I will get a down load on his talk with karzai and relay ASAP.

DCOMISAF is to brief Karzai in the next few days on Insider Threat - and he plans to make it clear that this sort of press release is negative, inaccurate and counter-productive.

s 47C(1)

regards,

s 47F(1)

From: peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au [mailto:peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au]
Sent: 01 September 2012 17:10
To: s 47F(1)
Subject: FW:- RE: RE:- FW: press release [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message--Sent by: "Foley, Paul" <Paul.Foley@dfat.gov.au> on 1/09/2012 12:36:41 PM-----

Original sent to: "peter.short,
Original cc'd to: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Description: logo copy (1)

**Unilateral Operation by Australian Troops in Uruzgan is Breach of the MoU Signed with NATO:
President Karzai**

September 1, 2012

President Hamid Karzai strongly condemns the unilateral military operation conducted by the Australian troops that killed a 70-year old man, Haji Raz Mohammad and his 30 year-old son, Abdul Jalil in the province of Uruzgan.

Based on the information by the governor's office and of the provincial police, the Australian troops stationed in Uruzgan carried out an operation in Sola area in the provincial capital Tarin Kot without any prior coordination or approval of the provincial authorities. In the operation that killed Haji Raz Mohammad and his son, the Australian troops took away 9 others.

Immediately after learning about the incident, President Karzai contacted the provincial governor and police chief and inquired further on the incident.

The President condemns the operation as a breach of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Afghanistan and NATO on the special military operations.

President Karzai has also instructed the relevant authorities to launch a full and an all-out probe into the incident so that Afghan government can take a stand as required on the violation of the mutual agreement.

After the incident, the provincial governor and the police chief took quick action in reaching the affected families with relief assistance.

Also, on instruction by President Karzai, Governor Amir Mohammad Akhundzada secured, in defense of the people's rights, the release of the nine people taken away by the Australian troops.

President Karzai appreciated the timely and quick action taken by the provincial governor and the police chief in addressing the situation.

For further information, please contact:

Office of the Spokesperson to the President of Afghanistan,

s 47F(1)

www.president.gov.af

From: peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au [[mailto:peter.short@^{s 47E\(d\)}defence.gov.au](mailto:peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au)]

Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 4:59 PM

To: Foley, Paul; [peter.short@^{s 47E\(d\)}defence.gov.au](mailto:peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au)

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: RE:- FW: press release [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks but I can't open the links thanks to Defence's archaic blocks!

Pete

-----Original Message--Sent by: "Foley, Paul" <Paul.Foley@dfat.gov.au> on 1/09/2012 12:18:31 PM-----

Original sent to: Peter Short, "peter.short

Original cc'd to: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Paul Foley

Ambassador

Australian Embassy, Kabul

Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Personal Assistant s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(b), s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 6:47 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 47F(1)
Subject: FW: (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

FYI, on the article below if you haven't already seen. Also wanted to let you know COMISAF is putting the final chop on our statement. Can you reach out to this pub and let them know this is false what they are reporting?

v/r
s 47F(1)

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Saturday, September 01, 2012 8:13 PM
To: s 47F(1)

Subject: (U) The Australian

UNCLASSIFIED

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/hamid-karzai-anger-at-australian-troops/story-e6frg6so-1226463200478>

V/r

s 47F(1)
Media Operations
DCOS Communications
HQ ISAF
DSN s 47F(1)
VoSIP: s 47F(1)
Mobile: s 47F(1)

UNCLASSIFIED
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 8:51 PM
To: Foley, Paul; peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE:- Draft Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks Paul.

Some points added in red.

Regards,

Pete

-----Original Message--Sent by: "Foley, Paul" <Paul.Foley@dfat.gov.au> on 1/09/2012 5:25:32 PM-----

Original sent to: Peter Short, "peter.short"
 Original cc'd to: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Pete,^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}

This is the state of what I propose to send Minister Carr's office, though I havent seen the final text of the ISAF statement yet. grateful any comment.

s 33(a)(iii)

President Karzai's press statement condemning an operation by Australian troops

Talking Points

- Australian Special Forces undertook an **approved** operation partnered with Afghan forces in Uruzgan on the night of 1 September as part of the ongoing hunt for the suspected killer of three Australian soldiers.
- In line with the normal arrangements between Afghanistan and ISAF on special operations the operation was approved in advance by Uruzgan's Provincial Governor and Police Chief
- The statement from the Palace is wrong in its claim that the operation was not approved by Afghan provincial authorities, or the implication that it was not partnered with Afghan forces. **Afghan forces (the Provincial Response Company) made up 42% of the total force.**
- The Australian Ambassador has underlined our strong disappointment on the statement to the Afghan authorities s 33(a)(iii)
- ISAF has refuted the statement in strong terms and confirmed that normal procedures were followed.
- ISAF Commander General Allen made this clear to the Afghan authorities

If asked: Casualties in the operations

- Confirm that as part of this operation, two people were killed and 12 detained, one of whom is known to be an insurgent facilitator
- of the 12 people detained 11 have now been released. **The remaining individual is a confirmed insurgent known to have harboured the alleged killer of the three AS soldiers and facilitated his extraction.**
- Two men were **identified taking direct part in hostilities against the joint AS/ANSF forces and** killed. **Post reporting has confirmed they were both insurgents. One was assessed to be around 30 and the other 50 to 60 years of age. They are known to be father and son.**
- While any loss of life is regrettable, I understand those killed were known insurgents and all actions were in accordance with normal rules of engagement (one was reaching for a weapon and one **was coordinating enemy activity on a** radio device).

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

Paul Foley
Ambassador
Australian Embassy, Kabul
Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Personal Assistant s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 9:28 PM
To: Foley, Paul; peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE:- Draft Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Paul (and ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)})

Pls disregard my last email and use this one. The other one said too much. Below, in bold blue are some additions etc.

Regards,

Pete

-----Original Message--Sent by: "Foley, Paul" <Paul.Foley@dfat.gov.au> on 1/09/2012 5:25:32 PM-----

Original sent to: Peter Short, "peter.short"
 Original cc'd to: "s 22(1)(a)(ii)"

Pete, ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}

This is the state of what I propose to send Minister Carr's office, though I havent seen the final text of the ISAF statement yet. grateful any comment.

s 33(a)(iii)

President Karzai's press statement condemning an operation by Australian troops

Talking Points

- Australian Special Forces undertook an **approved joint ISAF/ANSF** operation partnered with Afghan forces in Uruzgan on the night of 1 September as part of the ongoing hunt for the suspected killer of three Australian soldiers.
- In line with the normal arrangements between Afghanistan and ISAF on special operations the operation was approved in advance by **Uruzgan's** Provincial Governor and Police Chief
- The statement from the Palace is wrong in its claim that the operation was not approved by Afghan provincial authorities, or the implication that it was not partnered with Afghan forces.
- The Australian Ambassador has underlined our strong disappointment on the statement to the Afghan authorities ^{s 33(a)(iii)}
- ISAF has refuted the statement in strong terms and confirmed that normal procedures were followed.
- ISAF Commander General Allen made this clear to the Afghan authorities

If asked: Casualties in the operations

- Confirm that as part of this operation, two people were killed and 12 detained, one of whom is known to be an insurgent facilitator
- of the 12 people detained 11 have now been released.
- Two men were killed , **believed to be a father and son aged around 50 to 60 and 30.**
- While any loss of life is regrettable, I understand those killed were known insurgents and all actions were in accordance with normal rules of engagement (**both were taking direct part in hostilities at the time they were engaged by AS forces**).

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

Paul Foley
Ambassador
Australian Embassy, Kabul
Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Personal Assistant +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 10:11 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: (U//FOUO) Final version of press release (UNCLASSIFIED) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: ISAF Pursues Shooter.docx

Paul Foley
Ambassador
Australian Embassy, Kabul
Mobile: +s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Personal Assistant +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 11:32 PM
To: Foley, Paul
Subject: FW: (U//FOUO) Final version of press release (UNCLASSIFIED)

s 47F(1)

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: 01 September 2012 23:22
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: s 47F(1)
Subject: FW: (U//FOUO) Final version of press release (UNCLASSIFIED)

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

s 47F(1),

Plse find attached the COMISAF approved version of the Press Release. It is going out as we speak.

s 47F(1)

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Saturday, September 01, 2012 11:18 PM
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: s 47F(1)

Subject: Final version of press release (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: FOUO

Gentlemen: This is the final version that we are posting right now.

v/r

s 47F(1)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: FOUO

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: FOUO

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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY
ASSISTANCE
FORCE



NEWS RELEASE

2012-09-CA-XX

ISAF Pursues Shooter

KABUL, Afghanistan / Sep. 1, 2012 – ISAF conducted a recent successful Afghan and Australian partnered operation in Uruzgan. This operation, based on detailed intelligence, was launched in pursuit of insurgents responsible for the most recent insider attack that killed three Australian soldiers and wounded two.

We express our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of these brave men who risked and gave their lives so that Afghanistan may have a better future. They are heroes.

The operation was a partnered mission between coalition forces and Afghan National Security Forces, with the composition of two forces striking a nearly even balance. Operating shoulder to shoulder, the Afghan and coalition soldiers successfully captured a key facilitator who not only enabled the insider attack, but also was responsible for IED emplacement, and the kidnapping and murder of Afghan civilians.

The operation was planned and executed in coordination with Afghan officials including approval by the Uruzgan provincial governor. ISAF and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan remain committed to the elimination of threats from insider attacks.

-30-

ISAF Public Affairs Office

Primary: Tel +93 (0) 700 13 2114/ 2266 / 2928

E-mail: pressoffice@hq.isaf.nato.int

Website: www.nato.int/isaf

Facebook: [facebook.com/isaf](https://www.facebook.com/isaf)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 10:35 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Karzai Criticism of Australian Operation : text of release [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 12:03 AM
To: peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au; s 47F(1)
Subject: FW: Karzai Criticism of Australian Operation : text of release [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 12:03 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Bird, Gillian; Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au);
s 47F(1) @pm.gov.au'; Media; Merrifield, Simon
Subject: Karzai Criticism of Australian Operation : text of release [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Three of three- text of release from Palace

Paul Foley
Ambassador
Australian Embassy, Kabul
Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Personal Assistant s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PoA: Unilateral Operation by Australian Troops in Uruzgan is Breach of the MoU Signed with NATO: President Karzai

President Hamid Karzai strongly condemns the unilateral military operation conducted by the Australian troops that killed a 70-year old man, Haji Raz Mohammad and his 30 year-old son, Abdul Jalil in the province of Uruzgan.

Based on the information by the governor's office and of the provincial police, the Australian troops stationed in Uruzgan carried out an operation in Sola area in the provincial capital Tarin Kot without any prior coordination or approval of the provincial authorities. In the operation that killed Haji Raz Mohammad and his son, the Australian troops took away 9 others.

Immediately after learning about the incident, President Karzai contacted the provincial governor and police chief and inquired further on the incident.

The President condemns the operation as a breach of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Afghanistan and NATO on the special military operations. President Karzai has also instructed the relevant authorities to launch a full and an all-out probe into the incident so that Afghan government can take a stand as required on the violation of the mutual agreement.

After the incident, the provincial governor and the police chief took quick action in reaching the affected families with relief assistance. Also, on instruction by President Karzai, Governor Amir Mohammad Akhundzada secured, in defense of the people's rights, the release of the nine people taken away by the Australian troops.

President Karzai appreciated the timely and quick action taken by the provincial governor and the police chief in addressing the situation.

Received: 1632 Sept 1

ISAF DCOS COMM

SAR Watch Officer

s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 10:35 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Paul Foley
 Ambassador
 Australian Embassy, Kabul
 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Personal Assistant s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 11:54 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Bird, Gillian; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 47F(1) @pm.gov.au'; s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au); Media; Merrifield, Simon
Subject: FW: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Below are suggested points for the Minister on this for media. We have worked up with the ADF in theatre.

s 33(a)(iii), s 47C(1)

Paul Foley
 Ambassador Kabul

President Karzai's press statement condemning an operation by Australian troops

Talking Points

- Australian Special Forces undertook a joint operation with Afghan forces in Uruzgan on the night of 1 September as part of the ongoing hunt for the suspected killer of three Australian soldiers.
- In line with the normal arrangements between Afghanistan and ISAF on special operations the operation was approved in advance by Uruzgan's Provincial Governor and Police Chief.
- The statement from the Palace is wrong in its claim that the operation was not approved by Afghan provincial authorities, or the implication that it was not partnered with Afghan forces.

- . The Australian Ambassador has underlined our strong disappointment on the statement to the Afghan authorities s 33(a)(iii)
- . ISAF has refuted the statement in very strong terms in its own release - noting the operation was fully partnered, planned and executed with Afghan partners.

If asked: Casualties in the operations

- . Confirm that as part of this operation, two people were killed and 12 detained, one of whom is known to be an insurgent facilitator
 - of the 12 people detained 11 have now been released.
 - Two insurgents were killed, believed to be in their early 30s and mid 50s respectively.
- . While any loss of life is regrettable, I understand both men were known insurgents. Both were taking direct part in hostilities and were engaged by Australian forces in accordance with their rules of engagement.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 8:41 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) defence.gov.au
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Access Letter Afghan DFIP - need copy signed by BRIG

Hi ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Attached is a copy of the access letter (corrected and translated by ^{s 22(1)(a)}) and signed by the HOM. Cld you arrange for the BRIG to sign it and bring tomorrow for us to drop off to s 47F(1) ? ^{s 22(1)(a)} will call and let his office know we are coming.

Many many thanks

^{s 22(1)(a)}



120902_Ltr_acce...

s22(1)(a)(ii)

First Secretary
Australian Embassy Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel. +s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Tel. (internal) s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Email: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 9:31 AM
To: Foley, Paul
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Appointments for HOM 2 September [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Ambassador,

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

Regards
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Embassy Kabul

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Email: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Saturday, 1 September 2012 9:58 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) r
Cc: Foley, Paul; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Appointments for HOM 2 September [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Ambassador would like you to try for appointments today with:

1. President Karzai
2. Chief of Staff Khuram
3. NSA Dr Spanta (the Ambassador already had a phone conversation with him last night and said we would seek a follow-up meeting today).

Please push strongly. The agenda item will be the President's 1 September statement on an Australian troop operation in Uruzgan. s 22(1)(a)(ii) or myself would accompany.

s22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - please note HOM is likely to have some late-notice moves today.

