Pentagon Chief Says US Seeking ‘Good Deal’ with Taliban

Mr. Esper says the US will make sure the deal with the Taliban guarantees the US and its allies security.

WASHINGTON - US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said on Saturday that the United States will make sure it has a “good deal” with the Taliban on which the two sides have “agreed in principle.”

“We will make sure we have a good deal, a good enough deal that guarantees at least the security of countries going forward and a brighter path ahead for the Afghan people,” Mr. Esper said at a press conference in Paris with his French counterpart. This comes as the Afghan government has expressed frustration over the US-Taliban peace agreement which was signed in principle after nine rounds of talks between the two sides.

“We’re hopeful we’ll get there, but right now, that doesn’t mean we’ll take any deal,” Mr. Esper said.

Mr. Esper in another press conference with his British counterpart said that the US believes that the way forward is a political agreement and that is what he’s working diligently on right now, that doesn’t mean we’ll take any deal,

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