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Turkey's President Says US Can Count on Ankara After Troop Pullout

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday his country would be the "only reliable" country left to stabilize Afghanistan after the US pulls out its troops.

Speaking to journalists at an Istanbul airport on Sunday before leaving for Brussels, for the NATO leaders summit Monday, Erdogan also said he would discuss the issue in his first face-to-face meeting with US President Joe Biden.

"America is preparing to leave Afghanistan soon and from the moment they leave, the only reliable country to maintain the process over there is obviously... P3



Areas Captured by Taliban Will Become Their Cemeteries: VP

Amrullah Saleh, the first vice-president, said that the Taliban fighters had created a narrow line of advance with the fall of some areas, which did not have depth and width. "Those who know the war with the Taliban, know that this narrow line will become the mass graveyard of this group of terror and ignorance," Saleh wrote on his Facebook page on Monday.

According to him, there has been no change in the way Taliban fighters treat people. The First Vice-President added, "Do not be deceived by propaganda. Resisting the Taliban is defending human values and dignity. Taliban has no message for the people of this country other than asking for obedience and submission to a slave life."

Saleh made the remarks as more than 30 districts had fallen to Taliban militants in recent weeks. The Ministry of Defense, however, has repeatedly denied that the districts fell to the Taliban, saying that defense... P3

Khalilzad: US 'Not Leaving Afghanistan' Despite Troop Pullout



U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad has said the United States will not abandon the war-torn country even after the withdrawal of its forces planned for later this year. "Our forces are leaving

Afghanistan, but the United States is not leaving Afghanistan. We will work hard for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan," Khalilzad told a news conference during his visit to Kazakhstan's capital, Nur-Sultan, on June 13. "We will continue our security

assistance, and we will continue our economic and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan," he added.

Spiraling violence and stalled peace talks between the Taliban and the Western-backed government in Kabul have casts

further uncertainty over the future of the country once U.S.-led international forces leave the country by September 11.

Despite the troop pullout, U.S. President Joe Biden's administration has vowed to remain committed to providing military and humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

Earlier this month, the U.S. State Department announced more than \$266 million in new humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan, bringing to nearly \$3.9 billion the amount of U.S. humanitarian aid to Afghanistan since 2002.

In Nur-Sultan, Khalilzad also said that he regularly discusses Afghanistan with his Russian counterpart, President Vladimir Putin's special representative Zamir Kabulov.

"Russia and the United States are working well together in promoting peace in Afghanistan," according to the Afghan-born diplomat.

Afghanistan Reports 1,804 New Cases, 71 Deaths from COVID-19

The Ministry of Public Health on Monday reported 1,804 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 5,070 samples tested in the last 24 hours.

The ministry also reported 71 deaths and 296 recoveries from COVID-19 in the same period--the highest reported death toll from COVID-19 in a single day in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan so far has recorded 93,272 positive cases and 3,683 deaths from COVID-19.

According to Johns Hopkins University, the number of deaths from COVID-19 globally is more than 3,804,259 and the number of known global coronavirus cases is 175,966,572.



Need to Mobilize People to Defend Country: Wolasi Jirga Speaker

Mir Rahman Rahmani, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, called on the government's political leaders and security officials to involve the people in defending the country through large-scale political mobilization.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives on Monday, in the plenary session of the House, said that all war plans and strategies by the security agencies should be changed in the current situation. Rahmani added that the country's youth and people must come forward to defend the country.

Rahmani said that the escalation of violence across the country, especially targeted attacks in western Kabul, had raised concerns in the House of Representatives. He praised the security forces' fight against the Taliban.

However, a number of members of the House of Representatives also strongly criticized security officials for the



escalation of violence and the recent collapse of districts. The Speaker of the House of Representatives instructed the House Internal Affairs and Defense Committees to investigate the causes of the failures.

Meanwhile, the level of war and conflict in the country has increased. In the past two months, 25 districts in different provinces of the country have fallen to the Taliban. Security agencies say they have tactically retreated from these districts.

The Taliban, however, claim to have taken control of these districts by launching offensive attacks.

