



In this Issue

- ACC Update
- ACC hosts Dr. Abdullah
- January 2008 Roundtable with Col. Gary Stafford
- February 2008 Roundtable with Dr. Peter Signer
- Dialogue with Canadian Youth
- DND SDF Briefing
- ACC Tribute Dinner



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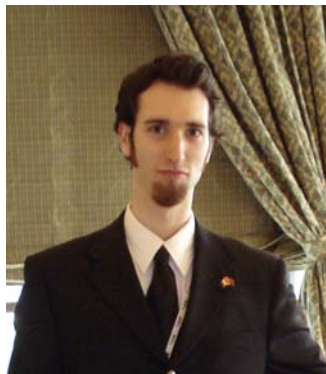
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ACC Update: New interns



Sean Billings is a Bachelor of Arts graduate from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. He moved to Toronto in June of 2007, where he enjoyed his first summer as a Toronto resident. He was chosen to succeed Abdul Rahman Karim in March 2008. He has become an integral part of the ACC office. He immediately took on organizational roles for the ACC Annual Tribute Dinner and the 2008 ACC Spring Conference in addition to his day-to-day responsibilities. As this was only April, Sean looks forward to assisting the ACC organize the rest of this Spring/Summer events, such as the Annual Golf Tournament and the AGM. He has also been accepted as a participant for the Danish Atlantic Youth Seminar, and eagerly awaits this event, which occurs in Denmark in early July. Outside of the office Sean divides his time between playing drums in a Toronto based rock band, and studying Tae Kwon Do.

Jerome Boutillier is a 20 year old Bachelor of Arts student in Business Administration at the University of Applied Economics in Aix-en-Provence, France. He joined the ACC in April. He will be graduating from his program in August and hopes to pursue his studies in International Business Management. According to him, "It's a great experience to work in a foreign country such as Canada, and a great pleasure to get that experience through working with a non-profit organization such as the Atlantic Council. It will help me improve my English



and gain valuable professional experience in organizing various events. I also hope to learn as much as I can about how an NGO works. It will be of particular benefit for me to learn more about NATO and the relations between NATO, Europe and Canada. This internship has already helped me improve my skills in organization and planning of events. It's a life-time experience to come to Canada and discover another way of life and another culture; this will be a very beneficial experience for me." Jerome is also taking the opportunity on the weekends to explore Toronto and the city life. He likes to play basketball. We hope that this internship will help him get the kind of international work experience he's looking for and wish him the best of luck in his studies.

Dr. Abdullah Abdullah Addresses the ACC and the Afghan-Canadian Council

On December 13th, 2007, the Atlantic Council of Canada, in cooperation with the Afghan-Canadian Council, had the pleasure of hosting **Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, the former Foreign Minister of Afghanistan**. The engagement featured a speech by Dr. Abdullah, followed by a question and answer period. He began with a brief overview of historical developments in Afghanistan over the last thirty years, from the Soviet invasion to the post-Taliban age. He then turned to what was the main focus of his talk: the current situation in Afghanistan. The removal of the Taliban regime gave new hope to millions of Afghans that had not existed previously, despite the earnest attempts of the official Afghan government in exile, a movement Dr. Abdullah was intimately involved in.

He noted that the origins of today's crisis began shortly after the Taliban's defeat in November of 2001. The Taliban, almost immediately after losing power, began rebuilding its base in the Pakistani tribal areas, a concern the Afghan government shared with the Pakistani government at the time. The Afghan society let its guard down against external threats, and dealt with internal threats such as warlords and other anti-Taliban bulwarks deemed a threat to the new existing order. Dr. Abdullah felt this policy should have been more transitional. As a result, the Taliban were able to fill the power void that existed in parts of the country. In the meantime, under international pressure militias were disarmed without strong national security apparatuses in place to replace them. Thus, the security situation in Afghanistan drastically deteriorated. Dr. Abdullah emphasized that the situation today cannot be compared to the one last year, let alone 2002.