Happy to discuss as needed,
s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 10:26 AM
To: s 47F(1) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 47F(1)

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Nelson, Brendan; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Transcript - SKY News Australia, Australian Agenda, Sunday, 2 September 2012 08:48 AM [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Transcript.doc

Foreign Minister Carr media interview of today. Leads with Afghanistan. Karzai statement on 'unilateral operations' not raised in the interview

Paul Foley
Ambassador
Australian Embassy, Kabul
Mobile: +s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Personal Assistant s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Transcript

Station: **SKY NEWS AUSTRALIA** Date: **02/09/2012**
 Program: **AUSTRALIAN AGENDA** Time: **08:48 AM**
 Compere: **PETER VAN ONSELEN** Summary ID: **S00050137505**

Item: **HOST AND REGULAR PANELLISTS SPEAK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOB CARR. CARR DISCUSSES PLANS FOR AFGHANISTAN AND AUSTRALIAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL. CARR DISCUSSES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY ON CHINA AND CHINA'S REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INFLUENCE. FINALLY CARR TOUCHES ON ASYLUM SEEKER POLICY AND A RECENT MEETING WITH MITT ROMNEY.**

INTERVIEWEES: BOB CARR, FOREIGN MINISTER; GREG SHERIDAN, THE AUSTRALIAN; PAUL KELLY, THE AUSTRALIAN; CUI TIANKAI, CHINESE VICE MINISTER [EXCERPT]

Audience:	Male 16+	Female 16+	All people
	8000	1000	9000

PETER VAN ONSELEN: You're watching *Australian Agenda*. We're joined now by the Foreign Minister, Bob Carr.

Mr Carr, thanks very much for your company.

BOB CARR: Peter, pleasure to be here.

PETER VAN ONSELEN: Straight off the bat Afghanistan, why aren't we leaving early? What's the point in staying until 2014?

BOB CARR: Well there's a plan to get out. No-one wants to be there in this very difficult war - this unpopular war - a day longer than we need to be. There's agreement on that.

The choice here is between a planned phased withdrawal and a sudden rush to get out that would be very disruptive to a coalition, the biggest coalition in history: 50 nations, not just the United States, but 50 nations, all of whom have got a commitment to setting up a sovereign Afghanistan and seeing that we've got a functioning country here. That's what that's about, a functioning country that won't allow its territory to be a base for terrorist strikes against the West.

PETER VAN ONSELEN: But what would be the major problem with getting out in say six months to coordinate organisationally the reasons for doing so. I mean, Greg Sheridan before the break made the point that that's effectively what he thinks we should do; 2014 is a long way away. It would only take six months to do it in a coordinated, rather than disjointed, fashion, wouldn't it?

BOB CARR: Well the last two years the size of the Afghan security forces has been increased by another 100,000. It's a matter of training them, of seeing that they can lead operations, that they've got a - they've got special forces who can do the jobs that the special forces of coalition countries are doing at the present time. That needs another year to 18 months to be given effect to in Uruzgan province - where we've got primary responsibility - and for the rest of the country to the end of 2014.

We've been in there 10 years. Everyone is weary of this war, but we've got a chance to leave a functioning Afghan state, a sovereign Afghan state that will say, 'No,' to terrorists who would otherwise be in there

doing what they did before 2001 - using the country as an outdoor campus to train people to blow up our subways, to hijack our aircraft and to bring down towers in our big cities.

GREG SHERIDAN: Mr Carr ...

BOB CARR: That's literally what it was before 2001.

GREG SHERIDAN: Mr Carr, once I believed all that too, and - but there comes a point when reality has to intervene. Most of those 50 countries you mentioned don't do any fighting, don't suffer any casualties, don't leave the secure wire of their compounds.

Uruzgan province is a very heavily Pashtun province; it's next to Helmand, which is chaos at the moment, and where the American troops at full stretch can barely maintain order. When we leave Uruzgan and the Americans are not going to be in the south, there will be a new Pashtun interregnum in which the Pakistanis will have a critical say, the Taliban will be very powerful and within a couple of years you won't notice that we were ever there.

That's going to be the situation whether we leave tomorrow or whether we leave in 18 months. The only difference will be 10 Australians will probably be killed if we stay for 18 months. What on earth is the point, now, when it's not going to have the slightest difference whether we leave tomorrow or in 18 months time?

BOB CARR:

Well Greg, I and a lot of other people don't share your pessimism. Three-quarters of the country, 75 per cent of Afghanistan, is now provided security by Afghan forces. That's a huge advance. You've got in recent times 5000 mid-level fighters from the insurgency cross over, lay down their weapons and be reintegrated with society. They too - the insurgent side as well as us - are weary of this war.

You've had senior commanders be killed. The country, as Admiral Stavridis has said - the leader of the coalition forces - is no longer a base for terrorist operations, terrorist strikes against us. It once was. We've got a chance, if we handle the transition well, of leaving behind not a shadow country occupied in large part by people who are training terrorists to go into Bali, to come to big cities in the West and do harm, do optimal damage, not a coalition of terrorist groups, but a reasonably functioning central government under some kind of constitution founded on a durable ethnic and regional balance.

PETER VAN ONSELEN:

So what needs to change between now and when we do depart, in your view, which is the reason therefore presumably to stay and keep Australian soldiers out of harms way.

BOB CARR:

Yep, that's a far question. That's a fair question: continued mentoring and training of the Afghan forces, so that every month they're doing the patrols, they're responding with their special forces to security strikes, to strikes against us.

PETER VAN ONSELEN: So what are the benchmarks, though?

BOB CARR: Well the military can spell that out for you, but it means more patrols, for example, more patrols being conducted with less and less coalition involvement - being conducted by the Afghans themselves.

GREG SHERIDAN: But Mr Carr ...

BOB CARR: It means, another key performance indicator would be when there is a hit by insurgents that the response would be conducted not by members of the coalition forces, like us, but by Afghan police, special forces or army. Now all those are laid down. The choice here, Greg, is between whether we have a panicky dash - Australia rupturing an alliance, an alliance that is the largest in history - 50 nations under a chapter 7 UN mandate that's been renewed every six months - Australia making a dash for it that would do our reputation enormous harm, enormous harm, disrupting that plan, that timetable, that commitment to a staged withdrawal.

GREG SHERIDAN: Has it damaged the reputation of all the other countries that have withdrawn?

BOB CARR: Well you've had ...

GREG SHERIDAN: Has the Netherlands suffered shocking reputational damage for withdrawing?

BOB CARR: Yeah but we're - I think we're a bigger player, punching above our weight in the world, than - I say this with respect ...

GREG SHERIDAN: We had fewer troops than the Netherlands in Afghanistan.

BOB CARR: We're the largest non-NATO contributor and we're a large contributor overall. When - look, put it this way - when I was in Brussels at the conference with Stephen Smith on Afghanistan, what was it - three months ago - and there was a report out of the Australian media that somehow we were bringing forward our withdrawal, I can tell you there were a lot of countries concerned that we seemed to be following what Holland had done.

I not only had to sit down with - the US quickly apprised themselves of the position - Stephen and I didn't have to exert ourselves there, but Germany was very concerned, for example, that somehow Australia might be saying: We won't stick to the phased withdrawal; we'll go for a panicky expedited withdrawal. And so where the - just to take small examples - so where the Slovaks, who were providing security.

PAUL KELLY: Well what about the United States? I mean, we're talking here about the consequences of us leaving early. What would be the reaction of the United States? What is the nature of the damage that would be done to Australia's reputation, as you see it?

- BOB CARR: I think it would be very significant, but I don't want to give the impression that it's only a consideration of the US alliance that keeps us sticking to this program for a phased, orderly, controlled withdrawal to be completed in Uruzgan province, where we're involved, by 2013, to be completed overall by 2014. It is not just the US alliance, but I can assure you that the US would be very critical of Australia, which suddenly altered its character and said: We're not with the other 50 nations; we're not with the plan that's been put into place and been discussed at Lisbon, at Chicago, at Tokyo; we're bolting!
- PAUL KELLY: Okay ...
- BOB CARR: I don't think that honours the memory of these fine Australians, these extraordinarily brave Australians and very professional fighter Australians who have paid the supreme sacrifice.
- PAUL KELLY: Now you seem to be suggesting that this is really about Australian character and Australian honour, is that your point?
- BOB CARR: It is precisely. It is precisely. Here there is a serious commitment. We've signed on at international conferences. We said - and we've contributed to the intellectual investment - the thought, the consideration that's gone into a planned, a staged, a phased withdrawal and the training of Afghans that accompanies that.

If we suddenly said, because of these terrible losses, and the inconsolable grief of the families that have sustained them, if we suddenly said: We're out of there now, I think there is a loss to Australia's reputation.

GREG SHERIDAN: Mr Carr, could I just unpick two things you've said?

BOB CARR: Sure.

GREG SHERIDAN: One, you've said security is getting better. No-one who's in Afghanistan says that to you, except the soldiers on professional briefings because they have to. The truth is, it's getting a lot worse and we have evidence of this from your own government. AusAID has said that when the Australian troops leave Uruzgan, they're not going to base one aid worker there. So their confidence in the security situation is so great that they're not going to base one aid worker ...

BOB CARR: No Greg, there's a different reason ...

GREG SHERIDAN: No, no, but let me get ...

BOB CARR: There's a different reason for that, Greg. That's a very cunning argument.

GREG SHERIDAN: Let me get to my question though. The second thing is you say the Afghan national army can take more of the security. The truth is, in the Pashtun areas the Afghan national army is not made up predominantly of ethnic Pashtuns. They're seen by the ethnic Pashtuns as a foreign occupying force, and there is no reason to

suspect that they will be able to pacify a Pashtun population. The recruitment of southern Pashtuns into the Afghan army has been very, very meagre. Why do you think that Tajiks from the north will be able to subdue the Pashtun provinces of the south?

BOB CARR:

Look Greg, I said a moment ago, what we want here is a sustainable, a resilient ethnic regional balance behind the constitution and behind the government. We want a sovereign Afghanistan and yes, I agree, you need the appropriate ethnic balance behind that. I'm still confident we can get it.

Admiral Stavridis said speaking only in the last few days that it is no longer a base for terrorist campaigns against the West, as it was. September 11 was planned out of Afghanistan. The people who claimed the lives through their bombs of 88 Australians, they were trained in Afghanistan. Indonesia would be enormously more vulnerable if Afghanistan reverted to its former role as a vast outdoor campus for training terrorists to hit targets around the world.

But Greg, you've got a sense of Australia's role in the world, could you live comfortably with Australia suddenly bolting from this 50-member coalition and saying - to the real concern of a country like Germany or Turkey: You're now embarrassed. You've got to justify to your own electorates why you're sticking with this task, but we Australians are out of it?

PETER VAN ONSELEN:

It really ...

BOB CARR: It's not what Australia does.

PETER VAN ONSELEN: But it sounds ...

BOB CARR: It's not what our country does.

PETER VAN ONSELEN: But it sounds like pride ...

BOB CARR: We've never done anything like this.

PETER VAN ONSELEN: ... built on a war that's going - if Greg Sheridan's right - in the wrong direction, and we're just there out of a sort of misplaced pride, rather than any outcome that's going to be achieved by 2014.

BOB CARR: Peter: the wrong direction? The country is no longer a base for sustained professional terrorist strikes against Western targets. We've now got - we've now recruited another 100,000 Afghans for police and military functions in the last year or two. You've got 5000 medium level fighters for the insurgency crossing over, laying down their arms - proud warriors who've done that, because they're war-weary too.

You've got signs of distress and war-weariness in the insurgent ranks, and you've got the chance after 10 years of blood and treasure being expended here of leaving the country with a functioning government and not just a shadow state that can be manipulated by terrorists.

PETER VAN ONSELEN: So ...

BOB CARR: And that is the choice; and look, again, I say to Andrew Wilkie or Mal Washer, I understand your war-weariness, but the choice is about a phased and professional withdrawal that, according to a plan, Peter, that was developed by the military - the military developed this plan.

PETER VAN ONSELEN: But let me ask this then, I mean this is a fair question. If over the course of the next 18 months or so as we work our way towards that phased withdrawal. If these benchmarks, or if these improvements that you say are necessary for the state of Afghanistan to be more sustainable don't occur, is that a reason not to withdraw in 2014?

BOB CARR: No. No-one is accepting that, and we're - I mean the United States has made it very clear, as we've done, there's no appetite on our side to stay there a day longer than we need to. The plan's there for transition. To those who are war-weary - and that I think speaks for all of us, that description - it's a choice between the phased and planned withdrawal or a mad dash.

PAUL KELLY: I'd like to ...

BOB CARR: I just think, in your words Paul, it's not part of the Australian character to bolt from an alliance with a serious commitment.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 3:30 PM
To: peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Draft talking Points on Statement on Australian Operations [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Pete

We have been asked to update the Talking Points overnight. Could you have a look at it please ?

s 22(1)(a)(ii) is coming around shortly and will add anything he has to say that is core to this messaging

Paul

President Karzai's 1 September press statement condemning an operation by Australian troops

Talking Points

- The statement is wrong in claiming that the operation by Australian forces in Uruzgan on the night of 31 August was not approved by Afghan provincial authorities or that it was not fully partnered with Afghan forces.
- Australian Special Forces undertook a joint operation with Afghan forces in Uruzgan on the night of 1 September as part of the ongoing hunt for the suspected killer of three Australian soldiers.
 - 60 ADF and 81 Afghan security force members took part in the operations
- In line with the normal arrangements between Afghanistan and ISAF the operation was approved in advance by Uruzgan's Provincial Governor and Police Chief.
- The Australian Ambassador has underlined our strong disagreement and disappointment with the content of the statement with the Afghan authorities s 33(a)(iii)
- ISAF has also underlined these points to the Afghan Government
- ISAF released a statement on the operation noting the successful operation was fully partnered, planned and executed with Afghan partners.

If asked: Casualties in the operation

- As part of this operation, two people were killed and 12 detained, one of whom is known to be an insurgent facilitator
 - of the 12 people detained 11 have now been released.
 - Two insurgents were killed, believed to be in their early 30s and mid 50s respectively.
- While any loss of life is regrettable, both men were known insurgents taking direct part in hostilities and were engaged by Australian forces in accordance with their rules of engagement.
- The ISAF statement noted that the operation captured a key facilitator of the recent insider attack who was also responsible for IED emplacement and the kidnapping and murder of Afghan citizens.

