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NATO urged to hit Taliban in Pakistan

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PUBLICATION: The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Front
PAGE: A8
DATELINE: OTTAWA
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 373

An international group often cited by peace activists is recommending NATO broaden the war in southern Afghanistan and attack Taliban training camps in northern Pakistan.

The Senlis Council, a European-based think-tank known more for its development and aid research, is also suggesting the number of troops in the war-torn region double to 80,000.

Pakistan is clearly unable to control its northern border and NATO could offer military assistance to the government of President Pervez Musharraf -- but if the offer is rejected, training camps and insurgent hideouts should be attacked, says the council's Canadian manager.

"If we don't do that, we will be in Afghanistan and the insurgency will go on forever," Almas Bawar Zakhilwal said yesterday.

"It's impossible to defeat the insurgency in Afghanistan. If we want to defeat the insurgency and stabilize Afghanistan, we have to take another step and deal with the insurgency at their home, at their bases."

In releasing the group's latest report in Ottawa, Zakhilwal was unclear on what kind of military operation should be undertaken.

But he later clarified his remarks by saying that the council was not advocating an all-out ground war or air strikes. Instead, he said, NATO special forces units should be deployed inside Pakistan in pinpoint strikes aimed at training facilities.

It is a startling declaration from a group that has advocated progress through development, such as a poppies-for-medicine program, but Zakhilwal says the security situation is so bad Kabul could soon be in danger.

A Senlis Council analysis suggested as much as 52 per cent of Afghanistan's geographic area faces a threat by insurgents, but much of the land cited by the group is isolated mountain ranges or desert wasteland.

The council's recommendation, including incursions into Pakistan, were curtly dismissed by Defence Minister Peter MacKay yesterday.

"It's not credible," he said.

NDP Leader Jack Layton, whose party has often quoted Senlis Council reports in the Commons to buttress its case against the combat mission, was troubled by the group's hawkish turn.

"We do not favour an expansion of the war in Afghanistan and we do not share the analysis that's been offered by this particular group," he said following question period.

Pakistan is a powder keg waiting to explode, said Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre.

"No, no, invading northern Pakistan is not the solution," he said. "Diplomacy is the solution."

The latest Senlis report also renewed its criticism of the aid and development effort, suggesting that Canada form a combat aid agency to deliver immediate humanitarian relief.

"The military should now be tasked to deliver aid to ravaged areas in the south and east and be granted control" of CIDA's war zone budget.

NATO urged to attack Taliban training camps

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

DATE: 2007.11.22

SECTION: National/World

PAGE: B2

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Murray Brewster

DATELINE: OTTAWA

WORD COUNT: 593

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A Senlis Council analysis suggested as much as 52 per cent of Afghanistan's geographic area faces a threat by insurgents, but much of the land cited by the group is isolated mountain ranges or desert wasteland.

But the group's conclusion that safety and security in populated regions is backed by up the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights – former Canadian Supreme Court justice Louise Arbour – who said Tuesday that civilian casualties from both Taliban and NATO bombings have reached "alarming levels."

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"It's not credible," he said.

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"We do not favour an expansion of the war in Afghanistan and we do not share the analysis that's been offered by this particular group," he said following question period.

"A broadening of the conflict could lead to further international destabilization."

Pakistan, currently under emergency rule and swamped by street demonstrations and mass arrests, is a powder keg waiting to explode, said Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre.

"No, no, invading northern Pakistan is not the solution," he said. "Diplomacy is the solution."

But Coderre was not prepared to dismiss everything the council had to say, especially its recommendation that NATO look to Muslim countries to provide troops in order to counter Taliban propaganda that claims Western countries are occupying Afghanistan.

"We need to find a way to get Turkey more involved," Coderre said of NATO's only Muslim nation.

Last January, Canada held low-level military talks with the United Arab Emirates about that Gulf state contributing a small combat task force, but it's unclear what – if anything – came of the discussions.

Zakhilwal says most NATO countries have the room to increase troop levels and suggested Canada could contribute at least another 200 ground soldiers. But Coderre and Layton said the suggestions would not fly with the Canadian public.

The latest Senlis report also renewed its criticism of the aid and development effort, suggesting that Canada form a combat aid agency to deliver immediate humanitarian relief.

"The military should now be tasked to deliver aid to ravaged areas in the south and east and be granted control" of CIDA's war zone budget.

Steve Staples of the Rideau Institute, an outspoken opponent of the war, said the council has done a good job trying to create new solutions to difficult problems.

"We would agree with the analysis the situation is dire, but while the report is well-intentioned, it's misguided," he said.

NATO urged to attack Taliban training camps in Pakistan

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.11.22
SECTION: Canada
PAGE: A9
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
BYLINE: Murray Brewster
WORD COUNT: 340

OTTAWA – An international group often cited by peace activists is recommending NATO broaden the war in southern Afghanistan and attack Taliban training camps in northern Pakistan. The Senlis Council, a European-based think-tank known more for its development and aid research, is also suggesting the number of troops in the war-torn region double to 80,000.

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The council's recommendation, including incursions into Pakistan, were curtly dismissed by Defence Minister Peter MacKay he as left the Commons on Wednesday.

"It's not credible," he said.

Report warns of Taliban crisis

IDNUMBER 200711220019
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A10
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Pat McGrath, CanWest News Service / Defence Minister Peter MacKay dismissed a report claiming the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan has reached 'crisis proportions.' ;
KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 367

OTTAWA — NATO forces should push into Pakistan to quell an insurgency in Afghanistan that has reached "crisis proportions," according to a report by a think-tank with operations in Kandahar province.

The report by the Senlis Council, a persistent thorn in the side of Ottawa over its policy on Afghanistan, contradicts recent statements by Canadian military commanders that Taliban insurgents are on their heels.

Rather, the Taliban now control "vast swaths" of territory and are the "de facto" governing authority in "significant" parts of Afghanistan's south and east, according to the Senlis report. Senlis says its assessment is based on news reports and records of Taliban attacks kept by Afghan security forces.

As a result, the Taliban's goal of reaching Kabul by 2008 "appears more viable than ever," the report says.

"The depressing conclusion is that, despite the vast injections of international capital flowing into the country, and a universal desire to 'succeed' in Afghanistan, the state is once again in serious danger of falling into the hands of the Taliban," the report concludes.

But Defence Minister Peter MacKay quickly dismissed the report.

"It's not credible," he said after exiting the House of Commons.

The report also noted the Taliban exercise a "significant amount of psychological control" over the Afghan population and have been gaining "political legitimacy."

However, a recent survey commissioned by Canadian media organizations throughout Afghanistan found nearly three in four Afghans have a negative view of the Taliban.

Senlis warns the Taliban are increasingly adopting the "asymmetric warfare" tactics used by militants in Iraq, such as roadside bombs and suicide attacks.

The think-tank says the insurgency is being driven by a "large poverty-driven 'grassroots' component and a concentrated group of hardcore militant Islamists." To quell the insurgency, Senlis recommends NATO double its troop levels to 80,000 soldiers.

