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INFO MEMO

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FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ISA *12 FEB 2003*  
(Peter W. Rodman, [REDACTED]) *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: SFRC Testimony on Afghanistan

State Department Afghan coordinator David Johnson and I appeared today (12 Feb) at an SFRC hearing on Afghanistan. Essentially it was a platform for Senators Biden, Sarbanes and (unfortunately) Lugar and Hagel to complain that Afghanistan is going down the drain – the central government has zero authority in the country, warlords are running the place, predatory neighbors are devouring pieces of the country, etc. The cure for all this is – you guessed it – ISAF expansion.

Johnson and I rebutted all this vigorously. It was a lively hearing.

The Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) got a respectful hearing, however. I'm not sure the Senators had heard the argument that these are a flexible and more effective tool that, inter alia, addresses the concerns that ISAF expansion was supposedly meant to. I emphasized that Karzai and UN envoy Brahimi are both very positive about the PRTs.

Follow-up action: When I briefed the NSC staff afterwards on this hearing, we came up with the idea of urging Karzai and Brahimi to make this case themselves to people they talk to in Washington. This may help finally ease the concerns of those who have been lobbying for ISAF expansion.

Cc: ASD/LA Powell Moore  
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