If asked: Why does the Afghan Government deny that it approved the operation?

- That question should be directed to the Afghan Government.

Australian Embassy, Kabul
Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Personal Assistant s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 5:36 PM
To: s 47F(1) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Bird, Gillian; s22(1)(a)(ii) ;
s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au'; Media; Merrifield, Simon; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@defence.gov.au'
Subject: RE: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Talking Points [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 47F(1)

The TPs have been updated as requested below. There is an accompanying cable coming.

s 33(a)(iii), s 47C(1)

Paul

Talking Points

- The statement is wrong in claiming that the operation was not approved by Afghan provincial authorities or that it was not fully partnered with Afghan forces.
- Australian Special Forces undertook a fully partnered operation with Afghan forces in Uruzgan on the night of 31 August as part of the ongoing hunt for the suspected killer of three Australian soldiers.
 - 60 ADF and 81 Afghan security force members took part
- Consistent with the normal arrangements between Afghanistan and ISAF the operation was approved in advance by Uruzgan's Provincial Governor and Police Chief.
- An ISAF statement on the operation contradicts the statement and notes that the successful operation was fully planned and executed with Afghan partners.
- The Australian Ambassador has underlined our strong disappointment with the timing and content of the statement with the Afghan authorities s 33(a)(iii)
- COMISAF has also made similar points to the Afghan Government

If asked: Casualties in the operation

- In the operation two people were killed and 12 detained, one of whom is known to be an insurgent facilitator
 - of the 12 people detained 11 have now been released.
 - Two insurgents were killed, believed to be in their early 30s and mid 50s respectively.
- While any loss of life is regrettable, both men were known insurgents taking direct part in hostilities and were engaged by Australian forces in accordance with their rules of engagement.

- . ISAF has noted that the operation captured an insurgent leader confirmed to be an IED emplacer and involved the kidnapping and murder of Afghan citizens. He was also attempting to support and move the 'insider threat' shooter who killed the three Australian soldiers on 29 august.

If asked: Why does the Afghan Government deny that it approved the operation?

- That question should be directed to the Afghan Government.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

Paul Foley
Ambassador
Australian Embassy, Kabul
Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Personal Assistant s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1) @pm.gov.au]
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 11:54 AM
To: Foley, Paul; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Bird, Gillian; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au'; Media; Merrifield, Simon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au'
Subject: Re: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thnks Paul. Can you also send updated talking points at the end of your day.

Ta

s 47F(1)

Senior Adviser, International | Office of the Prime Minister

From: Foley, Paul [mailto:Paul.Foley@dfat.gov.au]
Sent: Sunday, September 02, 2012 05:00 PM
To: s 47F(1) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Jon Merrill; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Gillian Bird; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>;
s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au' s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Merrifield, Simon
<Simon.Merrifield@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 47F(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

PF

Paul Foley
Ambassador
Australian Embassy, Kabul

Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Personal Assistant s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1) @pm.gov.au]
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 3:21 AM
To: Foley, Paul; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Bird, Gillian; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au'; Media; Merrifield, Simon; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Paul

s 47C(1)

The PM is not doing any media today but she has a press club engagement tomorrow (Monday) at lunchtime and has asked to be fully updated in the morning.

s 47F(1)

Senior Adviser, International | Office of the Prime Minister

From: Foley, Paul [mailto:Paul.Foley@dfat.gov.au]
Sent: Sunday, September 02, 2012 05:23 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Jon Merrill; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Gillian Bird; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47F(1) s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au) s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Merrifield, Simon <Simon.Merrifield@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Below are suggested points for the Minister on this for media. We have worked up with the ADF in theatre.

s 33(a)(iii), s 47C(1)

Paul Foley
 Ambassador Kabul

President Karzai's press statement condemning an operation by Australian troops

Talking Points

- Australian Special Forces undertook a joint operation with Afghan forces in Uruzgan on the night of 1 September as part of the ongoing hunt for the suspected killer of three Australian soldiers.

- In line with the normal arrangements between Afghanistan and ISAF on special operations the operation was approved in advance by Uruzgan's Provincial Governor and Police Chief.
- The statement from the Palace is wrong in its claim that the operation was not approved by Afghan provincial authorities, or the implication that it was not partnered with Afghan forces.
- The Australian Ambassador has underlined our strong disappointment on the statement to the Afghan authorities s 33(a)(iii)
- ISAF has refuted the statement in very strong terms in its own release - noting the operation was fully partnered, planned and executed with Afghan partners.

If asked: Casualties in the operations

- Confirm that as part of this operation, two people were killed and 12 detained, one of whom is known to be an insurgent facilitator
- of the 12 people detained 11 have now been released.
- Two insurgents were killed, believed to be in their early 30s and mid 50s respectively.
- While any loss of life is regrettable, I understand both men were known insurgents. Both were taking direct part in hostilities and were engaged by Australian forces in accordance with their rules of engagement.

s 33(a)(iii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 9:46 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Foley, Paul
Subject: Fw: Minister for Defence Stephen Smith - Transcript - Press Conference - 3 September 2012 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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From: MediaOps
Sent: Monday, September 03, 2012 04:27 PM
To: MediaOps
Subject: Minister for Defence Stephen Smith - Transcript - Press Conference - 3 September 2012 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED



MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
STEPHEN SMITH, MP

TRANSCRIPT: PRESS CONFERENCE

TRANSCRIPTION: PROOF COPY AND E & OE

DATE: 3 SEPTEMBER 2012

TOPICS: *Afghanistan; Visit to Indonesia*

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, thank you very much for turning up. Later this morning I'll depart for Indonesia together with Jason Clare, the Minister for Defence Materiel, and the Home Affairs and Justice Minister. And we'll be joined in Indonesia by the Transport Minister, Anthony Albanese, for discussions with our ministerial counterparts.

I'll deal with that shortly but let me first deal with some matters arising from Afghanistan. You'll of course all be aware of the terrible events of last week. I spoke to you about this time on Friday. Since that time Defence have announced the five Australian soldiers who were so terribly killed in action in Afghanistan. Let me just take this, my first opportunity to publicly express my condolences to the families concerned. To the family of Lance Corporal Stjepan Milosevic or Rick Milosevic, as he's known to his family, from Penrith; to Private Robert Poate from Canberra; and to Sapper James Martin based in Perth, and I'll make some remarks about that in a moment.

They were the three soldiers terribly killed in the insider incident or the so-called green on blue incident. My condolences go to their friends, their families and their loved ones. The two Australian soldiers killed in the helicopter crash both Commandos from Holsworthy, both Special Forces personnel, Private Nathanael Gallagher from New South Wales and Lance Corporal Mervyn McDonald also West Australian, from Carnarvon, with family in Western Australia. So can I extend again my condolences to those families and to their friends, their mates and their loved ones.

There will of course, in Perth and Western Australia, be particular interest in the terrible fatalities of Mervyn McDonald and also Sapper James Martin. Lance Corporal McDonald grew up in Carnarvon and continues to have family in Western Australia. He of course was recently based at Holsworthy. Sapper James Martin grew up in Perth and, as the local federal member for Perth, I know that in his youth he played local cricket with the Maylands Cricket Club and also played local football with the Bayswater Bears Football Club. So, there'll be a lot of sadness in our local community with young James Martin's death tragically at the young age of 21.

Let me now deal with some of the matters arising from those terrible events last week. Let me firstly deal with issues arising from the so-called green on blue incident. As you'll be aware last week both the Chief of the Defence Force and I indicated that following terrible like events last year Australia had taken additional force protection measures in Afghanistan. Following the events of last week the Chief of the Defence Force and his chain of command have instituted additional force protection measures.

I'm not proposing to go into those details other than to say that additional precautionary measures have been taken. I spoke with the Chief of the Defence Force earlier this morning and he advises me that from today - from Monday morning Afghanistan time in Uruzgan Province, Australian personnel will be conducting the tasks and the operations which had previously been set for them this week. So, their work continues but with those additional force protection measures.

Let me just draw some attention to a number of ISAF decisions that have been made over the weekend and announced, decisions by the International Security Assistance Force, and there's been some reporting of these matters, some has been accurate, some has been inaccurate. I don't say that critically, but let me just place on the record the decisions and the announcement which ISAF have made. And of course these - Australian officials both in Afghanistan and Australia have been made aware of these decisions, so I'll outline the decisions and then reflect upon any implications for Australia.

Firstly the International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, has announced that Afghan local police recruits, new recruits, will no longer be trained pending additional vetting or re-vetting procedures of those Afghan local police recruits. That involves about 1000 new Afghan local police recruits. Australia does not train Afghan local police at all and so this has no impact on Australian operations in Uruzgan province or Afghanistan generally. But that decision has been announced by ISAF over the weekend.

ISAF has also made it clear over the weekend that partnered operations between International Security Assistance Force and the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police will continue. So, there have been no changes to those partnered operations, they will continue, they are not affected. And so, International Security Assistance Force partnered operations including partnered operations with Australian

Defence Force personnel with Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police continue. Contrary to some reports, Special Forces operations will continue. That has been made clear by the leadership of ISAF over the weekend. So, Special Forces operations - partnered Special Forces operations will continue.

What is occurring on that front is that ISAF, in conjunction with the Afghan National Security Forces, are checking the vetting status of Afghan Special Forces personnel and Afghan Commandos but operations have not been suspended. So, there'll be some checking of the vetting status of Afghan Special Forces and Commando personnel, but there'll be no suspension of those partnered operations. So at this stage, there is no impact on Australian operations and those operations continue, as I indicated earlier, the task which had previously been set for Australian forces in Uruzgan for this week will continue. The additional task of course, in addition to those tasks previously set, is the partnered operation with Afghan National Security Forces chasing, seeking to locate and find and capture Hek Matullah, the alleged perpetrator of the atrocity last week. So, there's no disturbing of the Australian operations, as I've outlined.

Let me now deal with a statement released by the Palace in Kabul over the weekend with respect to a particular partnered Australian Afghan National Security Force operation. The operation in question was a fully partnered operation with Afghan forces and it had as part of its objective to seek to locate Hek Matullah or to locate insurgents who were suspected of assisting his escape. That fully partnered operation, which was conducted over the weekend, involved some 60 Australian Defence Force personnel and over 80 Afghan National Army personnel. Contrary to suggestions from Afghanistan, that partnered operation was authorised in accordance with the usual and normal procedures. It was authorised in accordance with the usual procedures conducted with the Uruzgan Chief of Police and the Governor of Uruzgan Province. So, the usual processes were followed and that partnered or joint operation was fully authorised in accordance with the usual arrangements.

I'm advised by the Chief of the Defence Force that the outcome of that operation were that two people, who have been confirmed as insurgents, were killed. Any loss of life is of course regrettable, but I'm advised by the Chief of the Defence Force that the two people who were killed have been confirmed as insurgents both by Australian sources and by Afghan sources. Twelve people were detained as a result of that operation. Of the 12 detained, one was a woman; the first such occasion, according to our records, where a woman was detained. Subsequent to the detention of those 12, 11 were subsequently released, and they were released to the satisfaction of Australian personnel who believe there was no evidence warranting their ongoing or continued detention. The 11 who were released included the woman concerned.

The one who was detained who continues to be detained is regarded as an insurgent leader in Afghanistan in Uruzgan Province. And Australian Defence Force personnel in Uruzgan are proceeding on the basis that there is evidence that he sought to assist or did assist Hek Matullah in his escape from Afghan National Security Forces and Australian forces who were pursuing him.

ISAF have verified overnight that ISAF - the International Security Assistance Force - also believes in that analysis and accords with those facts. There are suggestions of ill-treatment of those people who are detained. That is not my advice, and I have very strong advice to the contrary from the Chief of the Defence Force.

Finally, a statement which has been issued by President Karzai's Palace over the weekend in Kabul, that this operation was not authorised is wrong. That is not factually correct, and this point has been made strongly by Australia's Ambassador to Afghanistan, to Palace and Presidential officials, including the National Security Advisor, Mr Spanta. So, the operation in question was fully authorised - was fully partnered, and the outcome of the operation has been the detention of an individual who is regarded not just as a leader of the insurgency in Uruzgan Province, but a person who was also sought to - or actually assisted Hek Matullah in his escape. And our Ambassador in Kabul has made clear to the Palace our disappointment at the statement issued from the palace over the weekend.

Can I very quickly deal with Indonesia, and then I'll happily take your questions. As I've indicated with my two Ministerial colleagues, we'll depart Australia today for a visit to Indonesia. In my own case, I will meet with my Indonesian counterpart, Defence Minister Purnomo. This will be the first formal annual defence ministers dialogue that we conduct with Indonesia. Whilst of course I've met Minister Purnomo on three or four occasions since becoming Defence Minister, in accordance with enhancing our formal defence-to-defence and military-to-military engagement with Indonesia, we have in recent times for the first time effected a so-called two-plus-two meeting: a meeting of Defence and Foreign Ministers, which we did in Canberra earlier this year. And so the purpose of my visit to Indonesia is to engage in that first annual formal dialogue with Minister Purnomo.

Defence Materiel Minister, Jason Clare, will accompany me, and we will discuss with our Indonesian counterparts the potential - the capacity for greater collaboration, greater co-operation so far as defence capability is concerned. And you might recall when the President of Indonesia visited Australia recently in Darwin, we gifted four C-130 aircraft to Indonesia. We'll be accompanied by Transport Minister, Albanese. Minister Albanese will be conducting his third dialogue - his third annual dialogue with his Indonesian counterpart. And we'll also be pursuing with his counterpart a further enhancement to Australia's Indonesia Transport Safety Assistance Package, or ITSAP as it is known.

We'll also be discussing with our Indonesian counterparts whether it is possible for us together to do more on the search and rescue front. You might recall that in conjunction with SBY's visit to Darwin, that Minister Clare and I and our Indonesian counterparts made it clear that as an adjunct to my previously arranged visit to Indonesia, we would discuss with our counterparts, the prospect or the possibility of doing further work on the search and rescue front. Finally, can I just make some remarks about my visit last week to Vietnam. It was not appropriate on my return from Vietnam to deal with these matters, given events in Afghanistan. But can I just place on record that my third visit to Vietnam, my second as Defence Minister, was a very successful and productive visit.

I have agreed with my Vietnamese counterpart that we will pursue annual Defence Ministers' meetings, and I've also invited Vietnamese Minister for Defence Thanh to visit Australia next year to coincide with the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Vietnam.

We've also agreed to enhance our peacekeeping support to Vietnam, our English language and officer training support to Vietnam. And we've also agreed to explore giving Vietnam assistance to remove unexploded ordnance from Vietnamese territory. So, a successful visit to Vietnam enhancing our relations with Vietnam, in what is growing as a very important strategic relationship with Vietnam as Vietnam emerges as one of ASEAN's leaders.

I'm happy to respond to your questions.

JOURNALIST: How do you explain the gap between the view of operations between yourselves, ADF and Karzai?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well as I said, our Ambassador in Afghanistan has made representations to the Palace and put Australia's point of view. And our knowledge and understanding and view of the facts is shared by the International Security Assistance Force, whose leadership has also made representations to the Palace. We're disappointed that there is a misunderstanding, but I don't put it any higher than that. From time to time there are misunderstandings about operations, but we have made our view to the Palace crystal clear. But regrettably from time to time there are misunderstandings. We're disappointed by that, but we are absolutely of the view that the facts as I have outlined them is a correct account of the facts, a correct analysis, and that account is shared by the International Security Assistance Force leadership.

JOURNALIST: Do you have any information about the circumstances around that raid? Were those insurgents firing on Australian troops?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, the advice I have from the Chief of the Defence Force is that two insurgents were killed as a result of an engagement. They've been confirmed as insurgents, not just by Australian sources but also by Afghan sources. Any loss of life is regrettable, but Australian personnel were conducting themselves in accordance with our rules of engagement.

As I've indicated, 12 other people were detained and 11 were subsequently released. Australian Defence Force personnel take very great care - very great care when dealing with these matters, particularly when civilians are involved. But at the end of the day we are very strongly of the view that the operation, a joint authorised, partnered operation with Afghan National Army personnel - some 60 Australian Defence Force personnel, and over 80 Afghan National Army personnel - has seen two insurgents removed from the battlefield, and importantly, an insurgent leader in Uruzgan Province who we believe and have evidence has either sought to or actually assisted Hek Matullah in his escape has been detained-

JOURNALIST: [indistinct]

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, in the normal course of events when there is any suggestion of either ill-treatment or involvement of civilians, Defence conducts a standard process. Firstly there is a quick assessment, and secondly if there is a need, there is a formal investigation. The Chief of the Defence Force has ensured that there has been an exhaustive assessment done over the weekend of the facts and circumstances, and they are as I have outlined. Not only is that Australia's view, that is also the view of the International Security Assistance Force leadership.

JOURNALIST: If they - Hek Matullah was helped by these insurgents, is there a suggestion that he [indistinct]-

STEPHEN SMITH: No, the International Security Assistance Force has made it clear that the view of the person who is being detained is a person who has sought to, or given assistance to, Hek Matullah after the event. In other words, has sought to facilitate his escape from Afghan National Security Forces and Australian forces. Now this is not unusual. When these terrible incidents occur, there is enough information to ISAF and also to Australian forces to draw one to the conclusion that as soon as one of the incidents occurs, the Taliban will seek to facilitate or help the person who has committed the atrocity. And that-

JOURNALIST: You don't believe [indistinct]-

STEPHEN SMITH: -is what has occurred here.

JOURNALIST: You don't believe he [indistinct]-

STEPHEN SMITH: Well as I said last week, we don't have yet a sufficient basis to form a conclusion on that. The best way in which we could form a conclusion on that would be to capture Hek Matullah and to detain him and to interrogate him. But the experience - the terrible experience of 40 to 50 incidents which have occurred over the last two or so years to International Security Assistance Forces generally, and four so far as Australia is concerned, is - it's either a personal dispute, a cultural difference or a genuine insider, effected by the Taliban. The Taliban claim all of them, as you would expect. There is evidence of a small number of incidents where infiltration has occurred.

In the case of the now four incidences where Australians have been killed or wounded, two of the perpetrators are deceased before a chance of interrogation, so we can't come to a conclusion there. One is still on the run - the perpetrator who wounded a number of Australian soldiers. We know that he is outside of our area of operation but is still on the run, and we are in pursuit of Hek Matullah. So, we've come to no conclusion about motivation. But as I've said previously, in these circumstances, often it is very difficult - if not impossible - to come to a conclusion about motivation. But the evidence that the International Security

Assistance Force has, and they've made this clear over the weekend, is evidence of either actually facilitating his escape or seeking to facilitate his escape.

JOURNALIST: When do you expect the bodies of those five Australians to return home?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, I spoke with the Chief of the Defence Force about that this morning. The five bodies are now at our base in Al-Minhad in the United Arab Emirates, and they are scheduled to return to Australia mid-week. There'll be a ramp ceremony at the appropriate base. There's one in Brisbane and one in Richmond, New South Wales.

JOURNALIST: Minister, can you put your finger on anything you think might have been motivated behind the comment by President Karzai today?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, as I say, from time to time there are misunderstandings about operations and when those misunderstandings occur, they're regrettable. But the views, the facts and the analysis is as I have outlined them. And it'll be a matter for the Palace to make any further statements, if it so chooses, or a matter for people to put their questions to the Palace. And I'm sure that'll occur in Kabul in the course of the day.

JOURNALIST: Minister, what response did the Ambassador get when he made representations to the Palace?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, he made strong representations that Australia was disappointed with the statement that had been released. He also made very strong representations about the facts and the circumstances as we and ISAF know them to be. And he made his views on my behalf and upon Australia's behalf crystal clear to the Palace. It's now a matter for the Palace to respond if it so chooses.

JOURNALIST: Do you expect them to correct the record?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, in the end, it'll be a matter for them, but we are proceeding very firmly on the basis which I have outlined.

JOURNALIST: Do expect that this misunderstanding will have practical consequences for the relationship?

STEPHEN SMITH: No, I don't. It - look, as I say, in the past, from time to time, there have been misunderstandings about operations. Those of you who have followed these issues would know that for a long period of time there have been sensitivities and concerns on the part of the Karzai administration and the Afghan authorities about so-called night raids. In more recent times, that has seen memorandums of understanding struck between the United States and Afghanistan and, also, between the International Security Assistance Force and Afghanistan which go to the authorisation and the partnering of those operations. And I again simply say, but say it firmly, that the partnered operation which we engaged in was a partnered operation, and was properly and duly authorised, in accordance with the usual procedures and the usual requirements on the International Security Assistance Force.

JOURNALIST: Is it a case that the people detained had connections to President Karzai, had cultural connections?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, I'm unaware of those and wouldn't go to those. They may come from the same tribal group as President Karzai, but that is not something which is of relevance to Australian forces in making a judgment about detention or otherwise. The advice I have is that 12 people were detained, 11 were subsequently released because there was no evidence to warrant their continued detention. And if you look at the statistics, which I have published in the Parliament on a number of occasions, there are very many

more people who are detained initially who are subsequently released than who are subject to ongoing detention, and that is because there is no evidence to warrant their ongoing detention, and that is what has occurred here, and occurred in a relatively short space of time. But the one person who continues in detention is a person whose circumstances are as I have outlined to you.

JOURNALIST: [indistinct]

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, it's not an issue for Australia, because we don't train Afghan local police forces. And so, that won't have any impact on our operations in Uruzgan Province or elsewhere. From time to time, we do partnered operations out of Uruzgan Province, again, as I've placed on the public record. But it won't have an impact on our operations because we don't train Afghan local police recruits.

JOURNALIST: But did you also say though that vetting was happening with Afghan Special Forces?

STEPHEN SMITH: Yes, what is occurring there is that there is no disturbance to the ongoing Special Forces operations which are joint and partnered between International Security Assistance Forces and Afghan Security Forces. But ISAF, in conjunction with the Afghan National Security Forces are effectively conducting a check of the vetting procedures and arrangements previously put in place and previously conducted for Afghan National Security Force – Special Forces personnel and for Commandos. But, in the meantime, there's no disruption to operations, so far as Special Forces are concerned.

JOURNALIST: What about the local police? You said 1000 of those training had been suspended pending further vetting. Even if it doesn't have an impact on our operations, what about just practically on the ground if you're not having those extra thousand?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, they're recruits, their training has been suspended subject to re-vetting. We would, of course, hope that that vetting occurs in quick order but it won't have any implications for us in Uruzgan Province. And in recent times, over the last 12 months or so, including the last couple of months, a lot of work has gone into the quality of the vetting procedures that have been conducted by the Afghan National Security Forces. They have been substantially improved in recent times, including the use of biometric technology. But I'm not aware as to how long the re-vetting of those thousand will take. But again, I say it won't have any implications for us in Uruzgan.

JOURNALIST: Mr Smith, how do you, sort of, reconcile the public and the family of soldiers who have been killed in Afghanistan that the President of the country now rebukes your troops [indistinct] an operation that's taking part in, and that the people that we're training to protect their country are killing us. How do you reconcile that to the public?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, I-

JOURNALIST: Do you think it's getting beyond the pale now?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, I said last week that I could not envisage worse circumstances for Australian fatalities out of Afghanistan. Firstly, we had two Special Forces personnel killed in a helicopter crash, and Special Forces and helicopters is something which brings a great deal of pain to the Australian Special Force community, both SAS and Commandos. So, that was a terrible reminder, a terrible tragedy for the families concerned, but a terrible reminder of past events.

Secondly, there can be no worse blow to morale than a so-called green on blue incident, where the people who we are trying to help turn on us. So, there's no more significant or deeper blow to morale than that. But again, we have to understand, we're dealing here with a force of between 300,000 to 350,000 Afghan National Security Forces, both Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. And we've had less than

50 such incidents over the last two years. Each one of those is terrible, each one of those is a shattering blow, and each one of those undermines trust and confidence.

But as I said recently to the Parliament, we shouldn't allow these small number of incidents to reflect on our Afghan partners generally, or to reflect upon the vast bulk of the people whom we work closely with every day. And again, the Afghan National Security Force leadership have been as appalled by this as we have been, and they have been very enthusiastic and very positive in their assistance to us, particularly their efforts with us to chase down Hek Matullah.

As I've said, the statement from the Palace over the weekend, which misunderstands the facts of an authorised operation - an authorised joint operation is disappointing. I don't put it any higher than that. And our views have been made crystal clear to the Palace and to the President's officials but there have been misunderstandings about operations in the past and there may well be misunderstandings about operations in the future. From our perspective, we are obliged to follow the procedures laid down by the International Security Assistance Force and any agreement that ISAF has with Afghanistan. And on this occasion, in this case, those procedures were followed., absolutely.

JOURNALIST: Do you see any risk at all [indistinct] the security changes, the vetting changes and the training delays to the timeline for transition?

STEPHEN SMITH: No, we - I've had discussions with the Chief of the Defence Force about this, not just today but over the last few days as you'd expect, and we remain of the view that in Uruzgan we started transition in July of this year. We remain on track to effect that transition over the next 12-18 month period. So, we've always said that whilst we regard ourselves as being on track there will be terrible days, there will be terrible setbacks. We can't lull ourselves into a false sense of security. It will not be plain or easy sailing as the events, the tragic events, the terrible events of last week show.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 10:44 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Foley, Paul
Subject: Transcript of PM and Minister Smith's public comments [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 22(1)(a)(iii) please forward the below email to s 47F(1) noting the Ambassador wanted to draw this information to his attention.

It contains transcripts of Prime Minister Gillard and Defence Minister Smith's public comments today regarding the recent statement from the Palace.

Thank you,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

**PRIME MINISTER GILLARD
TRANSCRIPT OF NATIONAL PRESS CLUB Q&A
CANBERRA
3 SEPTEMBER 2012**

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, Phil Coorey from the Sydney Morning Herald.

Can I ask you about Afghanistan and the deaths of the five soldiers last week and you urged the Australian public to hold our nerve on our commitment there. We have had President Hamid Karzai criticising the Australians, that mission and a conflicting version of events as to the nature of the people we killed on that mission. Are you worried that going to further erode public support for this war, and do you have any plans to speak to President Hamid Karzai in the near future to smooth things over?

PM: Going through it from the top. We work in a close partnership with Afghanistan, with the people of Afghanistan and obviously we work training soldiers for the Afghan National Army. I've met with President Karzai and personally received his condolences when we've lost Australian soldiers and it's been apparent to me in those meetings that he feels those losses very deeply and when I've spoken to him about some of the family circumstances for people we've lost, you could see that hitting him very hard. Now on the recent issue, the view of the Afghan authorities about a recent operation – let me be very, very clear. This was an authorised operation, it was a partnered operation, and it was conducted in accordance with our rules of engagement.

Our ambassador in Kabul has already made representations to the Afghan Government to make those points very clearly.

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

STEPHEN SMITH, MP

TRANSCRIPT: PRESS CONFERENCE

DATE: 3 SEPTEMBER 2012

STEPHEN SMITH:

Well, thank you very much for turning up. Later this morning I'll depart for Indonesia together with Jason Clare, the Minister for Defence Materiel, and the Home Affairs and Justice Minister. And we'll be joined in Indonesia by the Transport Minister, Anthony Albanese, for discussions with our ministerial counterparts.

I'll deal with that shortly but let me first deal with some matters arising from Afghanistan. You'll of course all be aware of the terrible events of last week. I spoke to you about this time on Friday. Since that time Defence have announced the five Australian soldiers who were so terribly killed in action in Afghanistan. Let me just take this, my first opportunity to publicly express my condolences to the families concerned. To the family of Lance Corporal Stjepan Milosevic or Rick Milosevic, as he's known to his family, from Penrith; to Private Robert Poate from Canberra; and to Sapper James Martin based in Perth, and I'll make some remarks about that in a moment.

They were the three soldiers terribly killed in the insider incident or the so-called green on blue incident. My condolences go to their friends, their families and their loved ones. The two Australian soldiers killed in the helicopter crash both Commandos from Holsworthy, both Special Forces personnel, Private Nathanael Galagher from New South Wales and Lance Corporal Mervyn McDonald also West Australian, from Carnarvon, with family in Western Australia. So can I extend again my condolences to those families and to their friends, their mates and their loved ones.

There will of course, in Perth and Western Australia, be particular interest in the terrible fatalities of Mervyn McDonald and also Sapper James Martin. Lance Corporal McDonald grew up in Carnarvon and continues to have family in Western Australia. He of course was recently based at Holsworthy. Sapper James Martin grew up in Perth and, as the local federal member for Perth, I know that in his youth he played local cricket with the Maylands Cricket Club and also played local football with the Bayswater Bears Football Club. So, there'll be a lot of sadness in our local community with young James Martin's death tragically at the young age of 21.

Let me now deal with some of the matters arising from those terrible events last week. Let me firstly deal with issues arising from the so-called green on blue incident. As you'll be aware last week both the Chief of the Defence Force and I indicated that following terrible like events last year Australia had taken additional force protection measures in Afghanistan. Following the events of last week the Chief of the Defence Force and his chain of command have instituted additional force protection measures.

I'm not proposing to go into those details other than to say that additional precautionary measures have been taken. I spoke with the Chief of the Defence Force earlier this morning and he advises me that from today - from Monday morning Afghanistan time in Uruzgan Province, Australian personnel will be conducting the tasks and the operations which had previously been set for them this week. So, their work continues but with those additional force protection measures.

Let me just draw some attention to a number of ISAF decisions that have been made over the weekend and announced, decisions by the International Security Assistance Force, and there's been some reporting of these matters, some has been accurate, some has been inaccurate. I don't say that critically, but let me just place on the record the decisions and the announcement which ISAF have made. And of course these - Australian officials both in Afghanistan and Australia have been made aware of these decisions, so I'll outline the decisions and then reflect upon any implications for Australia.

Firstly the International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, has announced that Afghan local police recruits, new recruits, will no longer be trained pending additional vetting or re-vetting procedures of those Afghan local police recruits. That involves about 1000 new Afghan local police recruits. Australia does not train Afghan local police at all and so this has no impact on Australian operations in Uruzgan province or Afghanistan generally. But that decision has been announced by ISAF over the weekend.

ISAF has also made it clear over the weekend that partnered operations between International Security Assistance Force and the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police will continue. So, there have been no changes to those partnered operations, they will continue, they are not affected. And so, International Security Assistance Force partnered operations including partnered operations with Australian Defence Force personnel with Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police continue. Contrary to some reports, Special Forces operations will continue. That has been made clear by the leadership of ISAF over the weekend. So, Special Forces operations - partnered Special Forces operations will continue.

What is occurring on that front is that ISAF, in conjunction with the Afghan National Security Forces, are checking the vetting status of Afghan Special Forces personnel and Afghan Commandos but operations have not been

suspended. So, there'll be some checking of the vetting status of Afghan Special Forces and Commando personnel, but there'll be no suspension of those partnered operations. So at this stage, there is no impact on Australian operations and those operations continue, as I indicated earlier, the task which had previously been set for Australian forces in Uruzgan for this week will continue. The additional task of course, in addition to those tasks previously set, is the partnered operation with Afghan National Security Forces chasing, seeking to locate and find and capture Hek Matullah, the alleged perpetrator of the atrocity last week. So, there's no disturbing of the Australian operations, as I've outlined.

Let me now deal with a statement released by the Palace in Kabul over the weekend with respect to a particular partnered Australian Afghan National Security Force operation. The operation in question was a fully partnered operation with Afghan forces and it had as part of its objective to seek to locate Hek Matullah or to locate insurgents who were suspected of assisting his escape. That fully partnered operation, which was conducted over the weekend, involved some 60 Australian Defence Force personnel and over 80 Afghan National Army personnel. Contrary to suggestions from Afghanistan, that partnered operation was authorised in accordance with the usual and normal procedures. It was authorised in accordance with the usual procedures conducted with the Uruzgan Chief of Police and the Governor of Uruzgan Province. So, the usual processes were followed and that partnered or joint operation was fully authorised in accordance with the usual arrangements.

I'm advised by the Chief of the Defence Force that the outcome of that operation were that two people, who have been confirmed as insurgents, were killed. Any loss of life is of course regrettable, but I'm advised by the Chief of the Defence Force that the two people who were killed have been confirmed as insurgents both by Australian sources and by Afghan sources. Twelve people were detained as a result of that operation. Of the 12 detained, one was a woman; the first such occasion, according to our records, where a woman was detained. Subsequent to the detention of those 12, 11 were subsequently released, and they were released to the satisfaction of Australian personnel who believe there was no evidence warranting their ongoing or continued detention. The 11 who were released included the woman concerned.

The one who was detained who continues to be detained is regarded as an insurgent leader in Afghanistan in Uruzgan Province. And Australian Defence Force personnel in Uruzgan are proceeding on the basis that there is evidence that he sought to assist or did assist Hek Matullah in his escape from Afghan National Security Forces and Australian forces who were pursuing him.

ISAF have verified overnight that ISAF - the International Security Assistance Force - also believes in that analysis and accords with those facts. There are suggestions of ill-treatment of those people who are detained. That is not my advice, and I have very strong advice to the contrary from the Chief of the Defence Force.

Finally, a statement which has been issued by President Karzai's Palace over the weekend in Kabul, that this operation was not authorised is wrong. That is not factually correct, and this point has been made strongly by Australia's Ambassador to Afghanistan, to Palace and Presidential officials, including the National Security Advisor, Mr Spanta. So, the operation in question was fully authorised - was fully partnered, and the outcome of the operation has been the detention of an individual who is regarded not just as a leader of the insurgency in Uruzgan Province, but a person who was also sought to - or actually assisted Hek Matullah in his escape. And our Ambassador in Kabul has made clear to the Palace our disappointment at the statement issued from the palace over the weekend.

I'm happy to respond to your questions.

JOURNALIST: How do you explain the gap between the view of operations between yourselves, ADF and Karzai?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well as I said, our Ambassador in Afghanistan has made representations to the Palace and put Australia's point of view. And our knowledge and understanding and view of the facts is shared by the International Security Assistance Force, whose leadership has also made representations to the Palace. We're disappointed that there is a misunderstanding, but I don't put it any higher than that. From time to time there are misunderstandings about operations, but we have made our view to the Palace crystal clear. But regrettably from time to time there are misunderstandings. We're disappointed by that, but we are absolutely of the view that the

facts as I have outlined them is a correct account of the facts, a correct analysis, and that account is shared by the International Security Assistance Force leadership.

JOURNALIST: Do you have any information about the circumstances around that raid? Were those insurgents firing on Australian troops?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, the advice I have from the Chief of the Defence Force is that two insurgents were killed as a result of an engagement. They've been confirmed as insurgents, not just by Australian sources but also by Afghan sources. Any loss of life is regrettable, but Australian personnel were conducting themselves in accordance with our rules of engagement.

As I've indicated, 12 other people were detained and 11 were subsequently released. Australian Defence Force personnel take very great care - very great care when dealing with these matters, particularly when civilians are involved. But at the end of the day we are very strongly of the view that the operation, a joint authorised, partnered operation with Afghan National Army personnel - some 60 Australian Defence Force personnel, and over 80 Afghan National Army personnel - has seen two insurgents removed from the battlefield, and importantly, an insurgent leader in Uruzgan Province who we believe and have evidence has either sought to or actually assisted Hek Matullah in his escape has been detained-

JOURNALIST: [indistinct]

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, in the normal course of events when there is any suggestion of either ill-treatment or involvement of civilians, Defence conducts a standard process. Firstly there is a quick assessment, and secondly if there is a need, there is a formal investigation. The Chief of the Defence Force has ensured that there has been an exhaustive assessment done over the weekend of the facts and circumstances, and they are as I have outlined. Not only is that Australia's view, that is also the view of the International Security Assistance Force leadership.

JOURNALIST: If they – Hek Matullah was helped by these insurgents, is there a suggestion that he [indistinct]-

STEPHEN SMITH: No, the International Security Assistance Force has made it clear that the view of the person who is being detained is a person who has sought to, or given assistance to, Hek Matullah after the event. In other words, has sought to facilitate his escape from Afghan National Security Forces and Australian forces. Now this is not unusual. When these terrible incidents occur, there is enough information to ISAF and also to Australian forces to draw one to the conclusion that as soon as one of the incidents occurs, the Taliban will seek to facilitate or help the person who has committed the atrocity. And that-

JOURNALIST: You don't believe [indistinct]-

STEPHEN SMITH: -is what has occurred here.

JOURNALIST: You don't believe he [indistinct]-

STEPHEN SMITH: Well as I said last week, we don't have yet a sufficient basis to form a conclusion on that. The best way in which we could form a conclusion on that would be to capture Hek Matullah and to detain him and to interrogate him. But the experience - the terrible experience of 40 to 50 incidents which have occurred over the last two or so years to International Security Assistance Forces generally, and four so far as Australia is concerned, is - it's either a personal dispute, a cultural difference or a genuine insider, effected by the Taliban. The Taliban claim all of them, as you would expect. There is evidence of a small number of incidents where infiltration has occurred.

In the case of the now four incidences where Australians have been killed or wounded, two of the perpetrators are deceased before a chance of interrogation, so we can't come to a conclusion there. One is still on the run - the perpetrator who wounded a number of Australian soldiers. We know that he is outside of our area of operation but is still on the run, and we are in pursuit of Hek Matullah. So, we've come to no conclusion about motivation. But as I've said previously, in these circumstances, often it is very difficult - if not impossible - to come to a conclusion about motivation. But the evidence that the International Security Assistance Force has, and they've made this clear over the weekend, is evidence of either actually facilitating his escape or seeking to facilitate his escape.

JOURNALIST: When do you expect the bodies of those five Australians to return home?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, I spoke with the Chief of the Defence Force about that this morning. The five bodies are now at our base in Al-Minhad in the United Arab Emirates, and they are scheduled to return to Australia mid-week. There'll be a ramp ceremony at the appropriate base. There's one in Brisbane and one in Richmond, New South Wales.

JOURNALIST: Minister, can you put your finger on anything you think might have been motivated behind the comment by President Karzai today?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, as I say, from time to time there are misunderstandings about operations and when those misunderstandings occur, they're regrettable. But the views, the facts and the analysis is as I have outlined them. And it'll be a matter for the Palace to make any further statements, if it so chooses, or a matter for people to put their questions to the Palace. And I'm sure that'll occur in Kabul in the course of the day.

JOURNALIST: Minister, what response did the Ambassador get when he made representations to the Palace?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, he made strong representations that Australia was disappointed with the statement that had been released. He also made very strong representations about the facts and the circumstances as we and ISAF know them to be. And he made his views on my behalf and upon Australia's behalf crystal clear to the Palace. It's now a matter for the Palace to respond if it so chooses.

JOURNALIST: Do you expect them to correct the record?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, in the end, it'll be a matter for them, but we are proceeding very firmly on the basis which I have outlined.

JOURNALIST: Do expect that this misunderstanding will have practical consequences for the relationship?

STEPHEN SMITH: No, I don't. It - look, as I say, in the past, from time to time, there have been misunderstandings about operations. Those of you who have followed these issues would know that for a long period of time there have been sensitivities and concerns on the part of the Karzai administration and the Afghan authorities about so-called night raids. In more recent times, that has seen memorandums of understanding struck between the United States and Afghanistan and, also, between the International Security Assistance Force and Afghanistan which go to the authorisation and the partnering of those operations. And I again simply say, but say it firmly, that the partnered operation which we engaged in was a partnered operation, and was properly and duly authorised, in accordance with the usual procedures and the usual requirements on the International Security Assistance Force.

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STEPHEN SMITH: Well, it's not an issue for Australia, because we don't train Afghan local police forces. And so, that won't have any impact on our operations in Uruzgan Province or elsewhere. From time to time, we do

partnered operations out of Uruzgan Province, again, as I've placed on the public record. But it won't have an impact on our operations because we don't train Afghan local police recruits.

JOURNALIST: But did you also say though that vetting was happening with Afghan Special Forces?

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JOURNALIST: What about the local police? You said 1000 of those training had been suspended pending further vetting. Even if it doesn't have an impact on our operations, what about just practically on the ground if you're not having those extra thousand?

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JOURNALIST: Do you think it's getting beyond the pale now?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, I said last week that I could not envisage worse circumstances for Australian fatalities out of Afghanistan. Firstly, we had two Special Forces personnel killed in a helicopter crash, and Special Forces and helicopters is something which brings a great deal of pain to the Australian Special Force community, both SAS and Commandos. So, that was a terrible reminder, a terrible tragedy for the families concerned, but a terrible reminder of past events.

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any agreement that ISAF has with Afghanistan. And on this occasion, in this case, those procedures were followed., absolutely.

JOURNALIST: Do you see any risk at all [indistinct] the security changes, the vetting changes and the training delays to the timeline for transition?

STEPHEN SMITH: No, we - I've had discussions with the Chief of the Defence Force about this, not just today but over the last few days as you'd expect, and we remain of the view that in Uruzgan we started transition in July of this year. We remain on track to effect that transition over the next 12-18 month period. So, we've always said that whilst we regard ourselves as being on track there will be terrible days, there will be terrible setbacks. We can't lull ourselves into a false sense of security. It will not be plain or easy sailing as the events, the tragic events, the terrible events of last week show.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Bird, Gillian; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Merrifield, Simon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Foley, Paul
Cc: Media
Subject: RE: PRIME MINISTER - TRANSCRIPT - NATIONAL PRESS CLUB Q&A - CANBERRA - 3 SEPTEMBER 2012 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 9:39 AM
To: Merrill, Jon <Jon.Merrill@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Bird, Gillian <Gillian.Bird@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Merrifield, Simon <Simon.Merrifield@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au!; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Foley, Paul <Paul.Foley@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: PRIME MINISTER - TRANSCRIPT - NATIONAL PRESS CLUB Q&A - CANBERRA - 3 SEPTEMBER 2012 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

In case you haven't seen already, the Prime Minister was asked about President Karzai's criticism of Australian forces today. Please find below a transcript of the Q&A:

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, Phil Coorey from the Sydney Morning Herald.

Can I ask you about Afghanistan and the deaths of the five soldiers last week and you urged the Australian public to hold our nerve on our commitment there.

We have had President Hamid Karzai criticising the Australians, that mission and a conflicting version of events as to the nature of the people we killed on that mission.

Are you worried that going to further erode public support for this war, and do you have any plans to speak to President Hamid Karzai in the near future to smooth things over?

PM: Going through it from the top. We work in a close partnership with Afghanistan, with the people of Afghanistan and obviously we work training soldiers for the Afghan National Army.

I've met with President Karzai and personally received his condolences when we've lost Australian soldiers and it's been apparent to me in those meetings that he feels those losses very deeply and when I've spoken to him about some of the family circumstances for people we've lost, you could see that hitting him very hard.

Now on the recent issue, the view of the Afghan authorities about a recent operation – let me be very, very clear. This was an authorised operation, it was a partnered operation, and it was conducted in accordance with our rules of engagement.

Our ambassador in Kabul has already made representations to the Afghan Government to make those points very clearly.

From: s 47F(1) @pm.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 4:05 PM

Subject: PRIME MINISTER - TRANSCRIPT - NATIONAL PRESS CLUB Q&A - CANBERRA - 3 SEPTEMBER 2012
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF NATIONAL PRESS CLUB Q&A
CANBERRA
3 SEPTEMBER 2012

Subjects: s22(1)(a)(ii) ; Deaths of soldiers in Afghanistan; s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, Phil Coorey from the Sydney Morning Herald.

Can I ask you about Afghanistan and the deaths of the five soldiers last week and you urged the Australian public to hold our nerve on our commitment there.

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Our ambassador in Kabul has already made representations to the Afghan Government to make those points very clearly.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 8:26 AM
To: peter.short@^{s 47E(d)}defence.gov.au; s 47F(1)
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Australian MinDef and PM comments on Presidential statement
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b), s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 3:28 PM
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: s 47F(1) Foley, Paul
Subject: Media interview by Australian PM Gillard [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Sirs,

My Ambassador asked me to send you the below transcript of PM Gillard's recent interview with the (Australian) ABC 7.30 News program.

The PM was asked about Afghanistan, but the issue of President Karzai's statement was not raised.

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Second Secretary (Political)
Australian Embassy, Kabul
Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Email s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

PRIME MINISTER GILLARD
TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH LEIGH SALES
ABC 7:30
3 SEPTEMBER 2012

HOST: Prime Minister, I'd like to turn to the war in Afghanistan.

Given that Afghanistan is unlikely to look substantially different in 18 months, why are you continuing to risk the lives of young Australian men?

PM: Because we have a mission, we've got a job to do and we're doing it on the timetable that we know it takes.

HOST: Can you give me that mission in one sentence, please?

PM: Yes I can, we went to Afghanistan to deny terrorists a safe haven for training; we will leave Afghanistan when we have acquitted our mission of training local Afghan people so they can provide security for their own nation that is, that they can prevent their nation once again becoming home to terrorist training.

HOST: In terms of denying terrorists a safe haven in Afghanistan, if we look, for example, at the Bali bombers, they trained substantially in the Philippines, in Indonesia, in Pakistan; yet we're not at war in those countries?

PM: And Leigh if you want to go through the history here, the bomb maker trained in Afghanistan. There was contact between people involved in that Bali bombing and terrorist training in

Afghanistan. We lost lives when the towers came down in New York. Contact between that event and terrorist training in Afghanistan.

We know al-Qaeda had free range there and we know that al-Qaeda was motivated to take the lives of westerners, including the lives of Australians. These are facts that cannot be denied.

HOST: But when you talk about this mission, I'm trying to get to what are we actually achieving now.

If you look for example at the latest State Department report on global terrorism, it makes it perfectly clear that al-Qaeda these days is headquartered in Pakistan, so is Afghanistan really the grave threat to Australian national security that the government makes it out to be or does the threat to Australia lie elsewhere?

PM: The al-Qaeda leadership has been significantly degraded not only by the work that is being done by ISAF in Afghanistan, but of course, we've seen Osama bin Laden killed, and a significant number of key al-Qaeda operatives are no longer in business, many of them dead.

This job of making sure we keep Australians safe from the evil of terrorism will have to continue beyond the mission in Afghanistan. But Leigh, that's not an argument that says down tools on that mission.

HOST: Let me come at it from the other end. If the mission is so important as you make out, why aren't we committing more troops and why aren't we prepared to stay longer than 2014 given the state that Afghanistan's in?

PM: We have got the numbers there that our CDF – the Chief of our Defence Force tells me is right to do the job. You obviously wouldn't put in extra men beyond what is required to do the job.

He's given me advice on what the number is and that's the number that's there. The timeline is an internationally agreed timeline. We agree that working with our NATO-ISAF partners, that is, all of the nations who have gone in to Afghanistan.

We have an agreed timetable for transition, agreed internationally.

HOST: Given what Afghanistan looks like today and what it's likely to look like when we do withdraw, have our achievements in Afghanistan honestly been worth the lives of 38 Australian soldiers?

PM: We went there for the right reason. We are acquitting an important mission in our national interest.

Every life, every life lost hits us hard. It's a tragedy for our nation and particularly a tragedy for the families who lose loved ones and I have spoken to a couple of them over the last few days and I will speak to more Australians who've lost their loved ones in the days to come, and Leigh I will end up at a number of funerals as well.

So I know about the cost. I've looked in people's eyes at those funerals, I have seen them wipe the tears away. I'm not in any denial about the cost. I have felt it.

But for our nation, in our national interest, it was right to go, and it's right to stay there to get the job done.

That's a tough call but it's the call I have made and the government's made and it's the right call.

HOST: Prime Minister thank you very much.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1) @pm.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 1:33 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au'; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@defence.gov.au; Merrill, Jon; Philip, Bernard; Foley, Paul
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: PRIME MINISTER - TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH LEIGH SALES - ABC 7:30 - 3 SEPTEMBER 2012 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Paul

More on Afghanistan but not, interestingly enough, on Karzai's statement.

s 47F(1)

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 8:22 PM
Subject: PRIME MINISTER - TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH LEIGH SALES - ABC 7:30 - 3 SEPTEMBER 2012 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH LEIGH SALES
ABC 7:30
3 SEPTEMBER 2012

E & O E – PROOF ONLY

Subject: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Afghanistan

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

HOST: Prime Minister, I'd like to turn to the war in Afghanistan.

Given that Afghanistan is unlikely to look substantially different in 18 months, why are you continuing to risk the lives of young Australian men?

PM: Because we have a mission, we've got a job to do and we're doing it on the timetable that we know it takes.

HOST: Can you give me that mission in one sentence, please?

PM: Yes I can, we went to Afghanistan to deny terrorists a safe haven for training; we will leave Afghanistan when we have acquitted our mission of training local Afghan people so they can provide security for their own nation that is, that they can prevent their nation once again becoming home to terrorist training.

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That's a tough call but it's the call I have made and the government's made and it's the right call.

HOST: Prime Minister thank you very much.

PM: Thanks Leigh.

[ENDS]

IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2012 6:08 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Media; s 47F(1) ; Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Foley, Paul;
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Hamid Karzai - Canberra Times [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: President Karzai statement on Australian Troop Deaths.pdf

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

President Karzai released a statement on 30 August (attached). In addition, the Afghan Foreign Minister and acting Defence Minister wrote to their Australian counterparts about the deaths last week, and verbal condolences were conveyed to our Embassy in Kabul by the Palace and Foreign Ministry officials.

President Karzai and other Afghan officials have in the past expressed sympathy for Australian deaths.

Regards
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director
Afghanistan Domestic Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Tel: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2012 12:01 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Media; s 47F(1)
Subject: FW: Hamid Karzai - Canberra Times [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

As discussed.

Thanks

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2012 10:56 AM
To: Media
Cc: s 47F(1)
Subject: Hamid Karzai - Canberra Times

Dear Media Information Officer,

I write a column for the Sunday Canberra Times. I would like to know if President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan sent any statement of condolence or sympathy to the Australian Government or ministers following the deaths of the five Australian soldiers last week?

Has he expressed sympathy in the past, or issued statements in the past expressing sympathy for Australian deaths?

Regards

s 47F(1)



جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
ریاست مطبوعات
دفتر سخنگوی رئیس جمهور

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
د مطبوعاتو ریاست
د جمهور رئیس دو یانډ دفتر

www.president.gov.af

President Karzai Saddened by Australian Soldiers Death

August 30, 2012

President Hamid Karzai was deeply saddened when he learned that five Australian soldiers were killed and injured in the province of Uruzgan.

As per the information by the Governor's Office, an individual wearing Afghan army uniform opened fire and shot three Australian soldiers dead and two others injured in a military unit in Surkh Rez district of Uruzgan province.

President Karzai, currently on an official trip to Iran to attend the 16th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, strongly condemned the shooting and stressed that "such actions are carried out by those who do not want to see Afghanistan have a strong and trained Force."

The President described the acts to target foreign forces "a malicious design by elements intent upon engendering distrust between Afghan forces and their international partners."

It is noted that over the past three decades to today, there are foreign circles that have continually tried to impede Afghanistan from getting back on its own feet and from having a strong army.

For further information, please contact:

Office of the Spokesperson to the President of Afghanistan,

Tel.: +93 (20) 210 2853

+93 (20) 210 3705

president.pressoffice@gmail.com

www.president.gov.af

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2012 5:57 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: Hamid Karzai - Canberra Times [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

s 33(b) . s 47F(1) wrote to me

s 47F(1)

I told the afghans the media will be ugly and they get that

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 12:19 PM
To: Foley, Paul; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Hamid Karzai - Canberra Times [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Paul, ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}

We can refer the reporter to Karzai's 30 Aug statement and mention that the Afghan Foreign and Defence Ministers have sent letters of condolence. Anything else?

In relation to previous Australian deaths, the answer would probably be that it varies from case to case: sometimes Afghan Ministers write to their Australian counterparts; sometimes they express condolences in person when meeting with Australian Ministers; possibly Karzai has issued a statement in the past (we'll check).

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2012 12:01 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Media; s 47F(1)
Subject: FW: Hamid Karzai - Canberra Times [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}

As discussed.

Thanks

s22(1)(a)(i)

From: s 47F(1)

Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2012 10:56 AM

To: Media

Cc: s 47F(1)

Subject: Hamid Karzai - Canberra Times

Dear Media Information Officer,

I write a column for the Sunday Canberra Times. I would like to know if President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan sent any statement of condolence or sympathy to the Australian Government or ministers following the deaths of the five Australian soldiers last week?

Has he expressed sympathy in the past, or issued statements in the past expressing sympathy for Australian deaths?

Regards

s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Merrifield, Simon
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 10:19 PM
To: Foley, Paul; s 47F(1) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Bird, Gillian; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au'; Media; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@defence.gov.au'
Subject: RE: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Talking Points [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

All - There was a piece on the Karzai statement on the 5 am bulletin on ABC RN; no ref to the ISAF statement.
Simon

Simon Merrifield
Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary and Media Branch
DFAT

Sent with Good on a mobile device

-----Original Message-----

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Monday, September 03, 2012 12:35 AM AUS Eastern Standard Time
To: s 47F(1) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Bird, Gillian; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au'; Media; Merrifield, Simon;
s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au'
Subject: RE: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Talking Points [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 47F(1)

The TPs have been updated as requested below. There is an accompanying cable coming.

s 33(a)(iii)

Paul

Talking Points

- . The statement is wrong in claiming that the operation was not approved by Afghan provincial authorities or that it was not fully partnered with Afghan forces.
- . Australian Special Forces undertook a fully partnered operation with Afghan forces in Uruzgan on the night of 31 August as part of the ongoing hunt for the suspected killer of three Australian soldiers.
 - 60 ADF and 81 Afghan security force members took part

- . Consistent with the normal arrangements between Afghanistan and ISAF the operation was approved in advance by Uruzgan's Provincial Governor and Police Chief.
- . An ISAF statement on the operation contradicts the statement and notes that the successful operation was fully planned and executed with Afghan partners.
- . The Australian Ambassador has underlined our strong disappointment with the timing and content of the statement with the Afghan authorities s 33(a)(iii)

- . COMISAF has also made similar points to the Afghan Government

If asked: Casualties in the operation

- . In the operation two people were killed and 12 detained, one of whom is known to be an insurgent facilitator
 - of the 12 people detained 11 have now been released.
 - Two insurgents were killed, believed to be in their early 30s and mid 50s respectively.
- . While any loss of life is regrettable, both men were known insurgents taking direct part in hostilities and were engaged by Australian forces in accordance with their rules of engagement.
- . ISAF has noted that the operation captured an insurgent leader confirmed to be an IED emplacer and involved the kidnapping and murder of Afghan citizens. He was also attempting to support and move the 'insider threat' shooter who killed the three Australian soldiers on 29 august.

If asked: Why does the Afghan Government deny that it approved the operation?

- That question should be directed to the Afghan Government.

s 33(a)(iii)

Paul Foley
Ambassador
Australian Embassy, Kabul
Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Personal Assistant s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1) @pm.gov.au]
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 11:54 AM
To: Foley, Paul; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Bird, Gillian; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ;s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au'; Media; Merrifield, Simon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au'
Subject: Re: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thnks Paul. Can you also send updated talking points at the end of your day.

Ta

s 47F(1)

Senior Adviser, International | Office of the Prime Minister

From: Foley, Paul [mailto:Paul.Foley@dfat.gov.au]
Sent: Sunday, September 02, 2012 05:00 PM
To: s 47F(1) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Jon Merrill; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Gillian Bird; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>;
s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au' s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Merrifield, Simon
<Simon.Merrifield@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 47F(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

PF

Paul Foley
Ambassador
Australian Embassy, Kabul
Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Personal Assistant s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1) @pm.gov.au
Sent: Sunday, 2 September 2012 3:21 AM
To: Foley, Paul; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Merrill, Jon; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Bird, Gillian; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au'; Media; Merrifield, Simon; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Paul

s 33(a)(iii), s 47C(1)

The PM is not doing any media today but she has a press club engagement tomorrow (Monday) at lunchtime and has asked to be fully updated in the morning.

s 47F(1)

Senior Adviser, International | Office of the Prime Minister

From: Foley, Paul [mailto:Paul.Foley@dfat.gov.au]
Sent: Sunday, September 02, 2012 05:23 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Jon Merrill; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Gillian Bird; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47F(1) ; s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au) s 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Merrifield, Simon <Simon.Merrifield@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Karzai Criticism of Australian forces: Points for Minister Carr [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Below are suggested points for the Minister on this for media. We have worked up with the ADF in theatre.

Paul Foley
Ambassador Kabul

President Karzai's press statement condemning an operation by Australian troops

Talking Points

- Australian Special Forces undertook a joint operation with Afghan forces in Uruzgan on the night of 1 September as part of the ongoing hunt for the suspected killer of three Australian soldiers.
- In line with the normal arrangements between Afghanistan and ISAF on special operations the operation was approved in advance by Uruzgan's Provincial Governor and Police Chief.
- The statement from the Palace is wrong in its claim that the operation was not approved by Afghan provincial authorities, or the implication that it was not partnered with Afghan forces.
- The Australian Ambassador has underlined our strong disappointment on the statement to the Afghan authorities s 33(a)(iii)
- ISAF has refuted the statement in very strong terms in its own release - noting the operation was fully partnered, planned and executed with Afghan partners.

If asked: Casualties in the operations

- Confirm that as part of this operation, two people were killed and 12 detained, one of whom is known to be an insurgent facilitator
- of the 12 people detained 11 have now been released.
- Two insurgents were killed, believed to be in their early 30s and mid 50s respectively.
- While any loss of life is regrettable, I understand both men were known insurgents. Both were taking direct part in hostilities and were engaged by Australian forces in accordance with their rules of engagement.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Foley, Paul
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2012 7:44 PM
To: Merrill, Jon; s 47F(1)
Subject: Fw: (U) TOLO: Karzai's Condemnation of Night Raid Criticised by Afghan Political Parties [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

----- Original Message -----

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 02:37 AM
To: Foley, Paul
Subject: FW: (U) TOLO: Karzai's Condemnation of Night Raid Criticised by Afghan Political Parties

See below - s 33(a)(iii)

s 47F(1)

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: 04 September 2012 20:41
To: s 47F(1)
Subject: FW: (U) TOLO: Karzai's Condemnation of Night Raid Criticised by Afghan Political Parties

Gents: for your awareness. This story is about Afghan politicians criticizing Karzai for his reaction to the Uruzgan issue.

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 7:01 PM
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: s 47F(1)

Subject: (U) TOLO: Karzai's Condemnation of Night Raid Criticised by Afghan Political Parties

UNCLASSIFIED

<http://tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/7459-karzais-condemnation-of-night-raid-criticised-by-afghan-political-parties>

Karzai's Condemnation of Night Raid Criticised by Afghan Political Parties

Tuesday, 04 September 2012 18:16

Written by Shakeela Abrahamkhil

Afghan political figures criticised President Hamid Karzai's condemnation of the night raid involving Australian forces in Uruzgan province, saying that his public stance would turn off the international community.

Some of the country's major political parties said Karzai risked disheartening the foreigners and criticised him for having double standards in his reaction to such events.

According to those who spoke to TOLONews, Karzai appeared to position himself against the foreign forces, but rarely takes as strong a stance on the attacks from other non-friendly groups.

Spokesperson of the National Coalition Party Sayed Aqa Fazel Sancharaki said that the President lacked the same resolve when it comes to fighting the extremist militants in Afghanistan.

"The President's comments show a lack of strict decision against fighting insurgency extremism in the country -- he does not want to solve these problems fundamentally," Sancharaki said.

Truth and Justice Party spokesperson Hamidull Farouqi said he believes that Karzai was attempting to curry personal favour through such a statement, rather than look after the country's interests.

"The president's behavior was for personal reasons and based on his own emotions, which saddens us. The President should prefer to act in the national interest and not negotiations on his personal interests."

Karzai released a statement Saturday condemning the "unilateral military operation conducted by Australian troops" as a breach of the special operations agreement signed with Nato in April which gave Afghans oversight of the controversial night raids.

It said the President has ordered an "all-out probe" into the operation that killed a 70-year old man Haji Raz Mohammad and his 30 year-old son Abdul Jalil.

Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith on Monday rejected Karzai's statement saying his understanding that it was a unilateral operation was wrong.

"The statement that has been issued by President Karzai's palace over the weekend in Kabul that this operation was not authorised is wrong," he said at a press conference.

Smith confirmed that two men - who he said were insurgents - had been killed, and a third man was detained during the raid. The man in custody is suspected of having helped or sought to help the Afghan soldier, Hekmatullah, who shot at Australian troops last week, killing three and wounding two.

"The outcome of the operation has been the detention of an individual who is regarded not just as a leader of the insurgency in Uruzgan province but a person who has also sought to or actually assisted Hekmatullah in his escape," Smith told reporters.

Isaf also defended the operation.

"The operation was planned and executed in coordination with Afghan officials including approval by the Uruzgan provincial governor," Isaf told TOLONews Sunday.

Five Australian soldiers died last week in two incidents - the first took place at a base in Uruzgan province on Wednesday night when Hekmatullah killed the three Australian soldiers. Then hours later, two Australian soldiers died and a crew member was wounded when their helicopter rolled over while landing in Helmand province.

Australia has around 1,500 troops in Afghanistan, most of them based in Uruzgan.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 2:27 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Australia Rejects Karzai's Comments over Uruzgan Night Raid

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi ^{s22(1)(a)(ii)}

FYI

Best Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Embassy
Kabul Afghanistan
Tel s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Email: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 1:07 PM
To: Foley, Paul; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Australia Rejects Karzai's Comments over Uruzgan Night Raid

Hi Ambassador

The Tolo News reported the following News

The Australian government rejected Afghan President Hamid Karzai's statement condemning a night raid in southern Uruzgan province which left two men dead.

Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith on Monday told reporters that Karzai's statement on the military operation was wrong.

"The statement that has been issued by President Karzai's palace over the weekend in Kabul that this operation was not authorised is wrong," he said at a press conference.

Karzai released a statement Saturday condemning the "unilateral military operation conducted by Australian troops" as a breach of the special operations agreement signed with Nato in April which gave Afghans oversight of the controversial night raids.

It said the President has ordered an "all-out probe" into the operation that killed a 70-year old man Haji Raz Mohammad and his 30 year-old son Abdul Jalil.

However, Smith said there had been a "misunderstanding".

"That is not factually correct, and this point has been made strongly by Australia's ambassador to Afghanistan to palace and presidential officials," he said.

Smith confirmed that two men - who he said were insurgents - had been killed, and a third detained during the raid.

The man in custody is suspected of having helped or sought to help the Afghan soldier, Hekmatullah, who shot at Australian troops last week, killing three and wounding two.

"The outcome of the operation has been the detention of an individual who is regarded not just as a leader of the insurgency in Uruzgan province but a person who has also sought to or actually assisted Hekmatullah in his escape," Smith told reporters.

Isaf also defended the operation.

"The operation was planned and executed in coordination with Afghan officials including approval by the Uruzgan provincial governor," Isaf told TOLONews Sunday.

Five Australian soldiers were killed last week in two incidents within less than 24 hours.

The first incident took place at a base in Uruzgan province on Wednesday night, when Hekmatullah killed the three Australian soldiers.

Hours later, two Australian soldiers died and a crew member was wounded when their helicopter rolled over while landing in Helmand province.

Australia has around 1,500 troops in Afghanistan, most of them based in Uruzgan.

Best Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Embassy
Kabul Afghanistan

Tel: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Email: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)
Sent: (ii) Wednesday, 5 September 2012 1:26 PM
To: Foley, Paul; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: President Karzai Calls Attacks on Innocent Civilians as "Massacre of Muslims"
Attachments: President Karzai Calls Attacks on Innocent Civilians as "Massacre of Muslims".doc

From: President Press Office [mailto:president.pressoffice@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 September 2012 2:37 PM
To: President Press Office
Subject: President Karzai Calls Attacks on Innocent Civilians as "Massacre of Muslims"

President Karzai Calls Attacks on Innocent Civilians as "Massacre of Muslims"

September 5, 2012

Following yesterday's suicide bombing that ruthlessly killed and injured many innocent people in Dur Ba Ba district in Nangerhar province, President Hamid Karzai spoke this morning on the phone with the district governor Haji Hamisha Gul and expressed his condolences and sympathies over the loss of the sub-governor's son and many other innocent civilians killed and injured in Tuesday's bombing.

Deeply grieved by the incident, the President described the terrorist attacks, now increasingly targeting innocent civilians, as acts intended to "massacre Muslims".

Governor Gul briefed the President on further details into the incident, which he described a mass slaughter of innocent Muslims who had gathered for an Islamic ceremony.

The President said, "The enemy of Islam and of Afghanistan must understand that they will never succeed by pressuring the public through such brutal acts of terror to achieve their heinous goals, but rather would further embolden the people's determination in serving their country and their religion."

President Karzai instructed the Army Chief of Staff to transport to Kabul the injured for better medical care and directed the provincial governor to reach the families of the victims and the wounded with relief assistance.

--

News Unit,

Office of the Spokesperson to the President of Afghanistan,

Presidential Palace (Arg), Kabul

s 47F(1)

www.president.gov.af



جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
ریاست مطبوعات
دفتر سخنگوی رئیس جمهور

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
د مطبوعاتو ریاست
د جمهور رئیس دویاند دفتر

www.president.gov.af

President Karzai Calls Attacks on Innocent Civilians as “Massacre of Muslims”

September 5, 2012

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The President said, “The enemy of Islam and of Afghanistan must understand that they will never succeed by pressuring the public through such brutal acts of terror to achieve their heinous goals, but rather would further embolden the people’s determination in serving their country and their religion.”

President Karzai instructed the Army Chief of Staff to transport to Kabul the injured for better medical care and directed the provincial governor to reach the families of the victims and the wounded with relief assistance.

For further information, please contact:

Office of the Spokesperson to the President of Afghanistan,

s 47F(1)

www.president.gov.af



Subject: **Deaths of Australian soldiers in Afghanistan**

Date/Version: 30 August 2012 / Version 1

Talking Points

- . Deepest sympathies and condolences go to the families and loved ones of the five Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel killed in the two tragic incidents overnight and this morning
 - our thoughts are with the two wounded soldiers and their families.
- . Condemn the senseless killing of three Australian soldiers
 - as the Prime Minister said, this attack will not weaken Australia's resolve to see through the mission in Afghanistan.
- . Australia remains committed to credible, sustainable and irreversible transition in Afghanistan
 - to ensure Afghanistan's long-term stability and to deny sanctuary to terrorists
 - : and to completing our role of supporting transition in Uruzgan Province to Afghan security lead by the end of 2014.
 - a key part of ensuring transition is effective and sustainable in the long-term is that Australian forces work closely with Afghan forces to train them and develop their capability.
- . The 'insider threat' is a serious concern and the safety of ADF and Australian Government personnel remains the Government's highest priority in Afghanistan
 - measures in place to reduce the risk to ADF personnel from such attacks
 - these are in excess of the ISAF measures in place.
- . Australia and its ISAF partners have strongly pressed our Afghan partners on the importance of implementing rigorous recruitment measures to mitigate the risk of infiltration
 - like us, President Obama, Commander ISAF [*General Allen*] and NATO's Secretary General [*Anders Fogh Rasmussen*] are focused on minimising this threat
 - : an awful occurrence regrettably suffered by other ISAF partners [*US, UK, and France*].
- . Afghan soldiers with whom we operate closely have also been victims of these attacks.

If asked

There has been an upswing of 'insider attacks' this year, does it signal insurgents infiltrating the ANSF in greater numbers?

- . Circumstances behind this particular attack have not yet been established and cannot speculate on motives.
- . The motivations behind other 'insider attacks' have been attributed to a combination of factors, including cultural differences, personal grievances, and in some cases infiltration and coercion
 - as a number of perpetrators have either escaped or been killed, their motivations cannot always be ascertained and accurate statistics cannot be provided.

Women and girls / human rights

- . The Government places a high priority on supporting women’s rights in Afghanistan
 - through our Embassy in Kabul, we regularly monitor and conduct advocacy on women’s issues, and will continue to do so following transition
 - Prime Minister Gillard recently signed with President Karzai a Long-Term Comprehensive Partnership between Australia and Afghanistan which reaffirms, at the highest level, our two governments’ commitment “to promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan”.

- . Enhancing gender equality and protecting the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan is a key component of our aid program
 - at the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan (9 July), Australia committed \$17.7 million to help eliminate violence against women in Afghanistan, through programs assisting to change community attitudes towards violence against women
 - Australia has provided \$2.5 million to date (with another \$2 million pledged over the next two years) to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, which promotes and protects women’s rights which promotes and protects women’s rights through advocacy, training and education
 - AusAID has committed \$36 million to the Children of Uruzgan program run by Save the Children, which aims to enhance the access to quality basic health (including maternal and child health) and education services for children and their families in Uruzgan province. The program supports an estimated population of 300,000 beneficiaries, with a particular focus on women and girls and those in remote and underserviced communities.

- . While the situation in Afghanistan remains very difficult, there has been significant improvement in the lives of women and girls since the fall of the Taliban regime
 - over two and a half million Afghan girls are attending school, compared to virtually none in 2001
 - : women are also now elected to parliament, and a quota for the number of female MPs in both houses of parliament has been introduced, and in elections in 2010, the number of women MPs elected surpassed the quota
 - : these are important steps forward and represent gains for women and girls which we do not wish to see regress following the drawdown of the international military presence.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

Approval

Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii), SMD/PAB/AFD, s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Jon Merrill, AS PAB, x s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Consultation	(list other divisions, agencies)

ONCE CLEARED TPS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO RELEVANT MEDIA AND POLICY ADVISERS IN THE
 MINISTERS' OFFICES AND TO THE MEDIA LIAISON SECTION (s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au). THE
 TEXT OF ALL TPS SHOULD BE CUT AND PASTED ON THE EMAIL TO ASSIST BLACKBERRY USERS.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

MEDIA TALKING POINTS

Subject: Afghanistan: announcement of New Zealand's withdrawal from Bamyan province.

Date/Version: 4 September 2012 / Version 2

Talking Points

- . Like Australia, the New Zealand Government has confirmed that it remains committed to the transition strategy agreed by NATO and ISAF leaders in Chicago in May
- . Important to remember that transition is a phased process
 - New Zealand's decision to withdraw its Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) from Bamyan Province by April 2013 aligns with the ISAF transition timetable and Bamyan's inclusion in the first tranche of provinces to transition
 - : as well as the planned closure of other PRTs in Regional Command-East at that time
 - the decision was taken in close consultation with the Afghan Government and ISAF headquarters.
- . Logistically, it also makes sense for New Zealand to complete its transition ahead of planned upgrades to Bamyan Airport *runway* starting in April
 - these upgrades are a priority for the Provincial Government, but will render the airport inoperable to heavy aircraft.
- . Australia remains committed to credible, sustainable and irreversible transition in Afghanistan
 - Australia will remain in Uruzgan province until the transition process is complete there
 - the details of Australia's transition planning will evolve in consultation with our Afghan and international partners
 - we have confidence in the ability of the Afghan National Army 4th Brigade to assume security responsibility across Uruzgan in 2013.