NATO should require its member states to put up 2.3 soldiers per \$1 billion US of gross domestic product, Senlis advises.

Under that formula, Canada would have to increase its troop contingent to 2,933 soldiers. There are about 2,500 Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

The think-tank also recommends NATO "move into Pakistan" -- a suggestion sure to be controversial among Pakistan's strategic allies, such as the United States.

Senlis does not advocate the invasion of Pakistan, said Almas Bawar Zakhilwal, the think-tank's manager in Canada. "It will be talking to Pakistan to put pressure on those provinces [that are harbouring the Taliban] as much as they can. They have to allow NATO forces to go after insurgents who cross the border."

Report warns of Taliban crisis

IDNUMBER 200711220017
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final Cc
SECTION: News
PAGE: A10
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Pat McGrath/CNS / Defence Minister PeterMacKay dismissed a report claiming the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan has reached 'crisis proportions.' ;
KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 363

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NATO push into Pakistan sought; Insurgency in Afghanistan at 'crisis' level, says think-tank

IDNUMBER 200711220015

PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald

DATE: 2007.11.22

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters / A Canadian soldier from the NATO-led coalition runs through a grape field during a mission to hunt for weapons caches near the Taliban stronghold of Panjwaii town, Kandahar province. Senlis Council, a think-tank, recommends that NATO double its troop levels to 80,000 soldiers to quell insurgency in Afghanistan. ;

KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

DATELINE: OTTAWA

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 406

NATO forces should push into Pakistan to quell an insurgency in Afghanistan that has reached "crisis proportions," according to a report by a think-tank with operations in Kandahar province.

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The Taliban's "command-and-control structures" have regrouped in Quetta, Pakistan, and the insurgency has established "firm roots" in the Pashtun belt along the border of the two countries, notes Senlis.

Senlis was founded in 2002 by Vancouver lawyer Norine MacDonald and is bankrolled by Swedish philanthropist Stephan Schmidheiny, an early investor in the Swatch Group.

It has offices in London, Paris, Brussels, Ottawa, Rio de Janeiro and Kabul, as well as field offices in Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

Think-tank says allies losing fight for Afghanistan; Taliban in control over vast areas: Senlis Council

IDNUMBER 200711220021

PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star

DATE: 2007.11.22

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A6

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Agence France-Presse / BURNING HASH: Two U.S.soldiers stand guard near a pile of burning hashish during an official ceremony in Jalalabad, Afghanistan Wednesday. ;

DATELINE: OTTAWA

BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 338

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Taliban are winning, think-tank declares; Organization says NATO must double its troop strength, push into Pakistan

IDNUMBER 200711220032
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A11
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 345

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Study warns of Taliban resurgence; Ousted regime is now 'de facto' ruler in much of Afghanistan, NATO told

IDNUMBER 200711220028
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A10
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 432

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Study warns of Taliban resurgence; Ousted regime is now 'de facto' ruler in much of Afghanistan, NATO told

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The Canadian Press News Budget, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007

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WORD COUNT: 2443

Here's a recap of top stories for editions of Thursday, Nov. 22, moved as of 23:00 ET. The next coverage advisory will move at about 13:00 with fresh details on coverage for Friday editions. If you have any questions, contact CP's National Desk at 416-507-2150.

For queries about non-Canadian Press syndicated copy, call the Specials Desk at 416-507-2152.

TASER CONTROVERSY

OTTAWA _ The RCMP's watchdog wants to make sure Mounties aren't being "too casual" about firing Tasers. Paul Kennedy is doing a review for the government following the death of a Polish immigrant at Vancouver airport. 1,050 words. By Jim Bronskill and Sue Bailey. BC-Taser-Review, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

VANCOUVER _ Taser International Inc. is currently named as a defendant in 39 wrongful death or personal injury lawsuits where a Taser was used. 800 words. By Terri Theodore. BC-Taser-Lawsuits, 1st Writethru. Moved.

VICTORIA _ Phone lines between Ottawa and Victoria were humming over the weekend as the federal and B.C. governments pondered how to handle the massive fallout generated from a video showing a Polish immigrant dying shortly after being shot with a Taser by RCMP officers at Vancouver airport. B.C. Solicitor General John Les says the two governments were in contact with each other over the weekend and they talked moments before the B.C. Liberal government called a public inquiry, but he insists no deals were made between the two governments. 750 words. By Dirk Meissner. BC-Airport-Taser-Politics, 1st Writethru. Moved.

FREDERICTON _ The sister of a New Brunswick man who died after police repeatedly shocked him with a Taser said Wednesday the devices should be banned across Canada until their safety can be proven. Karen Geldart of Moncton, N.B., said the furor over the death of a Polish man after a police Taser attack in the Vancouver International Airport is vindicating concerns she has had since her 34-year-old brother, Kevin Geldart, died in 2005. 650 words. By Chris Morris. NB-Taser-Death, 1st Writethru. Moved.

CROSS-BORDER SHOPPING

TORONTO _ Canadians are expected to rush to border crossings in droves Friday to shop in the United States and cash in on the year's biggest sales, propelled by the U.S. Thanksgiving weekend. They're doing so despite countless warnings that suggest the journey could be more of a chore than an adventure. It all starts on Black Friday, the busiest shopping day of the year in the U.S. and widely regarded as the unofficial kickoff of the Christmas shopping season in both the U.S. and Canada. 1,200 words. By David Friend. With QuickTips. BC-Cross-Border-Shopping. Moved General (G) and Business (B)

TORONTO _ In the U.S., it's called Cyber Monday _ the first Monday after the American Thanksgiving holiday when shoppers south of the border return to work and hit the Internet at the office to buy Christmas gifts. But in Canada, at least this year, you could call it Cyber Fall. With the Canadian dollar now above the

American greenback, it seems many Canucks have been clicking and pointing their way to deals and products south of the border for several weeks without having to endure border lineups and traffic headaches. 1,200 words. By Victoria Ahearn. Moves General (G) and Lifestyles (L). BC-Cross-Border-Shopping-Online. Moved.

TORONTO _ A soaring loonie pushed the number of cars Canadians purchased south of the border in October to nearly 25,000 _ an increase of more than one hundred per cent over the same month last year. According to Transport Canada, 24,873 cars were imported from the United States in October, more than double the number of cars _ 12,289 _ imported in the same month last year. 600 words. By Merita Ilo. BC-Cross-Border-Cars. Moved.

NEW YORK_ That US\$3.20 latte at Starbucks or the \$300 handbag at Coach may no longer be affordable luxuries for American shoppers. Feeling squeezed by gasoline prices and weak credit, American shoppers are increasingly trading down to lower-price stores or cheaper items. Such changes _ which emerged this past summer and surfaced in the latest financial results for retailers _ could alter dynamics of the holiday shopping season as it officially kicks off Friday, with the busiest shopping day of the year after the U.S. Thanksgiving Day holiday. The day will also see tens of thousands of Canadians crossing the border looking for bargains at U.S. stores. 1,000 words. By Anne D'Innocenzio. With Photos MIGM101-104. BC-US-Holiday-Shopping. Moved Business (B) and World (W).

