Breakthroughs in Peace will Take Time

Ghani says reaching a peace agreement with the Taliban is a key component for reduction of violence.

WASHTON D.C.- The US State Department Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Principal Deputy Assistant, Alice Wells, says that the US and Afghanistan’s donor countries are working on a post-peace plan for the country.

Wells appeared before the US Congress’ Committee on Foreign Affairs on Thursday where she said the US Special Envoy for Afghan peace Zalmay Khalilzad has made significant progress in the peace talks with the Taliban.

Wells said Washington’s main objective is bringing a durable peace in Afghanistan. She said “We have been working with other donors to develop a post-settlement economic plan. We are not losing.” (More on P4-02)

President Ghani

Russia Coordinates Efforts with US to Resolve Afghan Conundrum

BISHKEK- President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has reaffirmed his country’s support to Afghanistan led and Afghan owned peace process and praised the sacrifices of the people of Afghanistan in war against terrorism, a statement from President’s office said.

Ghani made four suggestions on Afghanistan’s peace process namely: a regional task force should be formed, a regional and international coalition for peace should be formed; a political solution to be credible requires international consensus on the Afghan issue and expressed hope that international cooperation “will produce positive results.”

According to the Russian president, the CICA summit’s agenda is rather heavy. He pointed out that the forum had been established at the initiative of the first President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev as a platform where leaders “can gather and discuss developments in the vast region of Asia.”

It particularly includes the Middle East and South Asia. There are many issues and problems that require attention, from the long-standing Israeli-Palestine conflict to Afghanistan, Iran and the nuclear program. North Korea and its nuclear program. (More on P4-06)

KABUL - Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that Moscow cooperates with US and other players in efforts to resolve the Afghan problem, according to a media report on Thursday.

During an interview with the MIR broadcaster on Thursday, commenting on the upcoming summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), scheduled to take place in Tajikistan’s capital of Dushanbe on June 14-15 he said: “We are certainly concerned about Middle East issues, as well as everything related to East’s nuclear program and North Korea.”

“Wells said: “We are closely following developments in Afghanistan. By the way, in this connection we continue rather fruitful cooperation with many countries, including resolution of the recent Consultative Loya Jirga,” which 3,200 elected members represented the men and women of Afghanistan.

He said that “although the Afghan war is multi-dimensional, reaching a peace agreement with the Taliban is a key component for the reduction of violence.”

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