

No More Escalation In Afghanistan

I write to call on President Obama to reverse his tragic decision to further escalate the occupation of Afghanistan. And I further call on Congress not to fund any increase in troop levels there. The Nobel Prize committee was hoping for better. Their hopes have been dashed too.

The only reason the Iraq "surge" appeared to work for a while was the bribes we were paying to Sunni militants not to attack our troops. And in just the same way, as reported by the Nation magazine, at least ten percent of every dollar we pour into Afghanistan goes directly to fund terrorists, as bribes not to cut off the contractor's supply lines. We are literally funding terrorists by being there.

Even worse is the vain idea that the Afghan army will ever be more than an undependable bunch of irregulars with questionable loyalties. We are even hearing reports that the Taliban are delighted to have their own people sign up as recruits for paid military training courtesy of the U.S. taxpayer. Yes, that's right, Mr. President, the terrorists don't have to have their own training camps anymore because the U.S. Army is running them for them.

The last escalation of 17,000 troops in February, did not help. Instead, things have just gotten worse. This dramatic new escalation will make things worse still, unless this doomed and counterproductive policy is reversed.