OTHER CANADIAN

OTTAWA _ Canada deserves to be blasted by the top European human rights watchdog for washing its hands of Canadians facing the death penalty abroad, say opposition politicians. The Council of Europe has admonished Canada for a policy reversal that Liberal foreign affairs critic Bob Rae calls ``disgraceful." 725 words. By Joan Bryden. 695 words. BC-Cda-Death-Penalty. 1st Writethru, Moved.

OTTAWA _ The number of Canadians behind bars rose in 2005-06 for the first time in a decade, as more adults were jailed while awaiting trial or sentencing. The prison population could rise even higher if the Commons passes Conservative government legislation that aims to introduce minimum sentences for some crimes and toughen youth sentencing. 600 words. By John Ward. BC-StatsCan-Jail, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ The Conservative government is barring opposition MPs from joining the Canadian delegation to a major United Nations climate-change conference next month. Environment Minister John Baird's office confirmed Wednesday that it will not invite opposition critics along, as has been the traditional government practice. 500 words. By Jennifer Ditchburn. BC-Tories-Bali-No-Critics, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ The Conservative government is moving to protect two huge areas of boreal forest in the Northwest Territories from development. Environment Minister John Baird announced two massive conservation areas Wednesday, completing a process started by the former Liberal government. 670 words. By Bruce Cheadle. See CP Photos. BC-Tories-Northern-Parks, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ An international group often cited by peace activists is recommending NATO broaden the war in southern Afghanistan and attack Taliban training camps in northern Pakistan. The Senlis Council, a European-based think-tank known more for its development and aid research, is also suggesting doubling the number of troops in the war-torn region. 750 words. By Murray Brewster. BC-Afghan-Cda-Senlis, 1st Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ The federal Conservatives are hoping to stop identity theft by having people charged before a fraud crime is committed. Legislation was to be introduced Wednesday that would make it an offence to possess someone else's personal identifying information with the intention of selling it or using it to commit a fraud. 650 words. By Terry Pedwell. See CP Photo. BC-Tories-Identity Theft, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

TORONTO _ Canadian women are being unfairly shortchanged by the country's Employment Insurance system, which was made more restrictive a decade ago and now boasts a multibillion-dollar surplus, a recent study concludes. The study for the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, to be released Thursday, finds the qualification requirements for EI have left many women who lose their jobs out of pocket despite having paid their fair share of premiums. 550 words. By Colin Perkel. BC-EI-Women, 1st Writethru.

OTTAWA _ Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh says he and others who spoke out against Sikh extremism in the 1980s felt abandoned by the rest of Canadian society in their struggle against violence. He recalled that he never even got an answer from then-prime minister Brian Mulroney when he wrote to warn of the gravity of the problem _ just two months before Air India Flight 182 was bombed. 800 words. By Jim Brown. See CP Photos. BC-Air-India, 1st Writethru. Moved.

NEW WESTMINSTER – The defence wrapped up its summation Wednesday in the trial of accused serial-killer Robert Pickton, taking three days to detail what it says are flaws in the Crown's case against the Port Coquitlam, B.C., pig farmer. 850 words. By Greg Joyce. BC-CRIME-Pickton, 4th Writethru. Moved.

TORONTO _ Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty shrugged off Peter Van Loan's claim he's "the small man of Confederation" as he vowed Wednesday not to back down from his demand that the province be represented by more members of Parliament. McGuinty has been engaged in a war of words with the Conservative government house leader over a federal bill to increase the number of House of Commons seats to reflect growing populations in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. On Wednesday, however, the federal Liberals went to bat for McGuinty as they assailed Van Loan in Question Period. 700 words. By Keith Leslie. BC-Ont-Commons-Seats, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

MONTREAL _ Canada's top Roman Catholic official has appealed for forgiveness for the failings of the church but the apology fell flat Wednesday for some of those he admits have been hurt in the past. Marc Cardinal Ouellet admitted in an open letter that children have been subjected to the sexual aggression of priests and that, "prior to 1960," women, minorities and homosexuals suffered discrimination from some Catholics. 650 words. By Dene Moore. BC-Cardinal-Forgiveness, 1st Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ Police were investigating an apparent triple homicide after officers responding to a 911 call made a gruesome discovery Wednesday inside a home in a quiet subdivision in the national capital. Officers visited the home in response to a call from a family member to check on one of the occupants, said Ottawa police Const. Alain Boucher. When they broke in, they found three bodies inside. 500 words. BC-CRIME-Ottawa-Bodies, 8th Writethru. Moved.

MONTREAL _ Roger Grenier did everything he could to ensure death of the woman he beat and left in the trunk of her car, Quebec court Judge Manon Ouimet said as she sentenced Grenier to 15 years in prison. She called him a "lucky assassin" because his victim survived her ordeal. 550 words. By Sidhartha Banerjee. BC-CRIME-Car-Trunk, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

EDMONTON _ New research suggests Canadian polar bear hunting policies could be pushing populations of the iconic Arctic predator toward sudden, steep declines. Heating up an intense debate over the fate of an animal that has come to symbolize climate change, a paper published Wednesday in the London-England-based Proceedings of the Royal Society suggests that the bears' ability to maintain their numbers depends in part on their male-female split. 550 words. By Bob Weber. BC-Polar-Bear-Hunting.

HALIFAX _ Strikes serve as an "important bellwether" of an overburdened health-care system, allowing workers to sound the alarm when the system is about to break down, says a newly released report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The think-tank was to release its second report examining Nova Scotia's proposed anti-strike bill Thursday, the same day the legislation was expected to figure prominently in the speech from the throne. 700 words. By James Keller. NS-Health_Strikes, 2nd Writethru. Advance _

EMBARGOED TO 23:00 ET.

VANCOUVER _ Testimony continued Wednesday before the independent inquiry examining the 1998 death of Frank Paul, who taken from Vancouver police drunk tank and dumped in a Downtown Eastside alley, where he apparently died of exposure. 650 words. By Camille Bains. BC–Paul–Death–Inquiry, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

VICTORIA _ A B.C. Supreme Court judge handed down his decision Wednesday in a mammoth aboriginal title case involving the Xeni Gwet'lin First Nation who have claimed title to more than 4,000 square kilometres of B.C. Interior territory. 500 words. BC–Aboriginal–Title–Decision, 1st Writethru. Moved.

See also: Victoria BC–Maa–nulth–Treaty. Moved.

REGINA _ Saskatchewan's new Premier Brad Wall faced his first major test as his inaugural cabinet was announced and sworn in Wednesday. Cabinet–making is a delicate art for even the most seasoned political leaders, let alone Wall, a rookie premier whose Saskatchewan Party has no experience on government benches. 600 words. By Tim Cook. See CP Photos. With QuickList. BC–Sask–First–Cabinet, 2nd Writethru. Moved regional (D).