Meanwhile, in the Parliament, the acting Minister of Health Wahid Majrooh also addressed the session of the House of Representatives. He warned that the COVID-19 situation in the country will worsen if citizens do not take the restrictions and health tips seriously for the next two-four weeks. "If we do not take the quarantine seriously for the next two-four... P2

Need...

weeks and do not follow the health recommendations, the sector will be burdened," said Majrooh.

According to him, the coronavirus is currently spreading in Afghanistan and the chain of infection should be broken by following the health tips of the citizens. Majrooh added, "In terms of having beds, the capacity has doubled. We face the challenge of lack of oxygen. The oxygen devices which we have, do not meet today's needs. Ali Jinnah Hospital is for 200 patients; but now more than 300 patients are hospitalized there."

He said that the Indian government had promised Afghanistan 16 million doses of coronavirus vaccine; but because of the crisis in that country, only 500,000 doses of vaccine reached Kabul.

He added that currently 700,000 doses of Chinese government-assisted COVID-19 vaccine have reached Afghanistan and will be distributed to priority individuals based on rations. Majrooh said that the Ministry of Health had paid for 21 million doses of coronavirus vaccine; but there is no vaccine yet. He added that COVAX program has promised to help Afghanistan with at least 500,000 doses of the coronavirus vaccine.

On the other hand, the Acting Minister of Health also said that 1,000 oxygen balloons donated by the Uzbek government were empty. "The balloons assisted by the Uzbek government were empty, which caused a misunderstanding. Now, a national trader has promised to fill 300 balloons of a total of 1,000. If all these balloons were full, 500 of them would be distributed in Balkh and another 500 in the provincial provinces," he said. Majrooh said that the use of the face masks has been mandatory for a month now and that this should start with the House of Representatives. Recently, however, the number of positive cases of coronavirus and related deaths has increased in Afghanistan. Kabul has the highest cases and mortality rate in Afghanistan.

By: Behzad Taimur

What Does the US Need Military Bases Around Afghanistan for?

First, let us address the core assumption that the US wants a military capability in Pakistan, or in some other country, to deter the Taliban. It might come as a surprise to some to know that the last time the US listed the Taliban as a matter of military concern was in 2017. Back then, the then-President, Mr. Donald Trump, had formulated a new American strategy in Afghanistan and had stated that an American victory in the country would include "preventing the Taliban from taking over the country". Thereafter, this view seems to have changed – beginning with former president Trump himself. First, he famously remarked, "Someday, after an effective military effort, perhaps it will be possible to have a political settlement that includes elements of the Taliban in Afghanistan." Then, in February 2020, he oversaw the landmark "Doha Deal" with the Taliban. One cannot view the present situation without recourse to this "Doha Deal". This deal, besides laying out US intention to withdraw from Afghanistan, also rested on a commitment by the Taliban to sever ties with Al Qaeda, counteract any subnational organization that may threaten US interest and not allow Afghanistan to be used to plan or launch attacks against the US or its allies. The current administration of Mr. Joe Biden inherited this deal and it has lived by it – barring a small change in timelines for the withdrawal. In fact, I would argue, President Biden went a step farther than Mr. Trump.

In his historic Afghanistan speech delivered on April 14 this year, that set his administration's Afghan policy and then set in motion the final US withdrawal, President Biden did not list disrupting, dismantling or defeating the Taliban as an American goal, aspiration or as a symbol of victory. Further, he poignantly forewent saying that the endgame in Afghanistan should center on, or have as its part, "preventing the Taliban from taking over". Instead, President Biden reminded the Taliban that they ought not attack US forces as they withdraw and to honor their commitments to not "allow any terrorists to threaten the United States or its allies from Afghan soil". Interestingly, in his 2,200-word speech, President Biden used the word "Taliban" only five times. What this means is that the US is not interested in militarily engaging the Taliban and is hardly interested in



preventing them from taking power in Kabul. It will remain wary of the Taliban and will seek to support other groups which might serve American interests better. It might make some pretense to see the Taliban gain power through peaceful, perhaps democratic, means. However, all assessments coming from strategic, defense and foreign policy circles in the US – both from inside the government and from outside it – clearly seem to be viewing a Taliban takeover as a near certainty. More so, the recent battlefield gains by the Taliban (for example, the Taliban have captured seven additional Afghan districts in the past six weeks!) have not seemed to dent American resolve to withdraw.

