

to the committee,

Senior command didn't trust anyone in Afghanistan. They didn't provide the facilities or training for federal police. Corruption and bribery were commonplace throughout the Afghan government. We blew the tracks for the gravy train when we withdrew. Senior officials fled the country.

In 20 years what should have been an international policing operation was instead an illegal war of aggression that entrenched corruption within the Afghan government.

Another compounding factor is that there is continual underestimation of the competence of Russian and Chinese Federal police. In relation to Afghanistan, to protect their borders from heroin smuggling and radicalization. International reports regarding transnational crime and terrorism regarding U.S. Intelligence reports argue that civilian leadership act in such a manner that demonstrates trust in such reports that seem to be based on the plots of cold war movies ie. Everyone in Russia has access to a viable Soviet nuclear warhead and they are all having cocktail parties with the leaders of all international criminal syndicates.

If the purpose of the war was to bring international criminals to justice and promote the cause of international peace and security then we went about it in a very strange way. If we are to learn lessons, it is that creating a stable sovereign government requires security from internal and external threats to the integrity and security of officials. Another important lesson is that while military deployment can be necessary to ensure security of international missions from heavily armed combatants, that should be the purpose of military deployment when investigating and prosecuting terrorism. To secure a transnational policing and magisterial force tasked with establishing a domestic prosecutor's office and creating the conditions under which civil society can exist.

We had poor civilian leadership and poor diplomats that made poor decisions on our behalf and we deserve them. It would have been far cheaper to just get the SAS to stay home and beat each other over the head with sticks but no decision maker, official or representative can increase the value of their stock portfolio in the way that a war can.

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