EDMONTON _ Alberta has a new anti–bullying program that includes new resources to battle the growing problem of cyber harassment _ sending threatening or embarrassing messages on the Internet. Const. Rick Cole of the Edmonton Police Service says schoolyard power struggles have always been a problem in Alberta, but he now spends most of his time dealing with cyber–bullying. 550 words. By Jim Macdonald. BC–Alta–Cyber–Bullying, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

VANCOUVER _ The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games held its regular board meeting Wednesday, the first to be attended by chairman Jack Poole since completing treatment for pancreatic cancer. 450 words. By Camille Bains. Sports Interest. BC–Oly–VANOC, 1st Writethru. Moved Sports (S) and General (G).

TORONTO _ Amid growing apprehension about bisphenol A, some Canadian parents are already paying a premium for baby bottles, sippy cups and other products that are free of the controversial chemical, which has been linked to cancer and is at the centre of a growing debate over whether it should be banned. However, most parents still aren't educated on the potential dangers of the chemical, consumer experts and retailers say. 700 words. By Jered Stuffco. BC–Baby–Bottles–Toxins. Moved.

TORONTO _ Advocates of raw, unpasteurized milk were again pleading their case at the Ontario legislature Wednesday, but the province still isn't listening, insisting it's simply not safe for consumption. One year ago, a Durham farm was raided by armed officers; farmer and raw–milk crusader Michael Schmidt was charged with operating a milk plant without a licence. Schmidt questioned why the government went so over the top with its ``shock and awe" raid and why it can't let people decide for themselves whether to drink raw milk. 700 words. BC–Raw–Milk–Protest, 3rd Writethru. Moved regional (C).

HALIFAX _ Nova Scotia's opposition parties have drawn their line in the sand in opposing proposed legislation that would take away the right to strike for health–care workers. NDP Leader Darrell Dexter said his party and the Liberals have agreed to kill any bill brought forward by Premier Rodney MacDonald during the fall sitting of the legislature, which begins Thursday with a speech from the throne. 625 words. By Keith Doucette. NS–Legis–Session, 2nd Writethru. Moved regional (A).

Attack Taliban training camps in Pakistan, Senlis Council tells NATO

DATE: 2007.11.21
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 613

OTTAWA _ An international group often cited by peace activists is recommending NATO broaden the war in southern Afghanistan and attack Taliban training camps in northern Pakistan.

The Senlis Council, a European-based think-tank known more for its development and aid research, is also suggesting the number of troops in the war-torn region double to 80,000.

Pakistan is clearly unable to control its northern border and NATO could offer military assistance to the government of President Pervez Musharraf _ but if the offer is rejected, training camps and insurgent hideouts should be attacked, says the council's Canadian manager.

``If we don't do that, we will be in Afghanistan and the insurgency will go on forever," Almas Bawar Zakhilwal said Wednesday.

``It's impossible to defeat the insurgency in Afghanistan. If we want to defeat the insurgency and stabilize Afghanistan, we have to take another step and deal with the insurgency at their home, at their bases."

In releasing the group's latest report in Ottawa, Zakhilwal was unclear on what kind of military operation should be undertaken.

But he later clarified his remarks by saying that the council was not advocating an all-out ground war or air strikes. Instead, he said, NATO special forces units should be deployed inside Pakistan in pinpoint strikes aimed at training facilities.

It is a startling declaration from a group that has advocated progress through development, such as a poppies-for-medicine program, but Zakhilwal says the security situation is so bad Kabul could soon be in danger.

A Senlis Council analysis suggested as much as 52 per cent of Afghanistan's geographic area faces a threat by insurgents, but much of the land cited by the group is isolated mountain ranges or desert wasteland.

But the group's conclusion that safety and security in populated regions is backed by up the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights _ former Canadian Supreme Court justice Louise Arbour _ who said Tuesday that civilian casualties from both Taliban and NATO bombings have reached ``alarming levels."

The council's recommendation, including incursions into Pakistan, were curtly dismissed by Defence Minister Peter MacKay he as left the Commons on Wednesday.

``It's not credible," he said.

NDP Leader Jack Layton, whose party has often quoted Senlis Council reports in the Commons to buttress its case against the combat mission, was troubled by the group's hawkish turn.

“We do not favour an expansion of the war in Afghanistan and we do not share the analysis that's been offered by this particular group,” he said following question period.

“A broadening of the conflict could lead to further international destabilization.”

Pakistan, currently under emergency rule and swamped by street demonstrations and mass arrests, is a powder keg waiting to explode, said Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre.

“No, no, invading northern Pakistan is not the solution,” he said. “Diplomacy is the solution.”

But Coderre was not prepared to dismiss everything the council had to say, especially its recommendation that NATO look to Muslim countries to provide troops in order to counter Taliban propaganda that claims Western countries are occupying Afghanistan.

“We need to find a way to get Turkey more involved,” Coderre said of NATO's only Muslim nation.

Last January, Canada held low-level military talks with the United Arab Emirates about that Gulf state contributing a small combat task force, but it's unclear what _ if anything _ came of the discussions.

Zakhilwal says most NATO countries have the room to increase troop levels and suggested Canada could contribute at least another 200 ground soldiers. But Coderre and Layton said the suggestions would not fly with the Canadian public.

The latest Senlis report also renewed its criticism of the aid and development effort, suggesting that Canada form a combat aid agency to deliver immediate humanitarian relief.

“The military should now be tasked to deliver aid to ravaged areas in the south and east and be granted control” of CIDA's war zone budget.

Steve Staples of the Rideau Institute, an outspoken opponent of the war, said the council has done a good job trying to create new solutions to difficult problems.

“We would agree with the analysis the situation is dire, but while the report is well-intentioned, it's misguided,” he said.

ADVISORY–Central–Canada–Calendar

DATE: 2007.11.21
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 837

Here is the Central Canada calendar for Wednesday, November 21, 2007

Good Morning from the Ontario Desk of The Canadian Press in Toronto.

The Ontario Editor is Alan Black

The phone number is (416) 507–2185.

Stations wishing to file by fax can dial (416) 364–1325 or 1–800–561–0297.

The email address is news(at)broadcastnews.ca

The Quebec Editor is Peter Ray

The phone number is (514) 985–7235.

Stations wishing to file by fax can dial (514) 849–7693.

QUEBEC

MONTREAL — Quebec Court Judge will sentence 58–year–old Roger Grenier, found guilty of kidnapping, robbing and beating pharmacist Marie–Josee Caron last July. (9:30 a.m. at Montreal Courthouse)

MONTREAL — Grocer Metro holds fourth–quarter earnings conference call. Dial 416–644–3418. (10 a.m.)

MONTREAL — Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay announces city will begin installing water meters in industry, commercial and institutional buildings. (2 p.m. at 801 Brennan) – –

MONTREAL — Ghislain Picard, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, announces proposals for aboriginal health care. (3 p.m. at Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Salon St–Francois)

MONTREAL — Rogers Sugar Income Fund holds fourth–quarter earnings conference call. Dial 1–800–733–7571. (5 p.m.)

