



Security Council

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Letter dated 7 October 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communications, dated 2 and 6 October 2003, from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if the above communications could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**

Annex I

Letter dated 2 October 2003 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, on 11 August 2003, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) assumed strategic command, control and coordination of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). On 1 October, the North Atlantic Council agreed upon a longer-term strategy for NATO in its ISAF role in Afghanistan. In a spirit of transparency and coordination, I would like to share with you this strategy (see enclosure).

NATO is committed to the success of its mission in Afghanistan and is convinced that the Afghan authorities, with the assistance of the international community, will be able to bring about a self-sustaining, stable and democratic Afghanistan.

I will keep you informed about further developments in the North Atlantic Council's deliberations.

(Signed) Lord **Robertson** of Port Ellen

Enclosure

Longer-term strategy for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in its International Security Assistance Force role in Afghanistan

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is in Afghanistan in its International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) role in order to support the international community's efforts towards implementation of the Bonn Agreement, as mandated by United Nations Security Council resolution 1386 (2001). The aim is to assist in the emergence of a united and sovereign Afghanistan, with, inter alia, a broad-based, multi-ethnic representative government, integrated into the international community and cooperating with its neighbours. NATO's long-term strategy in this context includes the following elements:

Alliance Political Objective. Support for implementation of the Bonn process, as mandated by Security Council resolution 1386 (2001), in cooperation and coordination with key international organizations, in particular the United Nations and the European Union, by assisting the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) to meet its responsibility to provide security and order. Additional factors to consider in developing further the Alliance's over-arching political objective include:

1. An expanded ISAF mandate will require a specific United Nations Security Council resolution; other critical factors include resolution of the existing shortfalls in the Combined Joint Statement of Requirement (CJSOR) and a willingness to deploy additional resources;
2. The need for enhanced coordination and cooperation between ISAF, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Afghan authorities, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
3. The need for a coherent public diplomacy and information campaign;
4. Continued analysis of the political dynamics that would affect the activities of foreign peace support forces in Afghanistan.

Desired ISAF end-state. A self-sustaining, moderate and democratic Afghan government, in line with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, able to exercise its authority and to operate throughout Afghanistan, without the need for ISAF to help provide security. Key components of this end-state would include:

1. Satisfactory progress towards completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme, under United Nations auspices;
2. Satisfactory progress, supported by bilateral training, towards the build-up of the Afghan National Army (ANA) as an operationally effective, multi-ethnic military force able to provide security for the Afghan population, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and NGOs;
3. Satisfactory progress towards strengthening the central government and internal security related institutions, in particular the establishment of a functioning Afghan national police force and judiciary;

4. Satisfactory progress in the development and implementation of effective counter-narcotics activities;
5. The successful implementation of the constitutional Loya Jirga and approval of a new constitution endorsed and widely accepted by Afghanistan's various ethnic groups, in accordance with the Bonn Agreement;
6. Election of a representative government to succeed the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) through free and fair elections, in accordance with the Bonn Agreement;
7. Removal or modification of the behaviour of the warlords, bringing them into broad-based and ethnically balanced central government institutions and bringing relations between the central government and provincial governments into conformity with constitutional provisions;
8. The satisfactory evolution of Afghanistan's relations with neighbouring countries in a peaceful manner;
9. Progress towards the resolution of the terrorist threat from the Taliban, al-Qa`ida and other extremist groups.

Benchmarks for an Alliance Hand-Over Strategy. Progress in achieving the components listed above should be measured in periodic reviews of ISAF.

Annex II

Letter dated 6 October 2003 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

Following my letter to you last week regarding the North Atlantic Council's agreement on a longer-term strategy for NATO in its International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) role in Afghanistan, I am writing with respect to the Council's approval today of a set of preliminary decisions related to a possible expansion of NATO's ISAF mission. In a spirit of transparency and coordination, I would like to inform you on the status of the NATO Council's deliberations with respect to this matter.

Key issues agreed by the North Atlantic Council include the following:

- The expansion of the ISAF mission would strengthen the ability of the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) to provide a secure environment for its people. Such expansion would be subject to the adoption of a United Nations Security Council resolution providing appropriate authority and the identification and provision of appropriate assets
- The Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Konduz, which Germany has offered to mount, would operate as a pilot project under an expanded ISAF's new Security Council mandate
- In principle, ISAF could expand in a progressive, flexible manner, taking into account the political context, to include other provisional reconstruction teams under an expanded ISAF's new Security Council mandate, subject to consultations with and contributions from framework nations and the availability of additional resources
- In principle, ISAF could also undertake temporary deployments outside Kabul, in coordination and cooperation with the Afghan Authorities, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), in support of specific events or processes (such as electoral or disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)-related events), taking into account the political context and on the basis of an evaluation by the commander of the available resources
- It is imperative that there be clear command and control arrangements between ISAF, OEF and PRTs

Work continues within NATO regarding a possible expansion of its ISAF mission. In particular, the North Atlantic Council has requested additional military advice on the possible implications and modalities of such an expansion. This advice is expected later this month.

I will keep you informed about further developments.

(Signed) Lord **Robertson** of Port Ellen