

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 4:39 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Sweden: Unprecedented announcement on development assistance commitment to Afghanistan in Tokyo

From: Brzezinski, Mark
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 03:38 AM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: FW: Sweden: Unprecedented announcement on development assistance commitment to Afghanistan in Tokyo

Dear Jake – just want to make sure you saw this. This unprecedented commitment to Afghanistan by Sweden highlights our shared values and interests. The Swedes are eager to take the relationship to a new strategic level. The Secretary’s visit was catalytic to achieving this – we are so grateful for that -- Mark

SBU
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From: SMART Core
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 2:38 PM
To: Christenson, Jennifer L; McCracken, Bryan D; Bolin, Michele L; Mitchell, Lucy R; Call, Christopher D; White, Barry B; Bruchon, Emilie S; Doyle, Gillian M; Geraghty, Patrick C; Obermueller, Martin N; Patrick, Douglas F; Sunde, Bjorn E; Dowdle, Clare E; Thong, Leroy C; Larson, Garold NO; Hall, Amber L; Cerabino-Hess, John
Cc: Moore, Timothy W
Subject: Sweden: Unprecedented announcement on development assistance commitment to Afghanistan in Tokyo

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From: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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Subject: Sweden: Unprecedented announcement on development assistance commitment to Afghanistan in Tokyo

1. (SBU) Summary: On July 12, we met with Sweden's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP), Niclas Trouvé, to get his read-out of the recent Tokyo conference on Afghanistan and to learn more about Sweden's significant development aid announcement. Trouvé said that Sweden wanted to demonstrate its long-term commitment to Afghanistan and therefore has decided to provide \$1.2 billion USD in development assistance to the country between 2015-2024. He underlined that this commitment, in terms of amount and number of years, was historically unprecedented for Sweden. Particularly noteworthy, he said that this commitment was only a framework of aid strategy and not a "normal" strategy. He highlighted that the commitment enjoys broad consensus in the Swedish Parliament after consultations with major opposition parties. However, he emphasized that he made clear to the Afghans in his conference speech that the support is "not unconditional." End Summary.

Swedes commit to \$1.2 billion over 10 years...

2. (SBU) On July 12, we met with Sweden's SRAP Niclas Trouvé, who led the Swedish delegation to Tokyo last week. Trouvé started the meeting by underscoring that the lack of high-level representation from Sweden (FM or State Secretary) should in no way be seen as a signal of non-interest from Sweden. On the contrary, he underscored, Sweden's significant development aid announcement at the conference should be viewed as a serious and long-term commitment. Sweden will contribute, during the so called Transformation Decade from 2015-2024, about 8.5 billion SEK (1.2 billion USD) in total development assistance. This figure corresponds to a 50 percent increase of the current level of Swedish development assistance to Afghanistan. In addition, Sweden is ready to maintain its humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan at present levels (\$31.6 million USD in 2011), if needed.

3. (SBU) Trouvé said that this type of commitment, both in terms of amount and number of years and without a formal development aid strategy, was unprecedented in Sweden. Normally, Sweden has two-three year development cooperation strategies. In this case, he highlighted, the ability to demonstrate Sweden's long-term commitment to the Afghan people and to insurgents was more important. Trouvé described, in broad terms, the framework for this 10-year commitment as the "Five E's for Afghan Development:" Education, Enterprise, Employment, Empowerment, and Economic Integration. Trouvé said the GoS ensured that this approach enjoyed broad support in the Swedish Parliament, including with the major opposition parties, the Social Democrats and the Green Party.

...but aid is not unconditional: Afghanistan must continue to reform

4. (SBU) In his speech in Tokyo (text emailed to EUR/NB), Trouvé said that he had made clear to the Afghans that Sweden's support is "not unconditional" and that it "builds on mutual commitments and mutual accountability." The key part of his speech on this included:

"The Afghan government must show concrete results in the implementation of its Kabul Process commitments. As we enter the Transformation Decade, Afghanistan must continue to reform its electoral system, continue to strengthen governance and rule of law, continue to boost anti-corruption and transparency measures including the promotion of free media, continue to bolster respect for human rights, including women's and children's enjoyment of them. These are preconditions for our partnership."

International community must improve coordination too

5. (SBU) Trouvé emphasized the need for better coordination of the international community's development assistance to Afghanistan and said "if there is one thing the international community should focus on, it is on getting that part right." This is not the first time we have heard this sentiment from senior Swedish leadership on their desires for better international coordination. In a June meeting between Sweden's Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan, Henrik Landerholm, and Ambassador Brzezinski, Landerholm said that "the amount of assistance is not really a problem, it is the effective and efficient coordination" of international aid that "needed to be fixed."

Though Tokyo was about development assistance, surprise that there was nothing on security

6. (SBU) When asked about his impressions from the conference, Trouvé said that he was "surprised by the total lack of discussions about security" but noted that it was appropriately covered at the NATO Summit in Chicago. When asked about any Swedish contribution post-2014 to the Afghan National Security Forces, he said there was "nothing new yet." Trouvé later told our Ambassador that ANSF funding "had not been decided yet." However, speaking on security issues, Trouvé said that Sweden would start withdrawing troops by the end of this year and transfer into a "Nordic Plus" constellation, which means that troops from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Latvia will all be co-located at Camp Northern Lights in Mazar-e Sharif by April 2013 for the remainder of the transition period. Trouvé said it was a "good solution since all the countries can make better use of the resources that are still left in Afghanistan during the withdrawal and this type of cooperation is in line with Nordic Defense Cooperation (NORDEFECO)." He confirmed that Sweden was still committed to have 200 trainers in Afghanistan post-2014, but it would likely "require a UN mandate." Finally, Trouvé could not emphasize enough how interested Sweden was regarding NATO's views on the situation post-2014. He underscored that if NATO is counting on Sweden to contribute post-2014, "then Sweden also wants to be part of the planning process early on."

Bildt tweets on the issue

7.(U) In response to the announcement, FM Bildt, who was not present in Japan, tweeted "At Tokyo conference today, we said that Sweden will help Afghanistan 2015 to 2024 with 1.2 billion US dollars. This is a 50% increase."

Comment

8. (SBU) Despite Sweden's reluctance and current "non-answers" to provide direct funding for the ANSF, this historically unprecedented announcement demonstrates Sweden's continued long-term commitment to Afghanistan. With assistance programs in Afghanistan dating back nearly 30 years, Sweden's new commitment with broad political consensus is significant. By the end of next year, Afghanistan will be Sweden's number one recipient of bilateral foreign assistance; the 2015-2024 plan will continue that status.

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