QUEBEC — Quebec cabinet meets. (10 a.m. at Honore–Mercier Bldg)

QUEBEC — A ceremony is held to mark the 10th anniversary of Quebec's pay equity law. (4 p.m. at Legislature library)

SHERBROOKE, Que. — The Quebec commission on reasonable accommodation continues its provincewide travels. (7 p.m. at Delta Sherbrooke, 2685 King St. West) – –

TEMISCAMING, Que. — Forestry firm Tembec holds fourth–quarter earnings conference call. Dial

1-800-408-3054, code: 3239121. Webcast at www.tembec.com (4 p.m.)

OTTAWA

OTTAWA --- Daily question period. (2:15 p.m. at House of Commons, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Public hearings into the bombing of Air India Flight 182. (9:30 a.m. at Victoria Hall, Bytown Pavilion, 111 Sussex Drive OTTAWA --- Statistics Canada releases September retail trade. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

OTTAWA --- Statistics Canada releases 2005-06 adult and youth correctional services key indicators. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

OTTAWA --- NDP caucus meeting. (9 a.m. at Room 308, West Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Conservative caucus meeting. (9:30 a.m. at Room 237-C, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Senlis Council releases report and recommendations on Afghanistan issues. (10 a.m. at Weston Hotel, 11 Colonel By Dr., Manitoba Room)

OTTAWA --- Liberal caucus meeting. (10 a.m. at Room 253-D, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Housing groups hold news conference on report titled Dimensions of Core Housing Need in Canada. (11 a.m. at Room 130-S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Environment Minister John Baird and Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl announce conservation measures for Canada's North. (11:30 a.m. at Canadian Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St.)
OTTAWA --- Senate veterans affairs subcommittee meets. Subject to change without notice. (12 p.m. at Room 172-E, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Commons estimates committee meets. Subject to change without notice. (3:30 p.m. at Room 269, West Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Commons fisheries committee hears witnesses on small craft harbours. Subject to change without notice. (3:30 p.m. at Room 536, Wellington Building)

OTTAWA --- Canadian Council for International Co-operation hosts Impacts of Canadian Mining Activities in Guatemala and Mexico: 2 Southern Perspectives. (2:15 p.m. at Canadian Council for International Co-operation, 1 Nicholas St., Boardroom)

OTTAWA --- Commons estimates committee meets. Subject to change without notice. (3:30 p.m. at Room 269, West Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Commons fisheries committee hears witnesses on small craft harbours. Subject to change without notice. (3:30 p.m. at Room 209, West Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Commons status of women committee meets. Subject to change without notice. (3:30 p.m. at Room 208, West Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Commons agriculture committee hears witnesses on Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Subject to change without notice. (3:30 p.m. at Room 371, West Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Commons finance committee hears witnesses on Canadian dollar appreciation impact. Subject to change without notice. (3:30 p.m. at Room 237-C, Centre Block, Parliament Hill) – jub–

OTTAWA --- Senate legal affairs committee hears witnesses on Bill S-203: cruelty to animals. Subject to change without notice. (4 p.m. at Room 257, East Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA --- Commons languages committee meets in camera. Subject to change without notice. (5 p.m. at Room 307, West Block, Parliament Hill)

ONTARIO

TORONTO --- Public hearings in an inquiry into the work of discredited pathologist Dr. Charles Smith takes place. (9:30 a.m. at 180 Dundas St. W., 20th floor)

TORONTO --- Out-of-home media provider OutdoorPartner Media Corp. holds conference call to review third-quarter earnings. Dial 416-644-3416. (8:30 a.m.)

TORONTO --- Premier Dalton McGuinty attends cabinet meeting. (9 a.m. at Queen's Park, room 275)

TORONTO --- Winnipeg Bombers coach Doug Berry and Saskatchewan Roughriders coach Kent Austin speak to the media ahead of Sunday's Grey Cup. (9 a.m. at Royal York Hotel)

TORONTO --- Raw milk advocate Michael Schmidt will ask Queen's Park legislators to reconsider regulations banning sales of raw milk in Ontario. Schmidt will also hold a rally at Queen's Park to mark the first anniversary of a raid at his farm by provincial investigators. (10:30 a.m. at Queen's Park media studio)

TORONTO --- Winnipeg Blue Bombers practice. (10:30 a.m. at Rogers Centre)

TORONTO --- Saskatchewan Roughriders practise ahead of the Grey Cup. (10:30 a.m. at Rogers Centre)

TORONTO --- Chevron Canada President Mark Nelson, on behalf of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, speaks to The Economic Club of Toronto: "It Matters to All of Us." (11:45 a.m. at The Hilton Hotel)

TORONTO --- Tracy Christie holds press conference to outline protest plans for upcoming Dec. 4 parole hearing for man convicted of killing her 16-year old daughter in 1996. (1:30 p.m. at 82 Greenbrae Cirt)

TORONTO --- Shrek meets children and their families at the Hospital for Sick Children. (2 p.m. at Hospital for Sick Children, 4th Floor, the Bear Theatre, 555 University Ave.)

TORONTO --- CIS all Canadian awards (6:30 p.m. at Royal York, Toronto Room)

TORONTO --- Shlomo Goldwasser and Zvi Regev, the fathers of two Israeli soldiers kidnapped in July 2006, to speak about their efforts to free their sons. (7 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 470 Glencairn Ave.)

--Eleventh NewsWatch--

DATE: 2007.11.21
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 363

The man who is examining the use of Tasers by the Mounties says he's concerned about the dehumanizing aspect of the weapon's use.

Paul Kennedy, chairman of the R-C-M-P Public Complaints Commission, says there's a tendency as well to undervalue the pain that a Taser can deliver.

Kennedy had already begun looking into the death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski (zhee-KAN'-ski) after he was tasered by Mounties in Vancouver last month.

But at the request of the federal government, he's also taking a broader look at how and when Tasers are used. (11)

(Afghan-Cda-Senlis) (Audio: P02)

A European think-tank is recommending NATO broaden its scope in fighting the war in Afghanistan.

The Senlis Council is suggesting that Taliban training camps in Pakistan be attacked.

The Council also says the number of troops in the war-torn region should be doubled to 80-thousand.

It's an unusual set of ideas from the organization, which has long been known for its aid and development research. (11)

(Cardinal-Forgiveness)

A letter published in Quebec newspapers today from a high-ranking Catholic Church official is being met with some skepticism.

The plea for forgiveness for the failings of the church was penned by Marc Cardinal Ouellet.

He says the sexual molestation of children by priests and, prior to 1960, racist and sexist attitudes, have hindered the church's moral authority.

But one gay activist says simply that the wrongs committed by the church continue today. (11)

(Security-Skirt)

A Muslim woman and the security company she works for at Toronto's Pearson International Airport have reached a compromise in a dispute over the length of her skirt.

Halima Muse was suspended in August from her job as a screener because her superiors said her skirt was too long.

She said the length conformed with Islamic code and a religious discrimination suit was filed on her behalf.

But now the Teamsters union says the company has offered her a full-time administrative job where she can wear civilian attire. (11)

(Cross-Border-Shopping-Online) (Audio: 129)

The numbers show that not only are Canadians flocking to the U-S to shop, they're also spending more bucks online with U-S retailers.