Thus, with a deal that rests on the Taliban ensuring US security by playing local "policemen" and this deal being the very rationale for US withdrawal, it makes no logical sense for the US to be seeking capabilities to strike the very group it must now rely on for its own extended security. So then, what is the US actually seeking?

The US is seeking a 1+ (1+1) arrangement. Foremost, the US wants to ensure that the Taliban live up to their commitment of preventing other subnational groups from harming US interests. To do this, the US seeks to maintain only a reasonable intelligence capability and a limited

military posture in the region. The intelligence capability, in the American perspective, would be to monitor what is going on in Afghanistan, identify any potential instances of collusion between the Taliban and US's self-identified subnational adversaries and, make sure that the Taliban are keeping their end of the deal. Next, the US seeks a military posture that can have a deterrent value for the Taliban, especially by keeping alive the probability of kinetic American operations, if not a full military intervention. That is to say, they want to show the Taliban that they can launch effective military strikes against them, or others, if that is, the Taliban do not keep their commitments.

Next, the "1+1". A) They intend to maintain just enough military capability in the region to be able to effectively strike any subnational groups that seek to threaten US interests. Here, what they really mean by this is a severely degraded, but still somewhat potent, Al Qaeda, ISIS, and other similar groups. To draw a parallel, one may look to ISIS in Iraq and Syria as an example of what is meant. Without occupying either of these two countries, the US occasionally acts against ISIS through use of precision strikes launched from manned and unmanned platforms. B) They want to develop and sustain an effective intelligence operation that can

help them track such subnational groups and their activities.

Indeed, this is borne out by numerous statements by several American officials. President Biden, April 14, "My team is refining our national strategy to monitor and disrupt significant terrorist threats not only in Afghanistan but anywhere they may arise." To monitor and disrupt. CIA chief, William Burns, April 14, "The CIA (...) will retain a suite of capabilities, (...) that can help us to anticipate and contest any rebuilding effort (by Al Qaeda)." Anticipate and contest. NSA Jake Sullivan, April 18, "[President Biden] has no intention of taking our eye off the ball. We have the capacity, from repositioning our capabilities over the horizon, to continue to suppress the terrorist threat in Afghanistan." Taking eye off the ball and terrorist threat (US does not classify the Taliban as a terrorist organization) So on.

Now, given the above, one can also see that to do the above, the US does not really need to necessarily base its intelligence and military assets in Pakistan alone. In fact, it might serve the US better to have these bases in not one but several countries. In particular, Central Asian Republics provide the US vantage points on Afghanistan that Pakistan cannot. That is to say, by basing its assets in the CARs, the US can better monitor... **P3**

By: NAYANIMA BASU

How to Spy, Conduct Ops in Afghanistan After US Exit This Year

As the US plans to completely exit Afghanistan by 11 September, the American spy agency – the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) – has been left "seeking ways to maintain its intelligence-gathering, war-fighting and counterterrorism operations in the country", The New York Times reported on 6 June.

The report, titled "C.I.A. Scrambles for New Approach in Afghanistan", talks about the spy agency's search for ways to carry out its intelligence and counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan in the aftermath of the US military's withdrawal.

With the pullout, the CIA is facing the danger of losing its bases in some key locations in Afghanistan that were used to carry out combat missions and drone strikes against, as well as track and monitor the activities of, the Taliban, the al-

Qaeda and the Islamic State, the report says.

It then goes on to delve into the different options that are reportedly being considered, including a return to Pakistan or the former Soviet republics. The report subsequently quotes US officials as pointing out the challenges in pursuing these options.

The report has been written by journalists Mark Mazzetti, a Washington-based investigative correspondent and author of 'The Way of the Knife: The C.I.A., a Secret Army, and a War at the Ends of the Earth' and Julian E. Barnes, a national security reporter also based in the US capital and covering the intelligence agencies. Citing several reports by the CIA as well as military intelligence, the NYT report says the Taliban and

other militant outfits have gained ground in southern and eastern regions of the country. As it seeks to explain why US officials want continued intelligence-gathering presence in the country, the NYT report also talks about the warning in these reports, that Kabul "could fall to the Taliban within years and return to becoming a safe haven for militants bent on striking the West". "But the scramble for bases illustrates how US officials still lack a long-term plan to address security in a country where they have spent trillions of dollars and lost more than 2,400 troops over nearly two decades," it adds.

