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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

INFO MEMO

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FOR: DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs
(Peter W. Rodman, (b)(6)) *PR* 28 NOV 2001

SUBJECT: Talking Points for Hill Briefing

You are scheduled to brief the Hill tomorrow. Attached are some suggested talking points.

Attachment:

Tab A – Talking Points

Tab B – Coordination

Prepared by: (b)(6)



TALKING POINTS
DEPSECDEF BRIEF TO THE HASC
29 NOVEMBER 2001

1. The campaign in Afghanistan is far from over.

- Indeed, the toughest work may very well lie ahead.
- Our efforts are shifting from the cities to hunting down and rooting out terrorists where they hide.
- This is difficult and dangerous work.

2. Our goal is not “nation-building” but the destruction of al Qaeda and the Taliban leadership.

- The political cooperation among the Afghans, as displayed in Bonn, is an encouraging sign.
- An important benefit is to increase our leverage over al Qaeda and the Taliban leadership.

3. We are tightening the noose around the Taliban and al Qaeda.

- Most of their strongholds are falling.
- Their communications are being disrupted.
- Their leaders are being forced to move about the country to stay alive.

- We are reducing the amount of real estate they have to move around on.
- We will pursue them until they have nowhere else to run.

4. Our military goals in Afghanistan are realistic and limited.

- The United States, of course, covets no one's land, certainly not Afghanistan.
- U.S. Marines on the ground are not an occupying force.
- Their purpose is to establish a forward base of operations to help pressure the Taliban forces in Afghanistan, and to prevent Taliban and al Qaeda terrorists from moving freely about the country.

5. Our job does not end with Afghanistan, the Taliban, al Qaeda, or even with Osama bin Laden.

- Afghanistan, as the President has said, is only the beginning of our efforts in the war on terrorism.
- The President has made no decisions yet, but he is keeping his options open.

COORDINATION

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Mr. Douglas J. Feith

11/29/02