For example, an official with U-S clothing chain L-L Bean says in terms of recent online sales to Canada, they're seeing double-digit increases.

And in October, Canada Post reported a 15 per cent increase from last year in the volume of mail or parcels coming into Canada from the U-S. (11)

(Tired at Thanksgiving)

An American doctor says the idea that turkey makes you sleepy is simply an old wives tale.

As Americans get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving tomorrow, the sleep specialist says that sleepy feeling is likely from a combination of drinking too much alcohol, eating too many carbs and a lack of sleep.

Dr. Carol Ash says in reality, the tryptophan in turkey that helps bring on calm has a hard time reaching the brain after a big meal. (11)

(NewsWatch by Leanne Davis)

--Twelfth NewsWatch--

DATE: 2007.11.21
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 336

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says he's pleased to see Canadian retailers are beginning to pass on some of the savings from the strong dollar to consumers.

Flaherty told the Commons finance committee today that Canadian prices will never be identical to American prices -- but it's good to see retail prices coming down.

He also suggests concern over the dollar's rise have lessened since the loonie's fall from a peak of one dollar and 10 cents U-S earlier this month.

The dollar is down four-fifths of a cent today at 101.12 cents U-S. (12)

(Taser-Review) (Audio: P06)

Liberal leader Stephane Dion is calling for a broader review of the use of Tasers by police.

The current review, called by Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day, is only going to look at the R-C-M-P.

But Dion says that should be extended to all police forces across Canada.

The chair of R-C-M-P's Public Complaints Commission is reviewing Mountie use of Tasers amid a public uproar over the death of a Polish immigrant at Vancouver's airport last month. (12)

(Afghan-Cda-Senlis) (Audio: P08)

The Senlis Council is known for its peaceful approach -- advocating progress through development around the world.

But today, the group has made some uncharacteristic suggestions to NATO.

It says Taliban training camps in northern Pakistan should be attacked in order to help the situation in Afghanistan.

But first, the group says NATO should offer to help Pakistan control its unstable northern border. (12)

(Khadr-Media-Cda)

A group of U-S news organizations has filed a complaint about the proceedings against Canadian terror suspect Omar Khadr.

The group, headed by The Associated Press, says it's being denied access to much of the court proceedings against Khadr.

And it says transcripts or summaries from closed sessions aren't being made available.

Khadr, who's being held by the U-S at Guantanamo Bay, is accused of killing a U-S soldier in Afghanistan in 2002. (12)

(Ottawa-Bodies)

Police are investigating the discovery of three bodies in a home in a quiet subdivision in southeast Ottawa.

The major crimes unit is on scene and police are releasing few other details.

A neighbour, who did not want to be identified, says a couple in their early- to mid-40s lived in the house with their adult daughter.

They are described as a quiet family who kept to themselves. (12)

(SPORTS-CFL-Grey-Cup-Premiers)

Let the betting begin!

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall and Manitoba's Gary Doer have made a friendly wager in advance of this Sunday's Grey Cup final between the Roughriders and Blue Bombers.

Once a winner is decided, the premiers have agreed to erect a new sign along the Trans-Canada Highway at the provincial boundary.

It will read ``Welcome to the Home of the 2007 Grey Cup Champions" and the losing premier will have to be on hand -- wearing the winning team's jersey. (12)

(NewsWatch by Leanne Davis)

INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

DATE: 2007.11.21
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 142

OTTAWA _ The Senlis Council says it favours NATO special–forces raids on Taliban training camps in Pakistan, not a full–scale invasion.

The agency's manager in Canada, Almas Bawar Zakhilwal, an Afghan–Canadian, issued the clarification this afternoon.

He says Pakistan is clearly unable to control its northern border and NATO could offer assistance.

Zakhilwal says if that's rejected, training camps and insurgent hideouts should be attacked, but adds the Senlis Council does not advocate air strikes, rather more precise, targeted raids.

The group is also suggesting the number of troops in the war–torn region double to 80–thousand.

Liberal foreign affairs critic Bob Rae says Canadians should pay attention to the Senlis Council's opinions on Afghanistan because the Conservative government has failed to explain what's going on.

But he stopped short of endorsing the European agency's view that NATO should take the war to northern Pakistan, where many Taliban training camps are located.

He says the alliance needs to take a leadership role when it comes to the porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

(The Canadian Press)

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DATE: 2007.11.21
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 373

Canada's finance minister says he sees the problems associated with the high Canadian dollar lessening.

But Jim Flaherty continues to insist there are no quick fixes for fluctuations in the loonie that have been seen over recent weeks.

His comments came after manufacturers appearing before the Commons finance committee pleaded for relief from the impact of the strong dollar.

The loonie has been on an almost daily decline since hitting a high of one dollar and 10 cents U-S earlier this month -- and is trading today at just over one dollar and one cent U-S. (13)

(Afghan-Cda-Senlis) (audio: P09)

Liberal foreign affairs critic Bob Rae says Canadians should pay attention to the Senlis Council's opinions on Afghanistan.

But he's stopped short of endorsing the European agency's view that NATO should take the war to northern Pakistan, where many Taliban training camps are located.

The Senlis Council, which has been an advocate of development and diplomacy, says it's alarmed at how badly the security situation has deteriorated in Afghanistan. (13)

(CRIME-Pickton)

In their third day of summations at the Robert Pickton murder trial, defence lawyers say the forensic evidence in the case just doesn't match up.

Adrian Brooks has told jurors that bullets found in the bodies of three victims were never matched to weapons on Pickton's farm.

Pickton is currently on trial in the murders of six Vancouver women and is expected to stand trial on a remaining 20 charges at a later date. (13)

(Prisoner-Escapes)

A report in Vancouver says a Persian gang leader may have bribed his way out of jail last week to the tune of a (m) million dollars.

The Globe and Mail cites the report in the Ming Pao Daily News, which says the escape of Omid Tahvili last week happened after a one (m) million dollar reward was offered for anyone who helped him break out.

Tahvili was awaiting sentencing on kidnapping charges.

A B-C Corrections officer has been charged with aiding in the escape of a prisoner. (13)

(Sex Offenders-Georgia)

A restriction on sex offenders in Georgia has been overturned by the state's top court.

The law had barred registered sex offenders from living within 300 metres of schools, churches and other places where children gather.

In an opinion, the court's presiding justice writes there's no place sex offenders can live in Georgia without being ``continually at risk of being rejected." (13)

(ENT-Broadway-Labour-Grinch)

All the Whos in Whoville have been ordered to get back to work.

A New York judge, refusing to be a ``Grinch" this holiday season, has ordered the Broadway production of ``Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!" to reopen despite the ongoing stagehands strike.

The ruling comes a day after a judge heard arguments from producers of the show and owners of the theater housing the six (m) million-dollar production. (13)

(NewsWatch by Leanne Davis)

INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

DATE: 2007.11.21
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 154

OTTAWA – An international group often cited by peace activists is recommending NATO broaden the war in southern Afghanistan and attack Taliban training camps in northern Pakistan.