The options being considered

US President Joe Biden had announced in April that he will be going for a complete withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan by 11

September this year, marking the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and bringing an end to the war that began in its aftermath.

Referring to the military's push to have all troops out by mid-July, the report says talks for securing bases for the CIA "close to Afghanistan for future operations" have not proven to be successful due to "thorny diplomatic negotiations".

One of the options US officials are considering is reinstating its base in Pakistan, from where it was "kicked out" in 2011 as relations between Washington and Islamabad started plummeting over several factors, including the raid that killed al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden. "Any deal now would have to work around the uncomfortable reality that Pakistan's government has long supported the Taliban," the report says, adding that, in recent talks between both sides, Islamabad has put forward a range of riders in return for granting the

CIA permission to operate a base there.

Quoting three American officials familiar with such talks, the NYT report says the Pakistanis "have effectively required that they sign off on any targets that either the CIA or the military would want to hit inside Afghanistan".

Another option US diplomats are reportedly considering is "regaining access" to its former bases in the former Soviet republics that have been used during the Afghanistan war, "although they expect that President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia would fiercely oppose this". In April, CIA Director William J. Burns highlighted the fact that the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan will lead to a loss in intelligence gathering, a point the NYT report also highlights.

The report, however, adds that Burns did not raise the issue of finding bases during his "unannounced" visit to... **P3**

Helmand Produces 36 Tons of Honey

Helmand Agriculture Department reported that the province has produced nearly 36 tons of honey this year.

Planning and Coordination Director of Helmand Agriculture Department Rafiullah Qalam told Pajhwok Afghan News that the province had produced 25 tons of honey, but this year 35.7 tons of honey had been produced this year.

The provincial agriculture department linked the increase in honey production to better treatment of honey bees and increase in bees farming.

According to the source, the whole sale price of one kilogram of honey in Helmand is from 300 to 500 AFN.



Turkey's President...

Turkey," Erdogan said.

This comes after reports emerged last week that Turkey had offered to keep troops in Afghanistan to protect the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul once US and NATO forces have left.

Concerns among the foreign community have been growing over this issue as the Kabul airport is the main entry and exit point for diplomats and aid workers.

According to AFP, Erdogan said on Sunday that Turkish officials had informed their American counterparts about Ankara's plans in Afghanistan after the US troop pullout, without providing details. They are "pleased and happy. We will be able to discuss the Afghanistan process with them," he said. AFP meanwhile quoted a Turkish official as having said Turkey's troops could remain "as long as certain conditions including legal and financial are met." "If Turkey is to stay it will do so under which frame: under NATO umbrella or bilateral terms? And if it will be under NATO auspices, under which authorization?" asked the official, who wished to remain anonymous. The official also confirmed that Western powers were willing to let Turkey stay and protect the Kabul airport. But, the official added, "why should Turkey try hard if nobody is going to give support? These issues need to be clarified."

Following last week's reports on Turkey's offer, the Taliban on Saturday issued a statement warning against this.

According to the group, should any foreign country decide to keep some troops in Afghanistan, be it for safeguarding embassies or the airport, they will be considered "invaders".

Areas Captured...

and security forces had used tactical retreats to prevent casualties.

In the most recent case, the Sayad district in Sar-e-Pul province, the Saghar district in Ghor province and the Khanabad district in Kunduz fell to Taliban. Currently, the only Khanabad district in Kunduz is under the control of security forces again.

What Does...

activities in the north, north-west and west of Afghanistan. This comes with the added caveat that anti-US sentiments in Pakistan are far higher when compared to those in the CARs. If one is to jog one's memory a bit, one might recall street protests, blockade of US supply routes, attacks on the same, and, eventually, shut down of US facilities in the country in response to public anger - toward Raymond Davis affair, Osama Bin Laden operation, Salala attack, among others. Therefore, it makes little logical sense for the US to 'put all its eggs in one basket'. That is to say, in event of an adverse public reaction, if Pakistan seeks to shut down probable American bases in the country, the US would stand to lose all or most of its intelligence and military capabilities. Here, then, that would be equivalent to going totally blind in Afghanistan.