According to Dr. Abdullah, today, the Taliban control 60 of 240 districts in the country, (he believes that the Iraq war, diverted crucial attention and resources away from the Afghan mission) and also served as an inspiration to the Taliban, as they have incorporated methods popular in Iraq (suicide bombing, Improvised explosive device, etc) that have been historically foreign to Afghans. This has resulted in Afghanistan and Iraq being mentioned in public discourse hand in hand, which is unfair. The net result is that now many Afghans distrust their own government, and international allies are becoming frustrated and demoralized. However, Dr. Abdullah does not feel all is lost. The common vision of the post Taliban rulers is still a vision shared by a majority of Afghans, who overwhelmingly do not

yearn for a return of the Taliban. Dr. Abdullah admits there are problems and challenges, and there needs to be a better process to deal with them.

He then reviewed the role of Afghanistan's neighbours and allies. He mentioned that while Iran was a historical ally, recent developments in Iran-Afghan relations have a potential for future concerns. Iran had previously asked the Karzai regime to promise that Afghanistan would not be used by them, or a third party for an attack on Iran. Afghanistan was unable to make a commitment in this regard. Russia's role has been under-stated by international observers. Dr. Abdullah noted that the current administration has strong relations with Russia, and called for increased international engagement with Russia on Afghanistan. Despite many challenges, there is plenty of good news. Education has increased tremendously across the country. The people have accepted the role of democracy, and democratic institutions in guiding the country into the future. However, Dr. Abdullah warns that this mood needs to be further institutionalized.

The question and answer period was brief, but the majority of the concerns focused on the poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. Dr. Abdullah acknowledged that there is no coherent strategy within the Afghan government to tackle the problem. Some call for aerial spraying, while others call for purchasing the opium crop and utilizing it for medical legal purposes. Dr. Abdullah pointed out that other countries that suffer from narco-economies, have taken decades to curtail this problem. Why is Afghanistan expected to produce results within a few years, on top of the security issues it faces? Furthermore, there are bright spots, as not all the country is involved in the trade. Some provinces have succeeded in opium eradication and Dr. Abdullah suggests using those successful models as a guideline for dealing with the harder hit areas.

All in all, the evening was a great success. It was a privilege to hear from a man who has played a significant role in Afghan politics over the last twenty years.

January Roundtable Discussion with Col. Gary Stafford

On January 23, the Atlantic Council of Canada hosted a roundtable discussion with Colonel Gary Stafford, OMM, CD Deputy Commander LFCA HQ, who recently returned from the southern region of Afghanistan, where he was NATO's Regional Policy Advisor. Col. Stafford spoke about his mission of training and developing the Afghan National Police there. He was responsible for the supervision of the Ministry of Interior Police reform progress which mainly included:

- To change strategic outlook of the organization;
- To bring medical education to police, to train them and to encourage the use of police uniform;
- To raise the level of respect for police among the Afghan public.

Other initiatives included a leader development training program, mentoring retrained Afghan officers, improving the pay system and creating a system of standardized curricula for international training bodies. A suggestion to introduce new ID cards in order to easily identify each police officer was met with strong resistance and is currently on hold.

Additional forces were generated by training auxiliary and Afghan National Civil Order Police to increase the number of qualified individuals that would protect their local communities.



There were obstacles and differences that arose while training Afghan police forces. Afghan recruits were obviously not accustomed to a Western approach of training. Some Afghan trainees rejected commands from Col. Stafford's team when instructed to carry out their basic cleaning duties claiming Afghan men don't do domestic chores. Afghan police mainly use a "spray and pray" approach when shooting at targets and hostile forces. It was clear that training had to be focused on proper aiming procedures for both accuracy, safety, and efficiency. Strong ties to religion were also visible among Afghan police especially during major events such as the police graduation ceremonies which included prayers. Another difference in training was that Afghan police made clear their preference for heavy rifles, rockets, and air support rather than standard police pistols, which they viewed as a less manly weapon. The western approach is that police do not require this heavy weaponry. However the work of the Afghan police is different from that of an average Canadian police officer and at this time the Afghan police are better served with heavier weaponry.



A serious issue is the lack of money to better fund a stronger Afghan police force living on low monthly salaries of \$80, which is far less than the salaries of the Afghan National Army even though the policing in the province of Kandahar is no less risky. Efforts are being made to introduce parity between the pay of a police officer and a soldier.