The Senlis Council, a European-based think-tank known more for its development and aid research, is also suggesting the number of troops in the war-torn region double to 80,000.

The agency's manager in Canada, Almas Bawar Zakhilwal, an Afghan-Canadian, says NATO should also look to Muslim countries to provide troops in order to counter insurgent propaganda that Western countries are occupying Afghanistan.

Zakhilwal says most Alliance countries, including Canada, should contribute to a troop surge.

He says Pakistan is clearly unable to control its northern border and NATO could offer assistance and if that's rejected, training camps and insurgent hideouts should be bombed.

It is a startling declaration from a group that has advocated progress through development, such a poppies-for-medicine program, but Zakhilwal says the security situation is so bad Kabul could soon be in danger.

(The Canadian Press)

Taliban winning battle for Afghanistan, report says; Canadian think-tank calls for extra troops, pursuit of insurgents into Pakistan

IDNUMBER 200711220003
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; PAKISTAN
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: Ottawa Citizen; CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 356

OTTAWA – NATO forces should push into Pakistan to quell an insurgency in Afghanistan that has reached "crisis proportions," according to a report by a think-tank with operations in Kandahar province.

That recommendation by the Senlis Council, a persistent thorn in the side of Ottawa over its policy on Afghanistan, is sure to be controversial among Pakistan's strategic allies, such as the United States.

Senlis does not advocate an invasion of Pakistan, said Almas Bawar Zakhilwal, the think-tank's manager in Canada.

"It will be talking to Pakistan to put pressure on those provinces (that are harbouring the Taliban) as much as they can.

"They have to allow NATO forces to go after insurgents who cross the border."

The Taliban's "command-and-control structures" have regrouped in Quetta, Pakistan, and the insurgency has established "firm roots" in the Pashtun belt along the border of the two countries, notes Senlis.

Senlis also recommends doubling NATO forces to 80,000 soldiers, and suggests member states should be required to put up 2.3 soldiers per \$1 billion US of gross domestic product, Senlis advises.

Under that formula, Canada's contingent would rise to 2,933 soldiers from about 2,500 currently. Only Britain, Turkey, Poland and the Netherlands currently meet Senlis's proposed formula.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay quickly dismissed the report.

"It's not credible," he said outside the House of Commons.

The report's assessment of the progress of the Afghan war contradicts recent statements by Canadian commanders that Taliban insurgents are reeling.

Rather, the Taliban now control "vast swaths" of territory and are the "de facto" governing authority in "significant" parts of Afghanistan's south and east, according to the Senlis report. Senlis says its assessment is

Taliban winning battle for Afghanistan, report says; Canadian think-tank calls for extra troops, pursuit of insurgents into Pakistan

based on news reports and records of Taliban attacks kept by Afghan security forces.

As a result, the Taliban's goal of reaching Kabul by 2008 "appears more viable than ever," the report says.

"The depressing conclusion is that, despite the vast injections of international capital flowing into the country, and a universal desire to 'succeed' in Afghanistan, the state is once again in serious danger of falling into the hands of the Taliban," the report concludes.

The report also noted the Taliban exercise a "significant amount of psychological control" over the Afghan population.

Senlis was founded in 2002 by Vancouver lawyer Norine MacDonald and is bankrolled by Swedish philanthropist Stephan Schmidheiny, an investor in the Swatch Group. It has offices in London, Paris, Brussels, Ottawa, Rio de Janeiro and Kabul, and field offices in Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

Surge urged to defeat Taliban Think-tank says winning 'impossible'

SOURCETAG 0711220698
PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 12
BYLINE: MURRAY BREWSTER, CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 293

NATO should double the number of troops in Afghanistan to 80,000 to broaden the war in southern regions of the country and attack Taliban training camps in northern Pakistan, an independent European think-tank said in a report yesterday.

Pakistan is clearly unable to control its northern border and NATO could offer military assistance to the government of President Pervez Musharraf — but if the offer is rejected, training camps and insurgent hideouts should be attacked, said the Canadian manager of the Senlis Council.

"If we don't do that, we will be in Afghanistan and the insurgency will go on forever," Almas Bawar Zakhilwal said yesterday.

"It's impossible to defeat the insurgency in Afghanistan. If we want to defeat the insurgency and stabilize Afghanistan, we have to take another step and deal with the insurgency at their home, at their bases."

In releasing the group's latest report in Ottawa, Zakhilwal was unclear on what kind of military operation should be undertaken.

But he later clarified his remarks by saying that the council was not advocating an all-out ground war or air strikes. Instead, he said, NATO special forces units should be deployed inside Pakistan in pinpoint strikes aimed at training facilities.

It is a startling declaration from a group that has advocated progress through development, such as a poppies-for-medicine program, but Zakhilwal said the situation is so bad Kabul could soon be in danger.

A Senlis Council analysis suggested as much as 52% of Afghanistan's geographic area faces a threat by insurgents, but much of the land cited by the group is isolated mountain ranges or desert wasteland.

But the group's conclusion that safety and security in populated regions is backed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights — former Canadian Supreme Court justice Louise Arbour — who said civilian casualties from both Taliban and NATO bombings have reached "alarming levels."

The council's recommendation, including incursions into Pakistan, were curtly dismissed by Defence Minister Peter MacKay. "It's not credible," he said. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Surge urged to defeat Taliban Think-tank says winning 'impossible'

SOURCETAG 0711220518
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 28
BYLINE: MURRAY BREWSTER, CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 293

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Surge urged to defeat Taliban Think-tank says winning 'impossible'

SOURCETAG 0711220600
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 8
BYLINE: MURRAY BREWSTER, CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
COLUMN: World Watch
WORD COUNT: 293

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NATO told to expand Afghan war The think-tank Senlis Council recommends attacking Taliban training camps in Pakistan.

SOURCETAG 0711220905
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A6
BYLINE: MURRAY BREWSTER, CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 274

An international group often cited by peace activists is recommending NATO broaden the war in southern Afghanistan and attack Taliban training camps in northern Pakistan.

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Tuesday that civilian casualties from both Taliban and NATO bombings have reached "alarming levels."
KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Surge urged to defeat Taliban Think-tank says winning 'impossible'

SOURCETAG 0711220390
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 20
BYLINE: MURRAY BREWSTER, CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 293

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The council's recommendation, including incursions into Pakistan, were curtly dismissed by Defence Minister Peter MacKay. "It's not credible," he said. **KEYWORDS=CANADA**

Surge urged to defeat Taliban Think-tank says winning 'impossible'

SOURCETAG: 0711220786

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.11.22

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 10

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Michael Sohn, Ap DRAMA AT BERLIN STATION An unidentified man with a knife holds a hostage in a headlock at Berlin's main railway station yesterday. The man was overpowered two hours later by police special forces and the hostage was released unharmed.

BYLINE: MURRAY BREWSTER, CP

DATELINE: OTTAWA

WORD COUNT: 293

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Taliban gaining control: report; Defence minister dismisses think tank

IDNUMBER 200711220013
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A4
KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; PAKISTAN
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: ANDREW MAYEDA
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 208

NATO forces should push into Pakistan to quell an insurgency in Afghanistan that has reached "crisis proportions," according to a report by a think tank with operations in Kandahar province.