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

Approval

Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii), SMD/PAB/AFI, x ^{s22(1)(a)(ii)}
Cleared by	Jon Merrill, AS PAB, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Afghanistan: Australian troop deaths: President Karzai's statement
MRN: s 47E(d) 30/08/2012 04:54:08 PM ZE4B
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Afghanistan Pakistan Posts
From: Kabul
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: The cable has the following attachment/s -
President Karzai statement on Australian Troop Deaths.pdf
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

President Karzai has released a statement saying he was deeply saddened to hear about the death of five Australian soldiers in two separate incidents on 29 August. A press release from the President's Office strongly condemned the shooting and stressed 'such actions are carried out by those who do not want to see Afghanistan have a strong and trained force'. The President, who is in Iran for the Non-Aligned Movement Summit, described the incident as 'a malicious design by elements intent upon engendering distrust between Afghan forces and their international partners'. Full text attached.

text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Prepared by:
Approved by: HOM
Topics: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY/Defence Policy, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political
▼ New Distribution

s 47E(d)

Title: Afghanistan: Presidential nominations for Cabinet
MRN: s 47E(d) 03/09/2012 05:11:23 PM ZE4B
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Afghanistan Pakistan Posts
From: Kabul
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References:
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

President Karzai has announced his nominations for key Cabinet positions. The former Minister of Interior, Bismillah Mohammadi Khan has been nominated as Minister of Defence; General Mujtaba Patang as Minister of Interior; Asadullah Khalid as the Director General of the National Directorate of Security; and Haji Din Mohammad as Minister for Border and Tribal Affairs. The nominees are acting pending parliamentary approval.

On the evening of 2 September, the Palace announced President Karzai's nominations for four Cabinet positions. There were no real surprises amongst the nominations which confirm widespread media speculation. The nominees will act in the roles pending parliamentary approval.

2. The former Minister of Interior, Bismillah Mohammadi Khan, was nominated as Minister of Defence; General Mujtaba Patang was nominated as Minister of Interior; Asadullah Khalid was nominated as Director General of the National Directorate of Security; and Haji Din Mohammad was nominated as Minister for Border and Tribal Affairs.
3. Any letters of congratulations should be deferred pending parliamentary approval of these positions. No date has been provided for the nominations to go before parliament.
4. Further analysis to follow.

text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Prepared by:
Approved by: a/DHOM
Topics: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political
▼ New Distribution

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 47E(d) ; s 22(1)(a) ; [Foley, Paul](#); [Jon Merrill](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Afghanistan, media TPs [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 30 August 2012 5:33:47 PM
Attachments: [120830 ADF deaths.docx](#)

All, media points on Afghanistan attached (and pasted into body of email for blackberry users). We'll update tomorrow morning if necessary.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director

Afghanistan International Section | Pakistan and Afghanistan Branch | **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Ph: +s 22(1)(a)(ii) | RG Casey Building, John McEwen Crescent, Barton, ACT 0221 |
s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](#)

Subject: Deaths of Australian soldiers in Afghanistan

Date/Version: 30 August 2012 / Version 1

Talking Points

- Deepest sympathies and condolences go to the families and loved ones of the five Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel killed in the two tragic incidents overnight and this morning
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- : and to completing our role of supporting transition in Uruzgan Province to Afghan security lead by the end of 2014.
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capability.

- . The 'insider threat' is a serious concern and the safety of ADF and Australian Government personnel remains the Government's highest priority in Afghanistan
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- through our Embassy in Kabul, we regularly monitor and conduct advocacy on women's issues, and will continue to do so following transition

- Prime Minister Gillard recently signed with President Karzai a Long-Term Comprehensive Partnership between Australia and Afghanistan which reaffirms, at the highest level, our two governments' commitment "to promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan".

. Enhancing gender equality and protecting the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan is a key component of our aid program

- at the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan (9 July), Australia committed \$17.7 million to help eliminate violence against women in Afghanistan, through programs assisting to change community attitudes towards violence against women

- Australia has provided \$2.5 million to date (with another \$2 million pledged over the next two years) to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, which promotes and protects women's rights which promotes and protects women's rights through advocacy, training and education

- AusAID has committed \$36 million to the Children of Uruzgan program run by Save the Children, which aims to enhance the access to quality basic health (including maternal and child health) and education services for children and their families in Uruzgan province. The program supports an estimated population of 300,000 beneficiaries, with a particular focus on women and girls and those in remote and underserved communities.

. While the situation in Afghanistan remains very difficult, there has been significant improvement in the lives of women and girls since the fall of the Taliban regime

- over two and a half million Afghan girls are attending school, compared to virtually none in 2001

: women are also now elected to parliament, and a quota for the number of female MPs in both houses of parliament has been introduced, and in elections in 2010, the number of women MPs elected surpassed the quota

: these are important steps forward and represent gains for women and girls which we do not wish to see regress following the drawdown of the international military presence.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 47F(1)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To:
Subject: FW: Note from the Germany Minister of Foreign Affairs. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2012 3:17:01 PM
Attachments: [img-904100154.pdf](#)

s 22(1)(a), for electronic filing please. Thanks s 22(1)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2012 10:05 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Note from the Germany Minister of Foreign Affairs. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

FYI, attached is a TPN and message from the Germany Embassy to Minister Carr s 33(b)

I have sent the original in the internal mail up to the Minister's Office.

Yours sincerely,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Protection, Privileges and Immunities Section Protocol Branch
PH: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

UNGA 2012 Key Issue Brief

[REDACTED]

Afghanistan

Our key outcomes and objectives

- Maintaining international pressure on the Afghan Government to take responsibility and leadership in meeting its long-term security, governance and development goals.
- Recognition of Australia's substantial, long-term commitment to Afghanistan.

Sensitivities

- N/A

Talking Points

- Australia is pleased with the Tokyo and Chicago outcomes
 - sends unequivocal message of international support for Afghanistan through transition and beyond
 - and commits resources to ensure security, governance and development goals can be sustained.
- Priority for the international community and Afghan Government is to now focus on implementation of these commitments to support stability and development in Afghanistan
 - including effective action by the Afghan Government to improve governance, tackle corruption and protect human rights
 - and work by the international community to set out the structure of post-2014 international engagement (including on sustainment of the Afghan National Security Forces).

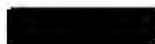
Post-2014 commitment

- Australia has made its long-term commitment to Afghanistan very clear
 - I [Prime Minister Gillard] and President Karzai signed a Comprehensive Long-Term Partnership in May to guide bilateral relations beyond 2014
 - Australia will increase its development assistance to Afghanistan to AU\$250 million per year by 2015-16
 - we will provide US\$100 million per year for three years from 2015 towards Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) sustainment.
- Following transition, Australia will continue to provide ongoing training to the ANSF, including through the post-2014 NATO-led train, advise and assist mission
 - we are also prepared, under the right mandate, to consider making a Special Forces contribution.

Transition

[REDACTED]

UNGA 2012 Key Issue Brief



- Uruzgan Province [*the focus of Australia's commitment*] has now been in transition for over two months, and remains on track to complete transition by late 2013
 - Australia has agreed to assume leadership of the multinational Combined Team-Uruzgan from late 2012, positioning Australia to guide Uruzgan's transition
 - we have confidence in the ability of the Afghan National Army 4th Brigade to assume security responsibility across Uruzgan in 2013.
- Successful transition in Uruzgan will also require the continued commitment of the Afghan Government [*at both the national and provincial level*] to governance and development goals.

Role of the UN in Afghanistan

- Australia strongly supports a continued central role for the UN in Afghanistan through transition and beyond
 - a UN mission sends an important signal to the Afghan people of collective international support and resolve to protect progress being made.
- We see the UN as providing a critical value add through the coordination of donor support for development, humanitarian assistance and governance
 - and technical assistance to build the capacity of Afghan institutions.
- We also see the UN playing a critical role in support of Afghan elections, which are an integral part of the transition process.

Elections

- Welcome reaffirmation at the Tokyo Conference that credible presidential elections in 2014 will be critical to the success of the transition process
 - Australian officials are working with international partners and Afghanistan to develop by early 2013 a comprehensive timeline and framework to support credible and timely elections
 - we welcome recent efforts by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to work with the Afghan Independent Electoral Commission to strengthen electoral processes for the 2014 presidential elections
 - important for the UN and Afghanistan to work with the donor community to assess what electoral support is desirable or possible given the timeframe, likely resources available, and the realities of security and access to the whole population.

Regional cooperation

- Australia welcomes recent efforts through the 'Heart of Asia' Istanbul Process to promote security and development in Afghanistan
 - as a supporting nation to the Istanbul Process, Australia will contribute to the 'education' and 'commercial opportunities' confidence building measures (CBMs).

Reconciliation

UNGA 2012 Key Issue Brief



- Australia supports an Afghan-led political settlement process as an integral part of achieving a stable and secure Afghanistan.
- Recent efforts toward political accommodation with the Taliban are positive but progress remains slow
 - setbacks are to be expected in what will inevitably be a long and complex process.
- Regional support for political negotiations will be critical to ensuring that the transition process in Afghanistan is sustainable.



UNGA 2012 Key Issue Brief


Background*Long-term commitment*

1. Recent international meetings on Afghanistan during 2012 have delivered strong outcomes that reinforce the international community's long-term support for Afghanistan.
2. At the 20 May NATO/International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) Leaders' Summit in Chicago the international community pledged US\$4.1 billion per year for Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) sustainment beyond 2014. Australia has committed \$100 million per year, for three years from 2015. Contributing nations are considering options for a mechanism for the management of ANSF funding.
3. At the July Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, donors pledged US\$16 billion over four years to support Afghanistan social and economic development beyond transition. For its part, Australia will increase its aid from \$165 million in 2011-12 to \$250 million by 2015-16, making Australia the 6th largest donor to Afghanistan. Australia's development assistance to Afghanistan focuses on three pillars: education, rural development and governance, particularly financial and electoral management.


Tokyo Conference – mutual accountability

4. Along with delivering strong financial commitments, a key outcome from the Tokyo Conference was the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF). The TMAF sets out development indicators that donors expect to be met to guarantee ongoing high levels of economic support, including in areas of governance, corruption, education and human rights. The TMAF also sets out a monitoring mechanism to review achievements by both development partners and the Afghan Government. With long-term development and security pledges in place, the donor community in Kabul has shifted its focus to pursuing Afghanistan's leadership to implement the TMAF.

Transition

5. Transition is on track for nation-wide completion by the end of 2014. On 13 May, President Karzai named the third tranche of areas, including Uruzgan province, that would enter the transition process. Uruzgan province formally began transition on 17 July 2012. We expect Afghan authorities in Uruzgan will have lead responsibility for security throughout the province by the end of 2013. This latest set of areas, combined with the first two tranches, puts the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in the lead to provide security across all provincial capitals and for around three-quarters of the population.
6. The transition process will be staged over five tranches, with the final tranche entering transition around mid-2013. While Afghanistan will face ongoing security challenges, the ANSF are sufficiently equipped to provide security and respond to incidents around major population centres. International engagement through transition, and an orderly withdrawal by ISAF, is vital for the strategy's success.
7. On 31 May 2012, Defence Minister Smith announced that Australia would assume leadership of Combined Team – Uruzgan in late 2012. This is likely to occur in November.

Role of the UN in Afghanistan

8. The UN's role in Afghanistan will become even more critical as transition progresses. However, many UN agencies involved in Afghanistan are facing increasing resource
- 

UNGA 2012 Key Issue Brief

[REDACTED]

pressures. Of note, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is planning to close a number of offices, including its Uruzgan office, because of budget cuts. The closure could impact the delivery of AusAID funded programs in the province through the UN, and it could dissuade NGOs from working in the province. UNAMA's work, including coordinating humanitarian, government administration, human rights, and development assistance will be important through the transition process. For these reasons, Australia will seek updates on UNAMA's plans and lobby for a continued UN presence in Uruzgan.

9. The Afghan Government continues to display an ambivalence towards the UN and remains sensitive about what it sees as an overreach of UNAMA's mandate. It wants UNAMA to adapt its role to suit the gradual expansion of Afghan leadership under transition.

Elections

10. Political transition will be as important as security transition for Afghanistan's future stability. Careful engagement and strong support on this issue will be critical over the next 12–18 months for credible 2014 Presidential and 2015 Parliamentary elections. The TMAF requires the Afghan Government to lay out a timetable for election planning and polling dates by early 2013.

*s 33(a)(iii)**Regional cooperation*

12. The Istanbul Process is an Afghan-led regional cooperation body which held its first meeting in Istanbul in November 2011. It involves a core group of 'Heart of Asia' countries who have reaffirmed their strong commitment to fostering a secure and prosperous Afghanistan through seven Confidence Building Measures (CBMs): disaster management; counter terrorism; counter narcotics; chambers of commerce; commercial opportunities; regional infrastructure; and education. Australia has conveyed its intent to support the education and commercial opportunities CBMs.

Reconciliation

13. The 2014 deadline for transition has intensified focus on the need for some form of political settlement to underpin Afghanistan's longer term security and stability. Australia has consistently said that it will only support reconciliation with insurgents who respect the Afghan Government's three 'red lines,' i.e. to renounce violence; sever all links with international terrorist organisations; and abide by the Afghan Constitution. These redline elements underpin the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP) which has reintegrated almost 4 700 individuals. These have mostly been low level fighter or those who supported the Taliban for economic or livelihood reasons. Australia committed \$25 million to the APRP of which \$12 million has been dispersed.

14. To date, the Taliban has shown little interest in negotiating a 'Grand Bargain' or peace deal with the Karzai Government, which they consider to be illegitimate. The Taliban has given no indication they will respect the Afghan Government's red lines, particularly in abiding by the Afghan constitution. The international community's focus on the strategic importance of the 2014 deadline is not shared by the Taliban, which views the period

[REDACTED]

UNGA 2012 Key Issue Brief

[REDACTED]

through until the end of 2014 as an opportunity to obtain concessions from the US (such as prisoner transfers).

[REDACTED]