Another problem is the lack of coordination among different international organizations and agencies with overlapping missions resulting in the duplication of infrastructure concentrated in some areas, and a great lack in other areas.

Although police training in Afghanistan does not come close to meeting western standards yet, Colonel Stafford believes it can be viewed as an overall positive step towards ensuring necessary conditions for Afghanistan's self-defense.

February Roundtable Discussion with Dr. Peter Singer

On February 26, 2008 the Atlantic Council of Canada was honoured to have **Dr. Peter Singer** present a speech to our members entitled **DNA for Peace: Balancing Biodevelopment and Biosecurity**. Emphasizing the potential developmental benefits of life sciences in global health, Dr. Singer discussed issues of biosecurity and how to balance both development and security.



He introduced the topic by making the distinction between nuclear and biological industries. While the former is classified, centralized, capital intensive and involves state actors, the latter poses more of a concern because of its de-classified nature, decentralization, the lack of capital (relative to nuclear) and the availability of it to non state actors. Speaking on the risks of the biological industry, Dr. Singer clarified three types of biological disasters: natural, accidental and intentional. The rate of occurrence ranges from most to least. Examples included natural disasters such as virus outbreaks (SARS), accidental chemical/biological leaks, and acts of terrorism.

Dr. Singer mentioned that protocols currently exist that deal with the biological industry. The 1925 Geneva Protocol banned bacteriological methods of warfare, and the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention prohibits development, production, stockpiling or other acquisition of biological agents for non-peaceful purposes. The 2005 Kampala Compact concluded that measures to protect against misuse of bioscience and assistance to promote human security must be interlinked. A lack of balance could undermine not only the development of biological science and technology but undermine confidence in science itself.

Dr. Singer mentioned the importance of biological and scientific developments in facilitating increased access and decreased costs for vaccines, medicines and health products in the Third World. For example, the Indian firm Shanta Biotechnics, through investment and research, was able to reduce the costs of a Hepatitis B vaccine from \$15 to \$0.50. Currently, Shanta Biotechnics provides 40% of UNICEF's Hepatitis B vaccines

While the benefits of biotechnology and life science research are immense, Dr. Singer feels it does require cooperation from governments, international organizations, the scientific community and the private sector. One current obstacle in Africa is the lack of private capital. Venture capitalists and entrepreneurs have yet to be convinced of the advantages of life sciences investment in Africa. Global challenges for the future include improving existing vaccines, creating new ones, controlling insects that transmit agents of disease, improving nutrition, curing infections, and measuring disease/health status accurately/economically in poor countries.



The speech ended with an informal question and answer period, followed by a brief reception. Despite his busy schedule and demands, Dr. Singer made time to come to speak to our members and guests. We appreciate his knowledge, and look forward to hearing from him again.

Dialogue with Young Canadians

On February 28, 2008 I was invited to participate, on behalf of the Atlantic Council of Canada, in the Toronto session of the Dialogue with Young Canadians. Organized by the Afghanistan Task Force (ATF) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the engagement was scheduled to take place in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto in late February.

Held at the University of Toronto's Hart House, the three-hour session was coordinated by the ATF's Ajmal Pashtonyar. Mandated to build awareness and understanding among Canadians, including youth, of the

full scope of Canadian efforts and achievements in Afghanistan, the ATF seeks to address the existing communications gap. Furthermore, the ATF is promoting youth outreach activities with the aim of creating dialogue and building partnerships among Canadian youth.

Mr. Pashtoonyar explained the objectives of the ATF. First, to ensure participation in the planning process, so that youth civil society and student leaders will provide inputs in the terms of reference and action plan, including through membership in the working group. Second, to plan and initiate a Canada-Afghanistan Youth Working Group that would develop a Canada-Afghanistan Youth Web Portal and other “youth-friendly” advocacy and outreach resources. Third, the ATF hopes to foster partnerships and build networks with youth organizations- national and international. Finally, the dialogue series represents part of a broader ongoing process of stakeholder engagement by the ATF that includes NGO’s and academics.



Speaking to an audience of thirty-five people including academics, students as well as representatives of the Afghan-Canadian community, Mr. Pashtoonyar explained in detail the contributions Canada has been making in Afghanistan. Politically, the registration of more than 10 million Afghans for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections has been the most notable achievement, as well as the development of almost 20,000 Community Development Councils. Over 5 million refugees have returned to Afghanistan since 2002, and the nation’s infant mortality rate has been reduced 22% in the same time period.

Finally, close to 5 million children (a third of them girls) are currently enrolled in school, as opposed to the 700,000 boys that were being educated under the Taliban regime. Canada has also pledged to continue supporting the training of the Afghan National Army (now more than 40,000 strong) as well as the continual demobilization and disarmament of former combatants (over 60,000 so far). Acknowledging the communication gap that currently exists, the Afghan Task Force looks to build upon its three panels held so far, and will release a final report on the dialogue with Young Canadians on Rebuilding Afghanistan in March 2008. (By Abdul Karim)

Department of National Defence Security and Defence Forum Briefing for DND SDF 2007-2008 Award Recipients

On March 4, 2008, **Canadian Department of National Defence’s Policy Group** organized a one-day briefing in the nation’s capital to recognize the recipients of its prestigious academic awards. Participants, who came from all across Canada, included graduate students in both Master’s and PhD programs as well as post-graduates serving their SDF internships at Canadian think tanks. **ACC’s Research Analyst Luisa Sargsyan**, who is one of the post-graduate SDF scholars, was among them.

The event featured a number of presentations by experts from the Department of National Defence on the current security and defence issues that are central to Canada’s security and foreign policy: Canada’s engagement in Afghanistan, Canada-U.S. cooperation in defence matters, Canadian Forces and their transformation to meet the demands of the changing world, a general presentation on the Policy group and its role and activities within the DND, and others.

The Director of the Policy Group, **Mr. Aaron Hywarren**, spoke about the various scholarship programs available through the DND to current MA and PhD students as well as those who have already obtained their Master’s degrees and would like to gain more experience in the defence and security field. He also gave an overview of the DND Policy Officer Recruitment program. Speaking about the Policy Group itself, Mr. Hywarren presented its structure and the focus of each of its sections and divisions, and discussed policy planning and the day-to-day work of the Policy group staff.



The first roundtable discussion featured presentations by **Lcol. Michel-Henri St-Louis**, Chief of Staff Land Strategy, **LCdr Paul Forget**, Maritime Staff Strategic Communications, and **LCol. Lightbody** of the Air Force, who presented an overview of the three major components of the Canadian Forces (CF). They talked about their recent operations and discussed the challenges facing the CF in the wake of the terrorist

attacks of September 11, 2001 in the United States and the need to adjust the CF to current realities and threats. A particular emphasis was made on the current need for the CF transformation, of which the purpose and aim is the defence of Canada and Canadians and contributing to international peace and security. Among the challenges the Canadian Forces are facing today are the need to provide the best training to their personnel, maintain their operational capabilities and modernize the equipment.



Photo Credits: DND SDF

Mr. Claude Leblanc (seen in the picture) talked about the **Arms and Proliferation Control Policy**. In his presentation, he highlighted a number of international initiatives Canada is a member of, including the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel landmines and the Oslo process on cluster munitions under the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW). He discussed Canada's cooperation with the United States on nuclear weapons issues and mentioned the Nuclear Posture Review completed by the U.S. Department of Defence. This Review, which was mandated by the U.S.

Congress in 2002, recommended a reduction in the U.S.' operationally deployed strategic nuclear force. Mr. Leblanc mentioned a number of recent positive developments: the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 in 2004 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), which requires states to criminalize the proliferation of WMD and all related materials, to enact and enforce strict export controls, and to secure sensitive materials within their borders, which promotes more effective laws and enforcement measures; Global Partnership Program, through which Canada is working on the destruction of chemical weapons, dismantling nuclear submarines, improving the security of nuclear and other radiological materials, redirecting former weapons scientists to civilian research, promoting biological non-proliferation; U.S.-Russia Global Initiative to combat nuclear terrorism, Canada's role in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the country's active participation in the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), an association of countries that share the goals of non-proliferation of unmanned delivery systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, and that seek to coordinate national export licensing efforts aimed at preventing their proliferation. The MTCR was originally established in 1987 by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Mr. Leblanc emphasized that the Arms and Proliferation Control division is also working on promoting Canada's and DND's interests in NATO committees tasked with non-proliferation and arms control issues. According to Mr. Leblanc, nuclear disarmament should be conducted in a way that strengthens international peace and security.

Another featured presentation was delivered by **Ms. Mieke Bos**, the Deputy Director, NATO Policy, Afghanistan Team, who spoke on the role of **Canada's mission in Afghanistan**. Ms. Bos talked about international engagement in the reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and mentioned the Afghanistan Compact, which outlines an optimistic vision of Afghanistan's future and commits the resources and support of the international community to its realization. Ms. Bos provided the background information on the international military involvement in Afghanistan, particularly the ISAF mission and its four stages of expansion, presented the breakdown of the regional command structure, and described the importance of Canada's role within these international efforts. Ms. Bos explained that the goal of the Canadian mission is to provide the security necessary to promote development and an environment that is conducive to the improvement of Afghans' lives, facilitate the delivery of programs and projects that support the economic recovery and rehabilitation of Afghanistan, and assist in addressing the humanitarian needs of Afghans by supporting governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations whose efforts meet Canada's objectives. She talked about the Whole-of-Government approach that encompasses Foreign Affairs, Defense, CIDA, CSC and RCMP who work together in Afghanistan to ensure **security, strengthen governance capacity, and facilitate economic and social development**. Ms. Bos stressed that progress has been made in a few areas, such as education, economy, infrastructure development, delivery of health services, return of refugees, and better participation in polls. She also talked about the recently released report of the independent panel headed by the Hon. **John Manley**. Among the challenges and problems that still persist in Afghanistan, Ms. Bos mentioned narcotics, corruption in the government, and civilian casualties. On the international level, the burden sharing among the NATO countries involved in Afghanistan and the domestic debates in those countries is an issue.



Captain Kevin Greenwood of Canada Command J3 gave an overview of **Canada Command (Canada COM)**, formed in February 2006 to be responsible for the conduct of all military routine and emergency operations in Canada and continental North America. Among other things, he discussed the complexities involved in establishing operational command in domestic operations. While discussing the mission of Canada Command, Cpt. Greenwood stated that it would conduct operations to deter, prevent, pre-empt and

defeat threats and aggression aimed at Canada and, when requested, would provide military assistance to civil authorities, in order to protect and defend Canada; it does not replace the regular domestic command structure. The specific tasks of Canada Command include **defence** (sovereignty/surveillance patrols), **security** (assistance to law-enforcement agencies), **humanitarian assistance** (natural or man-made disaster consequence management, search and rescue), and **provision of services** (expertise, equipment, personnel). Capt. Greenwood also presented the structure of Canada COM and explained that when fulfilling its tasks, it would serve as the operational link with the United States' NORTHCOM. Talking about the challenges faced, Capt. Greenwood said that the majority of domestic operations are in support of other lead departments, are often legally complex (CF is not a police force, and so its actions require Ministerial approval), and that they are frequently driven from the bottom up. He also attributed great importance to developing good partnership relationship with NORAD and the U.S. NORTHCOM.

DND's Policy Officer Mr. Omar Khan briefed the participants about the **Directorate of Continental Materiel Cooperation**, giving a comprehensive overview of Canada-U.S. cooperation on this subject. In particular, he said that since 1941 Canada and the U.S. have signed over 40 major defence production and industrial cooperation agreements and continuously work together on a number of projects such as the Joint Strike Fighter Program, Canada-U.S. Test and Evaluation Program, Canada-U.S. Joint Certification Program, Canada-U.S. Master Data Exchange Agreement Program, and many others.

