



Afghanistan: Planning for Success

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

The Foreign Policy Initiative held its inaugural event, a half-day conference entitled “Afghanistan: Planning for Success,” on March 31st in Washington, DC. Video footage and a transcript of the event will soon be available at www.foreignpolicyi.org.

Key Quotes from “Afghanistan: Planning for Success”

“We used to have a bipartisan consensus in this country on foreign policy, especially when we had our sons and daughters at war, which is why I’m proud to be part of events like this.”

—*Dr. John A. Nagl, President, Center for a New American Security*

“President Obama made a gutsy and courageous decision in Afghanistan...not only has President Obama made a commitment to Afghanistan, but a commitment to a real counterinsurgency strategy—the idea of ‘clear, hold and build.’”

—*Dr. Robert Kagan, Board Member, The Foreign Policy Initiative*

“I fully support the President’s policy as stated – and I will work as hard to make this President’s policies a success as I worked to make the last President’s policies a success in Iraq. It is crucial that it remain a bipartisan effort, because it is so clearly in the nation’s interest.”

—*Dr. Frederick W. Kagan, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute*

[On his Afghanistan policy] “I can only say to the President, ‘Sounds good to me, boss.’”

—*Congressman John McHugh (R-NY)*

“How will this all end? The truth is that we don’t know. But I believe President Obama’s plan puts us on firmer, higher ground – with a real chance to beat back the Taliban for a second time, to put the Afghan people on the path to corruption-reduced self-governance.”

—*Congresswoman Jane Harman (D-CA)*

“Overall, I appreciate the President's strategy, I appreciate the fact that there's many of our military leaders who are included in the formulation of this strategy. And I am confident that it can and will work.”

—*Senator John McCain (R-AZ)*

“So we will and can and must succeed [in Afghanistan]. But it’s not going to be easy...And by the way, it’s not as tough as Iraq my friends, and don’t let anybody tell you that it is...Iraq was tougher than this issue is – although it has its own set of challenges.”

—*Senator John McCain (R-AZ)*