

Taliban say they will give up Kandahar

Surrender could start today; U.S. opposes letting leader stay free

BY KATHY GANNON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — The Taliban agreed Thursday to surrender Kandahar, their last bastion and birthplace, if their warriors were not punished and safety was guaranteed to leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, who once vowed to fight to the death. America said it would not accept any deal allowing the cleric to go free.

The promise to give up the city and begin handing over weapons as early as Friday marked the final collapse of the militant movement that imposed strict Islamic rule on Afghanistan for five years.

Personal rivalries among anti-Taliban leaders and the fate of Omar still could wreck the fragile agreement. The head of the new Afghan transition government, Hamid Karzai, refused to say whether Omar would be arrested as Washington has demanded.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the United States would not stand for any agreement that lets the Taliban leader go free and "live in dignity."

Pakistani intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said radio intercepts had picked up no communications by Omar in three days and that he appeared to have lost contact with senior Taliban commanders.

"It seems that the final collapse of the Taliban is now upon us," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair, President Bush's closest ally in the war. "That is a total vindication of the strategy that we have worked out from the beginning."

The former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan seemed to agree. When asked about the future of the movement, Salam Zaeef said: "I think we should go home."

The murky surrender pact made no mention of Osama bin Laden and left unclear the fate of hundreds of Arabs, Pakistanis, Chechens and other foreign fighters of his al-Qaida terrorist network.

After briefing members of the Senate on the situation in Afghanistan, Rumsfeld was asked whether the United States would insist on U.S. justice or would agree to let an international tribunal deal with Omar.

"We would prefer to have Omar," Rumsfeld replied. He said "There's still a good deal of confusion" surrounding the surrender.

In eastern Afghanistan, meanwhile, B-52s hammered suspected mountain hideouts of bin Laden and his fighters. About 1,500 anti-Taliban forces have been attacking the region around the Tora Bora compound for two days.

In Washington, U.S. officials said al-Qaida fighters are believed to be operating from five to 10 cave complexes at Tora Bora in the White Mountains south of Jalalabad. Officials suspect bin Laden is in that area but also are on alert for his presence in the south around Kandahar.

Southwest of that city, U.S. Marines went on alert and fired mortars and flares into the desert from their base after detecting what a spokesman said "appears to be a credible threat."

A UH-1 Huey helicopter crashed near the airstrip at Camp Rhino, and Marine spokesman Capt. Stewart Upton said two servicemen received minor injuries, one of them on the ground. The cause of the crash was under investigation, but Upton said, "We are 99 percent sure that the helicopter did not crash because of enemy fire."

Time Capsule

Work on project started last spring

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and vibrant college students of the day take care of it," he said.

"The Bicentennial Committee is enthusiastic about having a time capsule because we know it's an appropriate reflection of the excitement of this special year," said Sally McKay, executive director of the Bicentennial Committee.

Smith started working on the time capsule project last spring

and said it has been a time-consuming effort. "It wasn't easy, and I definitely didn't do all of the work myself," he said. He also said McKay, Denise Wellman of the USC Visitor Center, USC student ambassadors and the USC maintenance staff all helped the project take shape.

"It's really amazing that this university has been around for 200 years, and it's a great thing to celebrate" Smith said. "Our initial focus was to brag about how great USC is in the year 2001."

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Clause

Palms reluctant to support addition

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board's support. Palms never took the clause to the board for approval.

Faculty senate Welfare Committee chairman Daniel Sabia said the committee still doesn't find Palms' 1995 arguments compelling. Palms said Wednesday that adding the clause didn't offer legal protection. "I want it to be a meaningful statement if we're going to adopt it," he said.

Zach Scott, a College of Liberal Arts student senator, said Tuesday before faculty senate voted on the resolution: "I wouldn't be surprised if it passed unanimously. It would be foolish for any faculty member to vote against it."

But the reaffirmation faced some opposition during the meeting. Col. Chris Campbell, aerospace studies professor, questioned the "perceived need" and moral belief system Sabia referred to.

"If you try to condone acts that are around the fringes of illegal activity... you're not being very ingenuous," he said, in reference to sexual acts against South Carolina law.

Thorne Compton, a theater and speech professor, dis-

agreed. He said including the clause "does not speak to anything anybody does. It speaks to what somebody is as a person."

"It's about what people are as people," he said.

Sabia said adding the clause was a "matter of moral principle" and that it would make a statement to the entire university community that sexual orientation isn't the proper basis to evaluate the worth of human beings.

He said the policy doesn't endorse illegal activity but rather addresses a fear of discrimination.

Crews said: "There are numerous documented and undocumented cases of discrimination on this campus. A change in policy would deter such actions in the future and ensure that any situations in the future would be handled judiciously and fairly."

More than 350 universities nationwide, including Vanderbilt, University of Mississippi, University of Georgia and University of North Carolina, include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies. Richland County and Columbia also include sexual orientation in their policies.

Palms said he would take the proposal into consideration.

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Bill

Senator says USC afraid of progress

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Bristow thinks the bill will be re-evaluated to eventually be amended and said it should be seen in some form again soon.

The resolution was amended twice in deciding when the spending records would have to be turned in. One amendment proposed that records should be turned in every Tuesday and Thursday and another suggested two work days after the money was spent.

"Students have the right to know about people who represent them; everyone should have access to the knowledge about the individuals who might represent them," Bristow said. "We can do better than what is being done right now, and I will keep on striving to make it the best it can be."

"I am not surprised about the outcome. Historically, the student senate is afraid of change and progress. Thirteen members of this school's senate wanted to give students an inside look at election processes and make information rightfully known," said Stauffer, a

third-year political science student. "The elections committee is an ethics board — I wish our elections committee was able to do their job in correspondence to state laws. Once again, Student Government has decided to play a glorified high school government council instead of trying to emulate a real government."

Many thought the bill wouldn't contribute to the process of running for office. Currently, each candidate can spend any amount of money without disclosure.

Some senators who opposed the bill said it was too vague.

"If it could be enforced and perfected, it would be a good thing. There are, however, a few gray areas. I know what is intended for the future, but I don't know how it will work out," said Chris Odom, a senator for the College of Science and Math.

"What this bill boils down to, is the price tag of each candidate; conditions are vague. Should we make them clock hours? These are personal finances and should be kept personal," said Tiffany Elser, chairwoman of Powers and Responsibility Committee and a senator for the Moore School of Business.

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