The report by the Senlis Council, a persistent thorn in the side of Ottawa over its policy on Afghanistan, contradicts recent statements by Canadian military commanders that Taliban insurgents are on their heels.

Rather, the Taliban now control "vast swaths" of territory and are the "de facto" governing authority in "significant" parts of Afghanistan's south and east, according to the Senlis report. Senlis says its assessment is based on news reports and records of Taliban attacks kept by Afghan security forces.

As a result, the Taliban goal of reaching Kabul by 2008 "appears more viable than ever," the report says.

"The depressing conclusion is that, despite the vast injections of international capital flowing into the country, and a universal desire to 'succeed' in Afghanistan, the state is once again in serious danger of falling into the hands of the Taliban," the report concludes.

But Defence Minister Peter MacKay quickly dismissed the report. "It's not credible," he said after exiting the House of Commons.

To quell the insurgency, Senlis recommends NATO double its troop levels to 80,000 soldiers.

The think tank also recommends NATO "move into Pakistan" – a suggestion sure to be controversial among Pakistan's strategic allies, such as the United States.

NATO shirkers' shortsightedness endangers globe

IDNUMBER 200711220055
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Forum
PAGE: A18
SOURCE: The StarPhoenix
WORD COUNT: 635

A report released Wednesday by the Senlis Council paints a dark picture of the future of the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

Unless NATO doubles its troop strength to 80,000 and lifts all restrictions on their use, Senlis predicts the brutal forces that repressed Afghans and sheltered al-Qaida forces in the 1990s will be back in Kabul sometime next year.

Canada's debate over whether its troops should be kept in Kandahar will be academic, if it takes place at all. The more pressing concern will be to ensure that its personnel and equipment can beat an orderly retreat.

The Taliban already are unchallenged in 54 per cent of Afghan territory, exerting their control and influence in "rural areas, some district centres and (along) important road arteries," the report says. This is happening despite the tremendous efforts and sacrifices of countries such as Canada. An ineffectual and often corrupt Afghan government means more westerners will have to be willing not only to fight for territory — something Canadian soldiers do with remarkable success — but to remain to ensure that aid gets to those in need.

Not incidentally, each of the NATO countries with troops in Afghanistan solemnly pledged before the mission that they'd fight to free the Afghan people and bring order to the government. Unfortunately, some countries — notably Germany, France, Italy and Spain — have refused to allow their soldiers to fight to back up the convictions their leaders espoused.

And NATO's problems are about to get much worse.

Afghanistan wasn't the first country where the alliance got involved to try to end brutal bloodshed. NATO forces stepped into the fray in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the mid-1990s and in 1998 launched a three-month-long bombing campaign to end a concerted effort by Serbian forces to expel or exterminate the Albanian majority in Kosovo.

It's worth remembering that Canadian soldiers were involved in fighting in both these campaigns, as well as one in Croatia, as peacekeepers and representatives of NATO.

Since the Serbs were bombed into submission in June 1998, 17,000 NATO troops have been overseeing what's become, in effect, a reverse ethnic cleansing of Kosovo. Only 200,000 Serbs continue to reside in the area that once was considered the original Serbian state.

On Dec. 10, the deadline to reach an agreement on the future of Kosovo ends. The West is pushing for an independent Kosovo ruled by its majority Albanian population, while Russia is just as adamant in its demand that the land remains in Serbia's domain.

Meanwhile, militia groups on both sides of the issue have been arming themselves for the day NATO leaves. Serbia also has backed an independence movement in Bosnia, threatening to break up that republic should Kosovo be given independence.

Just as the problems in Afghanistan stem from a lack of commitment by some NATO partners, the situation in the former Yugoslavia has deteriorated because no one believes the European nations will stand by their commitment to the region.

And this time it's unlikely that the U.S. will have the wherewithal to bail out its NATO partners, as was the case when Bill Clinton invented a policy of "constructive engagement" in the 1990s. Although Iraq appears to be finally coming under control — the latest numbers show a 55-per-cent drop in attacks and a 60-per-cent reduction in Iraqi civilian casualties since June — it isn't clear whether this marks military success or a regrouping of the insurgency. Britain's military is also clearly not as responsive as it was in the 1990s, and Canada is already overstretched. It will be interesting to see if Germany, Italy, France and Spain will find the courage to act in the Balkans, considering that the battle is now on their doorstep.

In any case, their reluctance to carry a fair share of the load has placed the NATO alliance, Afghans and now, the Europeans, in grave peril.

Allies are losing Afghan battle: think-tank; NATO should double troops to 80,000: report

IDNUMBER 200711220043
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A15
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Reuters File Photo / Defence Minister Peter MacKay has dismissed the report ;
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 336

NATO forces should push into Pakistan to quell an insurgency in Afghanistan that has reached "crisis proportions," according to a report by a think-tank with operations in Kandahar province.

The report by the Senlis Council, a persistent thorn in the side of Ottawa over its policy on Afghanistan, contradicts recent statements by Canadian military commanders that Taliban insurgents are on their heels.

Rather, the Taliban now control "vast swaths" of territory and are the "de facto" governing authority in "significant" parts of Afghanistan's south and east, according to the Senlis report. Senlis says its assessment is based on news reports and records of Taliban attacks kept by Afghan security forces.

As a result, the Taliban's goal of reaching Kabul by 2008 "appears more viable than ever," the report says.

"The depressing conclusion is that, despite the vast injections of international capital flowing into the country, and a universal desire to 'succeed' in Afghanistan, the state is once again in serious danger of falling into the hands of the Taliban," the report concludes.

But Defence Minister Peter MacKay quickly dismissed the report.

"It's not credible," he said after exiting the House of Commons.

The report also noted the Taliban exercise a "significant amount of psychological control" over the Afghan population and have been gaining "political legitimacy."

However, a recent survey commissioned by Canadian media organizations throughout Afghanistan found nearly three in four Afghans have a negative view of the Taliban.

Senlis warns the Taliban are increasingly adopting the "asymmetric warfare" tactics used by militants in Iraq, such as roadside bombs and suicide attacks.

The think-tank says the insurgency is being driven by a "large poverty-driven 'grassroots' component and a concentrated group of hardcore militant Islamists."

To quell the insurgency, Senlis recommends NATO double its troop levels to 80,000 soldiers.

NATO should require its member states to put up 2.3 soldiers per \$1 billion US of gross domestic product, Senlis advises.

Under that formula, Canada would have to increase its troop contingent to 2,933 soldiers. There are about 2,500 Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

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Taliban resistance at 'crisis' levels; Think–Tank Report

IDNUMBER 200711220135
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.11.22
EDITION: National
SECTION: Canada
PAGE: A10
DATELINE: OT TAWA
BYLINE: Andrew Mayeda
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 203

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But Peter MacKay, the Minister of National Defence, dismissed the report yesterday. "It's not credible," he said.

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KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN