

Rebuilding Afghanistan

Peace and Stability

Petersberg - 2 December 2002



Annex 1

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate and Merciful

Decree of the President of the Islamic Transitional State of Afghanistan on the Afghan National Army, issued on 1 December 2002

With the blessings of the Almighty, the Islamic Transitional State of Afghanistan (ITSA) hereby decrees that the Afghan National Army (ANA) shall be established.

- 1) The ANA will be subordinate to the command of legitimate civilian authorities. The President of the ITSA (or its successor government) will be commander-in-chief of the ANA.
- 2) The ANA will not exceed 70,000 soldiers, officers and non-commissioned officers, to include all air and ground forces, air defense forces, civilian employees of the Ministry of Defense (MoD), student cadets of post-secondary institutions, and other specialized units.
- 3) The current organization of the army will gradually be transformed into four major commands. With the exception of the central command in Kabul, the location of the remaining commands will be determined on the basis of strategic and geographical factors. The ITSA is committed to promote the earliest restoration of security, the rule-of-law and the full exercise of human rights throughout the country.
- 4) The organization and staffing of the ANA and the MoD will take place on the basis of individual merit and in accordance with accepted principles of balance among different ethnic groups and establishment of trust among all the citizens of this country.

- 5) The recruitment of soldiers for the ANA will be voluntary and inclusive of all social and ethnic groups. A Sub-commission on Recruitment of Young Soldiers will be established to recruit volunteers representing all the population of Afghanistan who meet the necessary conditions and are willing to abide by the regulations of the ANA. In order to qualify as soldiers of the ANA, recruits must successfully complete the training program of the ANA, as jointly designed by Afghanistan and the United States or other designated lead nations.
- 6) Another Sub-commission will be formed to propose criteria for and carry out the process of selection of officers for the ANA on the basis of merit, ethnic representation and national outlook. Officers selected will complete the aforementioned training program.
- 7) Concurrent with the recruitment and training of soldiers, a program of collection of arms and reintegration shall be carried out. The ITSA, with the assistance of the United Nations and the Government of Japan as lead nation, shall prepare a comprehensive program of collection of arms and reintegration based upon:
 - (a) The establishment of a Commission on Demobilization with its own chairman by the Defense Commission;
 - (b) Concentration on collection and integration into the ANA of heavy weapons (to include tanks, armored personnel carriers, artillery, field guns, multiple-rocket launchers and towed air-defense weapons, etc.); and
 - (c) The development of a comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan for officers and soldiers who meet the necessary conditions with implementation timelines.

This process shall be subject to independent verification and shall be carried out as rapidly as possible with the assistance of the United Nations, Japan as lead nation and other interested countries.

- 8) The process of building of the ANA - including recruitment, training and equipping – will take several years to complete. Military formations, armed groups, and any other military or paramilitary units that are not a part of the ANA shall be prohibited.
- 9) Taking account of financial constraints, an essential element of the national security strategy for Afghanistan is the furthest consolidation of the ITSA's authority across all of its territory in the shortest period of time.

- 10) The Defense Commission, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Defense, will report on progress in development of the ANA, the reorganization of the Ministry of Defense, and the reorganization of the units and formations of the army, its relevant offices and appointments of responsible officials to the President of the Islamic Transitional State of Afghanistan. An Advisory Committee - comprised of members of the Defense Commission, representatives of the United States and Coalition Governments, and United Nations officials - will periodically review the progress of the ANA recruitment and training process, promoting financial and technical support for the process within the international community.
- 11) Financial contributions for the ANA and the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration shall be made in a transparent manner. Contributions shall be made to the United Nations ANA Trust Fund, the Afghan Ministry of Finance or the United States as the designated lead nation for ANA restructuring. Disbursement of funds to the Ministry of Defense shall be through the Ministry of Finance and in accordance with all applicable budgetary, statutory and regulatory requirements of the ITSA. Military finances shall be subject to civilian oversight, auditing and control.

The nation has a special responsibility to recognize the historical legacy of the Afghan mujahideen for the Afghan people's freedom and for Islam. The ITSA will give special consideration to Afghan mujahideen who are qualified to make use of them in building the Afghan National Army. Those who do not join the ANA will be given special consideration in the reintegration process.

Hoping that our endeavor will be endowed with success by the Almighty God, we are embarking on the renewal and reconstruction of the ANA as an essential step for the realization of the ideals of the Afghan mujahideen who were martyred during the Afghan jihad, of all the people of the Afghan nation, and for the securing of national unity, peace and stability in our country. Success is from God.

Hamid Karzai
President
Islamic Transitional State of Afghanistan

13:05, 2 December 2002