Colonel Alan Stephenson, Director, Western Hemisphere Policy, talked about **Canada-U.S. defence cooperation**. In his overview of this topic, he mentioned some pre-Cold War historical agreements such as the 1938 MacKenzie King-Roosevelt meeting, 1940 Ogdensburg Agreement on mutual assistance in case of hostilities, 1940 Permanent Joint Board on Defence, 1946 Military Cooperation Committee, and 1949 Euro-Atlantic partnership in NATO. Among the Cold War-era agreements, he talked about NORAD (1958, partnership in air that was expanded to aerospace in 1981, tasked with the surveillance and defence of North America) and stressed the unprecedented nature of the scope and extent of this cooperation. Col. Stephenson spoke about the post-9/11 changes in both the U.S. and Canadian government structures and force transformation processes due to the fact that one of the dominant issues on the domestic and foreign policy agenda of both countries is the Global War on Terrorism and Homeland Security. He then went on to present the historical background of NORAD and the benefits of such cooperation for Canada, which include assistance in the defence of Canada and Canadians, a voice in U.S. defence policy formulation where Canadian security interests are involved, exchange of training and operational experience, and privileged access for Canada to significant U.S. defence-related intelligence and information, including technological developments and access to the U.S. defence market, to name a few.



*Colonel Alan Stephenson
Photo Credits: DND SDF*

The participants of this one-day briefing had an opportunity to engage in question-answer periods after each presentation, some of which triggered hot debates. At a group dinner at the Full House Restaurant & Piano Bar in downtown Ottawa, they had a chance to network and discuss defence and security issues in a more informal setting. They were also given a chance to visit some of Ottawa's tourist attractions, such as the Parliament Hill and the War Museum.

DND's Security and Defence Forum program is now 40 years old. Its mandate is to develop and promote a deeper interest in Canadian and international defence and security issues. For young participants, this one-day briefing was a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about these issues and interact with DND experts. The forum was a great success, and we wish it many more years to come!



The Atlantic Council Of Canada's 3rd Annual Tribute Dinner

On the evening of April 9th, 2008, the Atlantic Council of Canada paid tribute to the significant contribution made by its **Past Chairman Dr. Fredric L.R. Jackman** to the work of the ACC, and presented **Brigadier-General David A. Fraser, OMM, MSM, CD** (seen on the picture) with the Atlantic Council's **2008 Award for Exceptional Contribution to International Peace and Security**. Part of the Award is a financial contribution made in the name of the recipient to the Sarahim School for Exceptional Children in Kabul, Afghanistan. **Lieutenant-Commander, Albert Wong**, who has established a charity in Canada to support the school, accepted the cheque.

In his acceptance speech, Brigadier-General Fraser, described his experience as commander of the Canadian Armed Forces, and international brigade in Afghanistan, to the ACC members and guests in attendance including the **Consul General of Afghanistan, Habibullah Qaderi**. He said it was one of the most challenging opportunities of his career. He drew his confidence from the Canadian soldiers themselves. Pointing to past conflicts such as World War I, World War II, Korea, and Canada's decades of dedicated peace-keeping, the Brigadier-General offered his sentiments on the Canadians fighting in Afghanistan today. He believes that "Canadians were no different ... in 1914 then they are today in 2008, it's the same man and woman out there doing what he (or) she believes in." He continued saying "those men and women make us all proud as Canadians and make this nation as great as it is." Brigadier-General Fraser made it clear that it was the fortitude and perseverance of the Canadian soldiers that led the Afghan National Army's General Bismillah Kahn to congratulate him and the Canadian Forces on successfully defeating the Taliban forces, relegating them to the southern region of Afghanistan, a feat that no army in the history of Afghanistan has ever been able to achieve.

Brigadier-General Fraser described Afghanistan's plight prior to the arrival of the international forces, and compared it to where Afghanistan is today. There has been incredible improvement in the country. He also pointed out that Canadians were measuring success and normalcy from a western, North American point of view. It must be remembered that Afghanistan, as a democratic nation, is less than seven years old, and thus we (the Canadian public) "have to temper ourselves", and our short-term expectations of this developing country. He described Afghanistan's refugee return rate as "one of the most telling comments and statements." Since 2002, 5 million Afghan refugees have returned to their home country, and 365,000 in 2007 alone. He added, that we (Canadians at home) are not reading enough about the positive things happening in Afghanistan.

Brigadier-General Fraser concluded his speech by stating that his job now is to "educate the future of Canada" through the Canadian Forces College, that it is "about us Canadians, and the international community learning together about how to work in a complex environment to better serve our political masters to achieve those effects on the ground for people like (the) Afghans to help themselves."



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