

**November 12, 2001 5:07 PM**

TO: Honorable Colin Powell  
Honorable Condoleezza Rice

CC: Vice President Richard B. Cheney  
Honorable George Tenet

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld

SUBJECT: The CINC's Responsibilities

I keep reading that you folks are saying we don't want to take Kabul.

I thought the combatant commander had responsibility for planning the ground war. We have not had any discussions that I know of in the Principals Committee meetings or the NSC where I have been told I should tell the CINC that he should tell the Northern Alliance they should not take Kabul.

Even if we did not want to enter Kabul, which we may not, the last thing you want to do is say you don't want to enter Kabul. Otherwise, it just creates a haven there for the terrorists. It really is not right for 15 people to be commenting on every aspect of the CINC's business.

What in the world is going on?

Thanks.

DHR:dh  
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