Taliban Optimism: The United States on the Verge of Defeat and Withdrawal from Afghanistan

By: Mohammad Zahir Akhri

The Taliban’s chief negotiator, Suhail Ahmed Stanakzei recently declared the United States is on the verge of defeat and will soon abandon its military or by using diplomacy. He made these remarks just two days before he led a Taliban team into high-level talks with US interlocutors. Pro-Taliban social media outlets on Friday released a video of Stanakzei’s speech the day after the US special representative Zalmay Khalidzad wrapped up the week-long negotiations with Taliban representatives in Doha.

Simultaneously to this, Robert Gates, the former US Defense Chief, also warned that there is a “risk that the Taliban will take control of the country if America терrible not take the necessary steps.” He said that the Afghan government’s statements “are not credible”.

Worst of all, they have intensified their attacks against Kabul government forces. In the past month, they have also killed and injured many civilians and security forces in the country. The Taliban have also continued to expand their presence in many parts of the country, including the capital, Kabul.

As a result, reported the Taliban negotiator proposed the bravery of the Afghan people to continue their fight to liberate their country and to continue to resist the current foreign military occupation, especially after declaring their spring offensives. If the Taliban continue their campaign of terrorism, assisting, and advising Afghan troops in the country, “God has helped us defeat three superpowers in the last century. The third superpower that we are currently confronted with is also on the verge of defeat, idolized ‘evil’ Washington”. You will soon hear they will also withdraw from [Afghanistan] either of their own accord or they will be forced out... We pray to God [US] will withdraw in our result, which will already be established in Afghanistan.”

Earlier the Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid had said that “the US has already stated at conferences... the day in 1992 when Afghan jihadis overthrew the communist regime led by Dostum, and when President Ashraf Ghani during his speech, comparing him and his allies to government leaders who supported Moscow during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s that eventually gave rise to the Afghanistan and Taliban.”

The Taliban has rejected the US Trump administration proposal to open a new round of counterterrorism efforts to force an end to the war. The Taliban are offering a significant commitment to the peace process and to keeping its promises. Last week, Khalidzad noted on Twitter that the Taliban are “stepping slowly but surely towards the aspects of the framework for ending the Afghan war.” He pointed out, however, that while the Taliban are “not insidious or duplicitous,” he still must “consider such a conflict as monstrous and innocent sides.”

“We need more and faster progress. Our proposal for all sides to be used to launch terrorist attacks against the US and its allies.”

The result of the latest round of backdoor talks in Qatar has not been leaked to the media. Within, the Taliban and their US interlocutors agreed in principle on at least four crucial issues. The US will leave Afghanistan. The US and Taliban will start negotiations for a permanent peace agreement. The Taliban offered peace talks with the United States after the presidential election. The US will recognize the Taliban as a legitimate political entity.

Seventh, a specific court should immediately deal with the cases of the Taliban leaders and their associates. The Taliban leaders and their associates should be tried and held accountable for their crimes.

The fact is that most of the world – including a sizable share of Americans – has no interest in being plunged into another cold war with China. The US-China rivalry may be additive, not mutually exclusive. It may help the US to garner international support for countering Chinese power and influence, it may make more a compelling case.

But as far as the US is concerned, the US-China conflict does not lead to a global Cold War. Rather, Trump administration’s efforts to create and maintain a global Cold War with China have become the main obstacle to America’s efforts to promote the liberal economic and political order around the world. America’s economic and military power is not sufficient to maintain the US-led international order. Rather than creating a new Cold War, America’s efforts to create a new Cold War have weakened the US-led international order.

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