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October 20, 2006

TO: Stephen J Hadley

CC: Eric Edelman

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld



SUBJECT: Status of Road Network in Afghanistan

Thanks for the status report on efforts to accelerate the road network construction in Afghanistan. It is arguably the most important element in President Karzai's program to extend governance to the provinces and to strengthen the economy. I am heartened that we are making some progress on the last segments and grateful for your work to encourage donors.

When I visited Zabol Province during my last trip, the governor told me how much he appreciated the work of our military engineers in building a "feeder road" that enabled farmers and merchants to access the Ring Road from their villages. This critical link connected farmers and small businesses to the markets they need to improve their lives. More work must be done on these smaller roads.

I hope we will also keep pressure on NATO to include these smaller projects in the support that member nations provide to their ISAF forces in Afghanistan. For a small investment, we have seen great payback for the provincial governments and demonstrated to the Afghan people Karzai's promise of a better tomorrow.

I appreciate your continued support on these very important projects.

Attach. 10/20/06 Hadley memo to SD, "Status of Afghan Road Network"



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