Finally, then, we must come to a more logical understanding of the situation. That is, the US has already repositioned most of its kinetic military capabilities in friendlier environs of the Middle East. Indeed, it has already moved its MQ-9 Reaper drones and other air assets to

its longstanding bases in the Persian Gulf. Further, it has already supplemented these with its long-range strategic bombers and aircraft carriers, with their own complements of fighter-bombers. Thus, the Middle East is where the US will maintain the larger military bases. In Pakistan, as well as in Central Asia, it is seeking stations to maintain primarily its intelligence assets. These are close to Afghanistan and the proximity justifies their existence there. It is reasonable to assume that it would prefer that at least some of its drone operations can be conducted from here. This is so because basing drones or a few fighter-bombers close to the Afghan theater would help reduce reaction time. Yet, the US seems to be in no illusion on this matter and seems to expect refusal of such a manner of basing rights. Conversely, in event of likely refusal to host drones, the US seems to calculate that it can have Pakistan and CARs - but Pakistan in particular - compensate it with overflight rights and with some limited, even if controlled, access to their logistics (e.g. permissions to refuel aircraft).

At this point, one may ask, 'if intelligence units are all the

US wants to post to Pakistan/CARs, then what is the harm? The answer to this question is actually the real answer to the question we began with. The harm with allowing the US to base its intelligence operations in Pakistan and the CARs is that intelligence operations can demonstrate an unusual degree of "mission creep". That is to say, they can quietly evolve by themselves and reorient their priorities. Simply put, American intelligence units using their time and resources in the region to spy on US rivals, especially China, Russia and Iran, is not an unimaginable possibility. In fact, this possibility takes on a higher degree of reality when one simply looks at the reasons the US gives for its rush to get out of Afghanistan: Its self-proclaimed need to focus on China, Russia, Iran, North Korea and others. In particular here, the US lists China as its greatest concern because it imagines itself to now be in an open "big power competition" with the same. And so, this is really why the US is so interested in establishing bases in Afghanistan's periphery: So that it can build, develop, expand and sustain intelligence operations in Russia's backyard and next door to its new, self-identified rival, China.

G7 Pledges...

transparent, expert-led, and science-based WHO-convened Phase 2 COVID-19 Origins study including, as recommended by the experts' report, in China." Russia

On Russia, it said the G7 reiterated its interest in "stable and predictable relations" with Moscow and will engage in areas of mutual interest, but added: "We reaffirm our call on Russia to stop its destabilizing behavior and malign activities, including its interference in other countries' democratic systems, and to fulfil its

international human rights obligations and commitments." As part of the final day of events at the G7 summit, broadcaster and environmentalist Sir David Attenborough addressed the G7 leaders in a pre-recorded speech.

He said: "We know in detail what is happening to our planet, and we know many of the things we need to do during this decade.

"Tackling climate change is now as much a political and communications challenge as it is a scientific or technological one. We have the skills to

address it in time, all we need is the global will to do so." On climate change, the G7 communique said: "Protect our planet supporting a green revolution that creates jobs, cuts emissions and seeks to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees. We commit to net zero no later than 2050, halving our collective emissions over the two decades to 2030, increasing climate finance to 2025; and to protect or conserve at least 30 percent of our land and oceans by 2030. We acknowledge our duty to safeguard the planet for future generations."

How to Spy,...

Pakistan in "recent weeks" - a visit where he met Pakistan military chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and ISI chief Faiz Hameed.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, the

report says, discussed the matter with the Pakistanis during his phone calls with Bajwa.

The report underlines that "Pakistan is a longtime patron of the Taliban; it sees the group as a critical proxy

force in Afghanistan against other groups that have ties to India".

Thus, it adds, Islamabad is unlikely to permit the CIA to launch an attack on the Taliban by using a base in their country.

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G7 Pledges to Donate 1B Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine

In a closing declaration Sunday, the G7 summit in the UK committed to share at least 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

At a press conference following the summit, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the summit lived up to expectations, and that the world wanted its leaders to end the "nationalistic approach" that characterized the early period of the pandemic.

On COVID-19 vaccines, the G7 final communique said: "Total G7 commitments since the start of the pandemic provide for a total of over 2 billion vaccine doses, with the commitments since we last met in February 2021, including here in Carbis Bay, providing for one billion doses over the next year."

"Taken together, the dose equivalent of our

financial contributions and our direct dose sharing mean that the G7's commitments since the start of the pandemic provide for a total of over 2 billion vaccine doses," it added.

China

On China, the G7 communique said: "We will promote our values, including by calling on China to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially in relation to Xinjiang and those rights, freedoms and high degree of autonomy for Hong Kong enshrined in the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law."

"We remain seriously concerned about the situation in the East and South China Seas and strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo and increase tensions."

G7 leaders also called for a "timely... **P3**



A look at the world

Bennett Sworn in As Israel's New PM, Ending Netanyahu's 12-Year Rule

Israel's new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett (R) and Yair Lapid, Israel's alternate prime minister and foreign minister, attend the first cabinet meeting of the new coalition government in Jerusalem, on June 13, 2021. Naftali Bennett, leader of the right-wing Yamina (United Right) party, was sworn in as new Israeli prime minister on Sunday night, sending Benjamin Netanyahu to the opposition after a record 12-year rule. This came after the new coalition government, headed by Bennett



and Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist Yesh Atid (Future) party, was approved by the parliament, or Knesset, in a vote of confidence.

Right-wing opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu refused to hand over power to his successor, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, with a ceremony, according to Israeli media on Monday.

"The successor and predecessor prime ministers, Naftali Bennett and Benjamin Netanyahu, are meeting this morning, and there will be no handover ceremony," the Israeli Broadcasting Corporation said. Usually, such ceremonies take place in a celebratory atmosphere.

The broadcaster said, "the heads of the security services began briefing Bennett last night on classified information and materials."

The coalition government of Naftali Bennett-Yair Lapid won last night the confidence of the Knesset (Israel's parliament), before holding the first meeting of the government that ended 12 years of Netanyahu's rule.

As of Sunday evening, Netanyahu became the head of the opposition in the Israeli Knesset.

In a speech to the Knesset, Netanyahu pledged to return quickly to power.

US Military Base Near Baghdad Airport Hit by Drones



The US 'Victory' base near Baghdad International Airport was targeted by drones this morning, Iraqi sources reported.

The US Victory base is situated at a distance of around 5km in the airfields of Baghdad International Airport.

The attacks were carried out by UAVs, targeting runways of military cargo aircraft, Sabereen News reported.

According to the report, the attacks took place this morning, and US defense systems were unable to repel the attacks. A security source told Shafaq News that the attack was carried out by a drone, during which a military base at Baghdad International Airport was targeted.

The source emphasized that the attacks did not cause any casualties.

However, several logistical support convoys belonging to the US-led coalition were targeted in Iraq's Hillah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, and Diwaniyah provinces.

Four logistical support convoys belonging to US forces were targeted in the Iraqi provinces of Hilla, Nasiriyah, Samawah, and Diwaniyah on Sunday.

According to Iraqi sources, a convoy of logistical support belonging to US forces was targeted in the Iraqi central province of Hilla.

According to this report, another convoy belonging to American forces was attacked in Nasiriyah province.

Two American convoys were also targeted in Iraq's Samawah and Diwaniyah provinces.

No report on the extent of damages is available.

UK PM: NATO Doesn't Want Cold War with China

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) does not want a new Cold War with China.

"When it comes to China, I don't think anybody around the table wants to descend into a new Cold War with China," he said upon arrival at the NATO summit in Brussels.

"But I think people see challenges, they see things that we have to manage together, but they also see



opportunities."

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg also said on Monday there is no new Cold War with China but the Western allies will have to adapt to the challenge of Beijing's rise.

"We're not entering a new Cold War and China is not our adversary, not our enemy," Stoltenberg told reporters at the NATO leaders' summit, a day after a summit of the Group of Seven (G7) where its leaders were wary of adopting confrontational rhetoric against China.

However, Beijing has previously slammed the group of seven as outdated, saying "the days when global decisions were dictated by a small group of countries are long gone".

The Chinese Embassy in the United Kingdom lodged a strong protest on Monday after the G7 statement mentioning Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and Taiwan and called on the member states to stop interfering in China's internal affairs. The diplomats stressed the G7 nations' focus on Xinjiang is purely political manipulation, noting that China must not be slandered and its interests must not be violated.



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