

SEC STATE:  
BY HAND?  
✓ BY FAX

08/29

OSD/ISA/NESA  
I-04/009608-NES AR  
ES-0196  
JUL 26 2004

Afghanistan

ACTION MEMO

TO: THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Douglas J. Feith, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy *For Ryan Lenny PDASD(A)*

SUBJECT: Asia Foundation Survey on Afghanistan

- You asked about an Asia Foundation survey mentioned by President Karzai during his June 14 meeting with you.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign and send the attached note (Tab A), which commends the results of this survey to Secretary Powell and Dr. Rice.

Concur \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Concur \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments: Letter

Prepared by: Dipali Mukhopadhyay, ISA/NESA, 697 8088, ext 112

DUSD/NESA \_\_\_\_\_

PDASD/ISA \_\_\_\_\_

26 Jul 04



7/27  
1430

June 14, 2004

EF-9871

I-04/008048

AFghanistan

TO: Doug Feith

CC: Gen. Dick Myers  
Paul Wolfowitz  
Larry Di Rita



7/29  
Larry also  
moving on  
PA front  
J

SUBJECT: Asia Foundation Survey

We ought to move around that Asia Foundation survey and make sure the world knows it.

Thanks.

DHR dh  
061404-31

.....  
Please respond by 7/9/04

14 Jun 04

STB SecDef

Paul Butler

7/29  
L 7/27

Get 7/29

Sir,  
Response Attached.

LT Col Greg Kessell  
7/27

26 Jul 04





The Asia Foundation

# VOTER EDUCATION PLANNING SURVEY

## Afghanistan 2004 National Elections

### A REPORT BASED ON A PUBLIC OPINION POLL

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Afghan Media Resource Center (AMRC)



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January 9 2009  
IAW EO 12958, as amended  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

[www.asiafoundation.org/pdf/afghan\\_voter-ed04.pdf](http://www.asiafoundation.org/pdf/afghan_voter-ed04.pdf)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### Key Findings

- The mood is positive in most of the country, with almost two-thirds of respondents saying that the country is headed in the right direction.
- Afghans identified the major problems facing their country as its weak economy, the security situation, a poor educational system, and shattered infrastructure.
- Nonetheless, a large majority is pleased with the Transitional Government and President Hamid Karzai's job performance.
- Afghans feel somewhat more secure and much freer than they did under the Taliban. However, more say they have lost than gained economically since then.
- There are regional differences in mood, and region plays as great a role as ethnicity in shaping political outlooks. In particular, interviewees in the South and Northwest were more negative than respondents in other regions about the direction of the country, job ratings for the government and president, and security and freedom of political expression.
- Most Afghans interviewed view the Taliban unfavorably, with majorities unfavorable to them in every region and even among those dissatisfied with the Transitional Government.
- The UN and foreign aid workers are generally popular with Afghans. The US and American troops are also regarded favorably by the majority, but the South and Northwest again remain exceptions.
- Most Afghan citizens surveyed know of the election and registration requirements and intend to vote as they are hopeful that the election will make a difference.
- However, there is substantial doubt as to whether the election will be free and fair, with potential vote buying and cheating in the count primary among the concerns. Doubts about the fairness of elections are closely related to a lack of knowledge of the process: most voters do not know that the ballot will be secret or that there will be election monitors.
- The problems facing Afghan women are widely recognized by both men and women, chief among them are lack of power and lack of education.



- Most Afghans believe that women will need the permission of husbands or fathers to vote in the coming elections. Between one in five and one in three women may not be allowed to vote.
- Two-thirds of Afghans interviewed can offer a meaning for democracy. The principal meanings they ascribe include freedom, rights and law, elections, and women's rights.
- Political tolerance, regarding parties or between persons, is low among the Afghans interviewed.
- Radio, especially foreign radio (Azadi/Radio Free Asia, VOA, BBC) reaches a majority of Afghans and is the preferred medium for voter education. Among those who do not listen to the radio, the preferred sources are village chiefs and religious leaders.
- Only one woman in five, at most, is completely housebound.<sup>2</sup> Visiting neighbors and doing household chores were the **two** most frequent answers from women about why they leave the house.

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<sup>2</sup> A "housebound" woman does not leave the house at least once a month for any of the following activities: visiting neighbors, doing household chores, visiting family and friends, visiting a health clinic, shopping, taking children to school, or taking children to a health clinic.





THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JUL 29 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Asia Foundation Survey

When I met with President Karzai on June 14, 2004, he mentioned the findings of an Asia Foundation survey on Afghanistan. The results are worth reviewing (see attached).

Highlights include:

- 62% of Afghans were pleased with Karzai's performance;
- 67% expressed a positive sentiment on the presence of US military forces;
- 64% responded unfavorably toward the Jihadi leaders;
- Only 9% considered democracy and Islam to be incompatible;
- 64% were able to identify at least one characteristic of a democratic country; and
- Only 24% of those who expressed dissatisfaction with the Transitional Government responded favorably towards the Taliban.

With the exception of responses in the Northwest and the South, the results suggest a sense of cautious optimism among the Afghans.

cc: White House Communication Director's Office

Afghanistan

29 Jul 04

26 Jul 04

