



INSS ROUNDTABLE SERIES ON  
POST-CONFLICT STABILIZATION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT  
"Afghanistan: Current and Future Challenges"  
6 FEBRUARY, 2004

Featured Guest: Mr. Ali Jalali, Minister of the Interior, Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan

### **Introduction**

On February 6, INSS hosted Interior Minister Ali Jalali of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, who spoke to an interagency audience about the current and future challenges facing Afghanistan. As the Minister of Interior, Mr. Jalali made is responsible for governance and government officials in the provinces as well as for the police forces and security. The discussion focused on four key issues of concern to the Ministry of Interior: general security and stability, development of the national police force, upcoming elections and the war on drugs. The following report summarizes Minister Jalali's key points.

### **General Security and Stability**

It has been widely noted by foreign and domestic sources that the security situation in Afghanistan is precarious and requires serious attention. In the past six months, deteriorating security conditions prompted a UN pull-out from certain volatile provinces and brought threats of complete UN withdrawal as recently as December 2004. Security is important for a number of reasons, but most notably because it is the key element in providing stable conditions for political development. However, providing security is a complex process because it is linked with other issues such as political stability, reconstruction and good governance.

In order to address all these issues together through an integrated strategy, the government has put together a new program called "Stabilizing Afghanistan: An Integrated National Security, Governance and Reconstruction Program." The goal of this program is to provide more security and better governance to accelerate reconstruction through an approach that brings all agencies together. In order to manage this multi-million dollar, integrated program, the Afghan Government has created a task force/steering committee at the cabinet level, which is responsible for development and planning. The task force is headed by the Interior Minister and includes the Finance Minister, the Minister of Rural Development, the Minister of Urban Development, the Minister of Public Works, and other members of government. Under the steering committee there are management teams that focus on overall management and include high ranking Ministry officials as well as NGO stakeholders and donors. Aside from its main function of coordination, the management teams will also deal with separate, more specific projects at the district level. The hope is that in two years, there will be new physical infrastructure in all 356 districts.

### **Development of the National Police Force**

Present conditions in Afghanistan necessitate a well-trained, effective police force to provide stability. In addition to immediate needs and concerns, the issue of upcoming elections will require an even larger police force. In order to meet

this demand, new training centers have been constructed and are expected to be at full capacity by the end of March 2004. In addition to training more officers through proper police academies, provincial reconstruction teams (PRTs) can facilitate improving security and good governance, especially through their new mandate to become facilitators for stability operations. More specifically, in some regions, PRTs have taken on the role of mentors to local police forces which has helped to improve the security situation in those areas.

A few key obstacles still need to be overcome in order to make the police force truly effective.

- First, the police must win the confidence and trust of the people. To make the people trust them, the police must be professional and to make them professional they must be trained well, paid well, well-equipped, and they must represent the ethnic make-up of the country.
- Second, the police are still desperately in need of equipment and infrastructure. Some police stations have little or no communications technology, and equipment, even with adequate funding, is not always easy to obtain.
- Third, there is a need to train more leadership within the police force which could then provide the officers with the morale boost they need to create an *esprit de corps*. One positive project, providing the police with "commissaries" and therefore access to reduced price goods, has proven effective in addressing this issue, but more projects like this need to be implemented.

### **Providing Security for the Election**

The newly adopted Afghan Constitution calls for "every effort" to be made for Presidential and Parliamentary elections to be held at same time. However, each type of elections requires a different kind of security and the two main challenges for the police will be providing security during the elections period, to include supplying officers for ongoing voter registration efforts, and having adequate numbers of officers at each voting station during the actual election period. Even if there were an additional 20,000 trained police officers by the end of the summer, there would still be a large requirement for support from the Afghanistan National Army, NATO's International Security Assistance Force and the U.S.-led coalition forces.

### **War on drugs**

UN reports have already shown the increase in drug production since the fall of the Taliban and predictions suggest an increase in opium production by next year if nothing is done about it. There are two types of drug expansion: *criminal expansion* and *opportunistic expansion*. Criminal expansion is more serious because the producers have not created traffickers; rather, the traffickers have created producers. In many areas, poor growers get a fraction of the revenue but are forced to grow poppy by local warlords or traffickers with laboratories.

There are three components in the new Afghan Government strategy to stopping drugs.

- The first is **eradication** where a new strategy is being developed to have selected eradication. The Ministry of Interior has created the Central Planning Cell (CPC), which will be responsible for planning and conducting eradication operations.
- The second component is **interdiction and destruction of labs** to reduce production capacity.
- The third is **creation of alternative livelihoods**. Eradicating the poppy industry has severe economic impacts that would create hardships for people who possess limited marketable skills, require sustainable income for themselves and their families, and could become a recruiting reservoir for a resurgent Taliban. In all these areas, some progress has been made, but much work remains to be done.

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The INSS Roundtable Series on Post-Conflict Stabilization and Crisis Management (PCS/CM) explores challenges to the effective utilization of U.S. diplomacy, security assistance and military power, often in concert with allies and partners, for the purposes suppressing or mitigating conflicts and achieving post-conflict stabilization and associated humanitarian objectives in war-torn countries.

Previous PCS/CM Roundtables:

**"Bringing Congo Back from the Brink: A Report from the Field"**, October 24, 2003.

Speakers: Dr. William Durch, Senior Fellow, Henry L. Stimson Center and Mr. Paul Simo, Director for Africa at the International Human Rights Law Group.

Dr. William J. Durch of the Stimson Center, together with colleague Paul Simo of the International Human Rights Law Group, discussed their recent trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC), where they observed on-going stabilization operations being conducted by the United Nations and the European Union. In particular, the EU's effort, *Operation Artemis*, has focused on security stabilization with the goal of handing the operation over to an expanded UN mission in the near future. For more information, please visit [http://www.hrlawgroup.org/country\\_programs/drc/default.asp](http://www.hrlawgroup.org/country_programs/drc/default.asp).

**"Meeting Iraq's Security Requirements: Where do we go from here?"**, December 15, 2003.

Speaker: Mr. Walter Slocombe, Former Senior Advisor for National Security & Defense, Coalition Provisional Authority.

Mr. Walter Slocombe, formerly Under Secretary of Defense for Policy from 1994-2001, served as the Coalition Provisional Authority's Senior Advisor for National Security and Defense from May to November, 2003. In this capacity, he was CPA's senior official responsible for assessing Iraq's future defense needs and directing the process of creating the New Iraq Army. He also was closely involved in synchronizing these efforts with on-going U.S.-led operations aimed at stabilizing the country and defeating threats to Iraq's post-Saddam recovery. For more information, please visit [http://www.csis.org/features/040209\\_slocombe.pdf](http://www.csis.org/features/040209_slocombe.pdf).

For more information, please contact COL Paul Hughes, NDU-INSS, (202) 685-2371, email: [hughesp@ndu.edu](mailto:hughesp@ndu.edu).

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