

## The Vacillating President: 70K troop surge or defeat in Afghanistan?

by budgie Sunday, Mar 8 2009, 1:14am

international / social/political / commentary

What's it gonna be Baa'raack, a 70,000 troop surge in Afghanistan or failure? All we heard from the world's highest profile house slave (you reprehensible, turncoat, fraud) was the constant refrain 'we must fight *the war* in Afghanistan;' *the war* is in Afghanistan, *the war*, ya di yar ...; you even had servile Kevin 'custard-face' Rudd, the Oz PM, repeating the same refrain. Have a heart, Baa'raack, between you and Murdoch the hapless Oz PM doesn't know which way to turn -- poor pathetic, Kevin, 'we' promise to give clear orders next time!



But what's this talk of negotiating with AMERICA'S SWORN ENEMY, the Taliban, you know, the group affiliated with the 9/11 hijackers? We were barraged with EVIL descriptions of this enemy for eight Bush years; surely you don't expect us to negotiate with the "devil?"

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, Baa'raack, it's just a bad joke, right? Really man, just load the silver scoop, the population can't take any more mixed messages! Pretty soon the population won't know whether its coming or going - the people might even entertain notions of complying with the wishes of failed Wall St. robber barons and banksters, you know, the guys responsible for the global economic collapse. Complying with the wishes of Wall St. fraudsters would send a clear signal to the world that you and your banjo-playing, nation have hit the political skids! The TALIBAN, Baa'raack, for Christ's sake, tell us it's not true!

Is there anybody out there that knows what they're doing and is ABLE TO LEAD IN THEIR OWN RIGHT?

Why do you doodle dumbfuck's make it so easy? (Cos we're morons that's why!)

From AFP Newswire:

### Obama considers reaching out to Taliban

WASHINGTON (AFP) — US President Barack Obama said, in an interview published Sunday that the United States is not winning the war in Afghanistan and hinted at possible talks with moderate elements of the Taliban.

Highlighting the success of the US strategy of bringing some Sunni Iraqi insurgents to the negotiating table and away from Al-Qaeda, Obama told The New York Times that "there may be some comparable opportunities in Afghanistan and the Pakistani region."

The strategy in Iraq had been developed by General David Petraeus, then commander of US forces in the country.

"If you talk to General Petraeus, I think he would argue that part of the success in Iraq involved reaching out to people that we would consider to be Islamic fundamentalists, but who were willing to work with us because they had been completely alienated by the tactics of Al-Qaeda in Iraq," Obama said in the interview published in the online edition of the Times.

But Obama warned that Afghanistan was not Iraq, and that reconciliation efforts could face difficulties.

"The situation in Afghanistan is, if anything, more complex. You have a less governed region, a history of fierce independence among tribes. Those tribes are multiple and sometimes operate at cross purposes, so figuring all that out is going to be a much more of a challenge," he said.

During his presidential campaign last year, Obama told Time magazine that opportunities to negotiate with some Taliban elements "should be explored."

Asked by the Times if the United States was winning the war in Afghanistan, which he has called the "central front in the war on terror," Obama simply replied: "No."

"You've seen conditions deteriorate over the last couple of years. The Taliban is bolder than it was. I think in the southern regions of the country, you're seeing them attack in ways that we have not seen previously," he said.

"The national government still has not gained the confidence of the Afghan people."

US-led forces ousted the Taliban regime in Afghanistan shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, but Islamist militants regrouped in recent years and are waging an intensifying and spreading Taliban-led insurgency.

Shortly after taking office in January, Obama launched a review of US policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan that is set to be delivered before he heads to Europe on March 31 for a round of international meetings.

In his first major decision as commander-in-chief, he ordered the deployment of 17,000 additional troops to Afghanistan, saying they were needed to stabilize a deteriorating security situation.

Part of the troops' role will be to help boost security during Afghan presidential elections now set to take place in August.

"We've got to recast our policy so that our military, diplomatic and development goals are all aligned to ensure that Al-Qaeda and extremists that would do us harm don't have the kinds of safe havens that allow them to operate," Obama said.

Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden is widely believed to be hiding in the mountainous border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan, a known haven for Taliban extremists.

"At the heart of a new Afghanistan policy is going to be a smarter Pakistan policy. As long as you've got safe havens in these border regions that the Pakistani government can't control or reach, in effective ways, we're going to continue to see vulnerability on the Afghan side of the border," Obama said.

More than two dozen suspected US drone attacks have been carried out in Pakistan since August 2008, killing more than 200 people, most of them militants.

Pakistan is a key ally in the US-led "war against terror" but the missile strikes have fuelled anti-American sentiment in the country, particularly in the tribal belt bordering Afghanistan.

US Vice President Joe Biden, who visited Southwest Asia recently, heads to Brussels on Monday for consultations with top NATO allies on a new US strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

© 2009 AFP

See also:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7930865.stm>

<http://tinyurl.com/b9q77m>

---

Cleaves Alternative News. <http://cleaves.lingama.net/news/story-1473.html>