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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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January 29, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is conducting an investigation into the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan (CSTC-A), a joint force under U.S. Central Command that is managing approximately \$15 billion in U.S. programs supporting the effort to develop Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF). CSTC-A's primary goal is to improve security in Afghanistan through development of the ANSF.

As part of this investigation, on December 1, 2009, I sent a letter to the Department of Defense (DoD) requesting all contracts and contract documents related to training the Afghan military and police, as well as a full briefing on these issues. Despite numerous communications between Committee staff and DoD personnel, we did not receive the requested documents or briefing.

In a second letter dated January 13, 2010, I once again requested all contracts and contract documents related to training the Afghan military and police.

Although we received a letter from DoD dated January 12, 2010, stating that it is in the process of collecting the documents, we have not received indication when the Committee will be receiving these documents.

As you are aware, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives with investigative jurisdiction over "any matter." Moreover, the CSTC-A contracts have important implications for our nation's success

The Honorable Robert M. Gates

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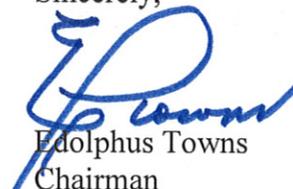
in Afghanistan, and relate to a broader issue of poor oversight over military contracts in Afghanistan. Thus, I will not sit idly by while the DoD drags its feet and refuses to provide this Committee information that is essential to protecting the interests of the American people.

Therefore, I ask that you provide the requested information by **4:00 pm on Friday, February 5, 2010**. I urge you to cooperate with this request in order to avoid a subpoena and any subsequent confrontation.

Please deliver the requested documents to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building. To facilitate delivery and review, we prefer that the records be delivered in electronic format. In addition, please arrange a briefing for the Committee staff as soon as possible regarding these issues.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, your staff should contact Craig Fischer or James Latoff of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Edolphus Towns
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Darrell Issa
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform