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PRIME MINISTER'S SCRUM

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MODERATOR: Thank you Prime Minister. We have a list here.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister of Canada): You still have to use the pictures.

MODERATOR: Yes, I do. There's so many of them.
(LAUGHTER)

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: I thought you would have known all that having run for office. (LAUGHTER)

MODERATOR: Do you know all your guys?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: I do actually, but it took me a while.

MODERATOR: It's taking me a while here. Thank you. We'll start off with Patrice Roy, Radio-Canada

JOURNALISTE: Monsieur Harper, deux très courtes questions. Est-ce que dans votre esprit la motion que vous devrez déposer au parlement, c'est après Bucarest, après que vous allez être sûr d'avoir ou non les mille soldats, les hélicoptères, les conditions dont parlait Monsieur Manley, et est-ce que ça sera un vote de confiance?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Ce sont des bonnes questions. Je n'ai pas l'intention de répondre à ces questions en détail aujourd'hui, Patrice. Je veux les discuter avec Monsieur Dion d'abord. Mais je peux dire que nous aurons plusieurs semaines d'avoir un examen du rapport et un débat, pas seulement plusieurs jours, mais pas plusieurs mois, plusieurs semaines. Pour la question d'un vote de confiance, ma forte préférence est d'avoir une motion devant le Parlement où nous aurons l'appui pour l'adopter.

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En même temps tous les partis vont avoir la responsabilité de leur propre opposition. Les considérations ici sont très importantes pour l'avenir du pays, à notre avis. Je m'inquiète, évidemment, que certains partis de l'opposition pensent qu'il y a un enjeu électoral pour eux dans la mission de l'Afghanistan. À la fin le gouvernement doit considérer les options et le gouvernement doit dans une question si importante, le gouvernement doit faire quelque chose qu'il croit est dans les intérêts supérieurs du pays, et pas seulement les choses qui sont populaires.

JOURNALISTE: Monsieur Manley vous demande d'être plus transparent, Monsieur Harper. On va voir si vous avez l'intention d'être plus transparent. Est-ce que, par exemple, vous pouvez nous dire à quel moment vous avez su que les prisonniers afghans n'étaient plus transférés aux autorités afghanes?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Patrice, comme nous avons dit en automne, et comme nous continuons de dire, nous n'avons pas l'intention de discuter publiquement combien de prisonniers afghans nous avons ou où sont ces prisonniers. Ce sont les détails des opérations militaires, et nous n'allons pas...nous n'allons jamais répondre à des questions. Je peux dire seulement deux choses: premièrement, que le gouvernement a révélé le fait qu'il y a une preuve pour un cas d'abus d'un prisonnier afghan, et le gouvernement est prêt d'être transparent sur des questions comme ça. En même temps, la réalité est que l'entente avec le gouvernement de l'Afghanistan sur des transferts des prisonniers afghans reste en vigueur. Cette entente reste en vigueur. Et nous nous attendions et nous nous attendons encore à ce qu'il y ait des transferts à l'avenir aux autorités afghanes comme prévu dans cette entente, mais à la fin c'est la décision, le jugement, c'est la décision des

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officiers du gouvernement et des officiers responsables pour des opérations militaires.

MODERATOR: David Lundgren, Reuters.

REPORTER: (Inaudible) Mr. Prime Minister, if NATO says, "Sorry, we can't give you the thousand troops. (Inaudible)," what happens then in February 2009? Does that mean the mission ends?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: I...we have...I've spoken with the Chief of Defence Staff as have other members of the cabinet. We...he and we accept the analysis that for this mission to go forward and achieve its objectives and be successful, we do have the need for a substantial increase in combat troops and particular needs in terms of military equipment. In terms of the equipment, the government of Canada already has that equipment on order and has for some time. It's obviously a matter of securing it in the field much more quickly, one way or another. But both of those recommendations will have to be fulfilled, or Canada will not proceed with the mission in Afghanistan. We believe these are essential to our success. We've got to have...I think where the report is very clear is that we really do have two choices. You know, we do everything better and we do everything right, or we don't do it. But we can't do a half a mission that might not succeed. And you know, we've come to the conclusion and discussions, as I say, with the Chief of Defence Staff, that these troops and equipment are necessary and that Canada certainly in the short term can't provide it ourselves.

REPORTER: (Inaudible) have you had conversations to illuminate that with NATO or the Americans on this? What has the reaction been to this?

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RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: I have not. I think there have been some discussion. I have not, but I will be having these in the days that follow.

MODÉRATEUR: Hélène Buzetti, Le Devoir.

JOURNALISTE: Oui, Monsieur Harper, sur un sujet un peu différent, la crise du nucléaire à Chalk River et le redémarrage du réacteur. On apprend aujourd'hui que votre gouvernement a mis 19 jours avant de contacter les réacteurs européens qui auraient pu augmenter leur production pour palier à la production canadienne. Je voudrais savoir pourquoi vous avez préféré redémarrer un réacteur qui présentait quelques risques, même si petits soient-ils, plutôt que demander aux Européens de vous aider?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Je peux vous encourager de vous adresser ces questions au ministre de la Santé, mais le ministre a agi immédiatement pour assurer des options, mais la réalité est que le réacteur à Chalk River donne au monde 60...quelque chose comme 75 pour cent des isotopes nucléaires, et c'est nécessaire d'avoir la production là pour éviter les grands risques pour la santé et les vies des milliers de personnes ici au Canada et autour du monde. Et il n'y a pas...il y a des options ailleurs, sont des options très limitées et à très court terme.

JOURNALISTE: Bon, je parlerai à Monsieur Clement demain, alors, mais pour revenir sur les prisonniers afghans, je veux revenir à la question de mon collègue. Sans vous demander combien de prisonniers on a, qu'est-ce qu'on fait avec, vous en tant que premier ministre du Canada, quand avez-vous su qu'on ne transférait plus les prisonniers? C'est une question politique. Ce n'est pas opérationnel.

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TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Je répète toujours que j'ai toujours certaines informations sur des opérations militaires, mais la réalité est que nous ne donnons et nous n'allons jamais donner ces informations publiques. La réalité est que l'entente avec le gouvernement de l'Afghanistan reste en vigueur et que la possibilité de transférer ces prisonniers existait et continue à exister, et c'est la raison pour laquelle je ne dis pas que les transferts ont cessé, parce que on peut avoir des transferts à n'importe quel moment si ceux et celles responsables pour les transferts et pour les opérations militaires décident qu'il soit approprié, et c'est leur décision.

MODERATOR: Jacques Bourbeau, Global.

REPORTER: Sir, you say that you broadly accept the recommendations of the Manley report, but do you also accept its criticism? For example, they say that your government has not done a good enough job communicating the realities of this mission to Canadians and that you need to take a higher profile in terms of for example trying to convince our NATO allies to contribute more troops.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, look, we...first of all, I would say honestly the report criticises "governments". But we take the criticism seriously. You know, if I can be frank about it, this is an extremely difficult mission. We don't believe it's perfect. We never have. There has been no issue that has caused me as a Prime Minister more headaches, and quite frankly, more heartache than this particular mission. And I don't think that's going to change in the near future. We accept...we accept the judgement that there are several things that could be done better. In the case of most of these things, I think the panel would also acknowledge the government has taken steps. If you take, for example, on the issue of communications, the

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government established some months ago a special task force within government on Afghan communications that has been reporting to one of our cabinet committees and carefully monitoring and encouraging outreach and communications activities on the Afghan mission. But that said, I mean, let's be truthful, and I say, this is why we worry about this electorally and politically. Let's be truthful: a military mission, a robust military mission where there are casualties, is never going to be easy to communicate, and it is never going to be all that popular to communicate. That is just the reality of the situation. But as I say, we do accept the criticisms and we are looking to improve on that and several other fronts.

REPORTER: And looking forward, in your estimation, how difficult is your job going to be to convince some of our NATO allies to contribute more troops to this mission?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, first of all, let me say that I think the...two things about our NATO allies. First of all, there have been increasing troop commitments from NATO allies before and since the last NATO meeting. Now, they still fall well short of what we need, but we have seen some increased commitments. I think the report also gives the government tremendous ammunition in terms of making the case for further commitments and particularly for requiring them in Kandahar, which I think it probably just about universally agreed is the single most difficult province in the country. I'm optimistic, but we will be scouting out that before we go to NATO and before we, obviously, come to a vote on that in Parliament. We'll have a pretty good idea at that point in time whether there's a realistic possibility of NATO coming through with those commitments. I'm always optimistic on these things. I think as I said last year that...was it last year, or

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the last time we attended a NATO meeting, I said that I did think NATO's future credibility and effectiveness did hinge upon success of this mission, and I don't think there's any way for any NATO country to get around that fact.

MODÉRATEUR: Yvan Cloutier, Radio-Canada.

JOURNALISTE: Monsieur Harper, dans son rapport Monsieur Manley dit que le gouvernement doit faire...tenir des communications plus franches avec les Canadiens. Est-ce que vous reconnaissez avoir manqué de franchise sur cette mission-là?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Je dis seulement qu'il y a plusieurs critiques de la mission et des performances des gouvernements dans ce rapport. Nous acceptons qu'il y a des défis. Nous acceptons la nécessité de faire mieux. Pour par exemple les communications comme je viens de dire, nous avons établi un groupe de travail dans le gouvernement il y a plusieurs mois qui encourage une meilleure...des meilleures communications et qui fait la surveillance sur des communications beaucoup plus précisément qu'avant, et nous devons l'améliorer. En même temps, je dois répéter que la réalité est qu'une mission militaire, une mission militaire difficile où il y aura des morts des soldats canadiens sera toujours difficile de communiquer, et toujours, sera difficile toujours de rendre populaire. C'est la réalité. Mais à la fin les gouvernements et les gouvernements ont des responsabilités de gérer des situations difficiles, y compris les communications, y compris les difficultés de popularité.

JOURNALISTE: Sur les transferts de détenus, je comprend bien que ce que vous nous dites, c'est que ce qui a changé, ce sont les pratiques des militaires sur le terrain et non pas votre politique. Pourquoi

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maintenir votre politique telle qu'elle est si elle n'est pas applicable en pratique?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Oh, c'est une bonne question. Nous sommes...jusqu'à maintenant nous sommes heureux avec l'entente avec le gouvernement de l'Afghanistan. Comme j'ai dit à la Chambre des communes en novembre, que quand le gouvernement ait révélé cet incident d'abus, le gouvernement de l'Afghanistan a suivi ses obligations dans l'entente. Le gouvernement de l'Afghanistan a fait des enquêtes. Le gouvernement de l'Afghanistan a fait des actions pour répondre à cette situation, et c'est la raison pour laquelle la politique reste et l'option de transférer des prisonniers aux autorités afghanes existe encore pour ceux et celles responsables pour des transferts et des opérations militaires s'ils décident que ces transferts soient appropriés.

MODERATOR: Alan Woods, Toronto Star.

REPORTER: Prime Minister...

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Mais peut-être je peux répondre l'autre façon. La plus grande difficulté pour le gouvernement aurait été de dire que nous n'avons pas l'intention de transférer, et plus tard, de trouver qu'il y avait des transferts, parce que les transferts, à notre avis, vont se passer à l'avenir. L'entente existe et l'entente fonctionne. Et je pense que la nécessité va demander des transferts à un certain point, mais c'est la décision de ceux et celles qui sont responsables.

MODERATOR: Alan Woods, Toronto Star.

REPORTER: Hi Prime Minister. One of the things that Mr. Manley said after releasing his report is that both your government and the Liberal Party primarily have to put a bit of water in their wine and come to rise

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above the partisan debate and come to some sort of national consensus, and I wonder...you haven't addressed how you intend to do that, or if you intend to do that.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, I've said that that would obviously be ideal. You know, the government understands that, you know, this is one of our most difficult files. To end up fighting an election over this issue may be in the interests of some in the opposition, but I don't think it's in the interest of the government. So I think it is in the interest to get a consensus by appointing a bipartisan panel and seeing the bipartisan panel come to consensus. I think we've shown that when, you know, people set aside blinders or rigid positions and look at the interests of the country and the fact, they can come to an agreement. At the same time, I would point out that the panel doesn't give a lot of options, you know, and yeah, we can put our water in our wine, but it doesn't give a lot of options. The final recommendation of the panel is essentially you're either in or your out, and if you're in, you actually have to be in in a much bigger way. If you're going to do more on aid, more on development, more on governance, more on training of the Afghan forces, you also have to be prepared to do more on the military side as well, on the kinetic military side. So you know, I think that in the end, while I obviously accept the advice of the panel on the desirability of having, you know, some kind of motion that we can pass through Parliament is clearly desirable, the options here are not enormous in range.

REPORTER: One other thing you've talked about is the importance not only for what people on the ground in Afghanistan were subject to, what's going on, the fighting that's going on, but you've talked about the importance of building Canada's reputation, punching above our

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weight. If Canada is forced to pull out of Afghanistan because these commitments are not met, what happens to Canada's reputation (inaudible)?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, I think that's a good question. You know, I don't think that would necessarily enhance our reputation, but I think NATO's reputation is on the line here as well, and you know, I think all the evidence, the increasing evidence suggests that NATO's efforts in Afghanistan as a whole are not adequate, but particularly in Kandahar province, they are not adequate, and quite frankly, Kandahar province is critical. It is the focal point of the insurgency and of the Taliban's longer term plans to return to power. So you know, I think that, you know, in a sense everybody's reputation is on the line, but I think if ultimately NATO doesn't come through...I mean, Canada has done what it said it would do and more. We now say we need help. I think if NATO can't come through with that help, then I think frankly NATO's own reputation and future will be in grave jeopardy.

MODÉRATEUR: Raymond Fillion...I couldn't tell if you had your hand up or not.

JOURNALISTE: Yeah, I did, thanks. Bonjour Monsieur Premier ministre. Donc, ce que vous nous dites, c'est que le Canada a déjà fait sa part et que l'OTAN, la pression est maintenant sur les épaules de l'OTAN pour prendre la relève (inaudible).

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Le Canada a fait sa part, mais la job n'est pas complète, et le Canada doit continuer à faire sa part. Mais le Canada a besoin de l'appui des alliés et des appuis bien précis. Et évidemment nous avons l'intention de communiquer ça très fortement à nos alliés.

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JOURNALISTE: Pourquoi voulez-vous parler à Stéphane Dion avant de décider quel genre de vote vous allez proposer en Chambre?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Je pense que Monsieur Dion a des décisions à prendre. Ce ne sont pas des décisions faciles pour le chef du Parti libéral, et je voudrais assurer des possibilités pour Monsieur Dion d'arriver à une décision qui est à notre avis dans l'intérêt du pays.

MODERATOR: Keith Boag, CBC.

REPORTER: Prime Minister, to return to the question of the timing of the vote in Bucharest, I understand that you don't want to pronounce yourself on that now, and I understand, I think, the reasons why that is, but in saying that you want to have a vote this spring, but not saying whether it should be before or after Bucharest, you are clearly entertaining the idea that it could be before Bucharest. Can you talk about the strategy of that? Would it be an advantage for Canada to go to Bucharest already having had a decision by the Parliament that is as conditional as the Manley report recommends?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, as I say, I would...we do have...we have reached a tentative conclusion on that. I think I would, as I said earlier, like to convey our thinking on that to Mr. Dion first. I...we don't want to be accused of trying to spring these things on Mr. Dion. We understand he has a difficult decision to make, and before I kind of lay out timing and some of those other considerations in any detail, I would like to share some of our thinking with him on that.

REPORTER: Could you talk a little bit more about what you mean by leading the diplomatic effort to round up support among NATO?

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RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, there will obviously be a full (inaudible) by Canadian officials at all levels. What I mean by leading the diplomatic effort is I will be, myself, talking and communicating with some of the decision makers in other countries and in NATO as we approach that meeting. I'm not sure in this day and age we need to travel. We've got pretty good communications without travelling, but if travelling were necessary, we'd do it.

MODÉRATEUR: Joël-Denis Bellavance, La Presse.

JOURNALISTE: Oui, Monsieur Harper, est-ce que vous allez parler à d'autres libéraux, notamment Michael Ignatieff qui lui a déjà démontré dans le passé qu'il était favorable à la poursuite de la mission?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Non, je n'ai pas parlé avec d'autres membres du Parti libéral et je m'inquiète si je faisais une telle chose, on dirait que je suis dans une tentative d'affaiblir la position de Monsieur Dion. Alors j'assume qu'il y aura des conversations avec des membres du gouvernement et des membres de l'opposition, mais j'ai l'intention de parler directement à Monsieur Dion.

JOURNALISTE: Et juste une précision, quand avez-vous parlé à Monsieur Dion?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Quand? J'ai parlé avec Monsieur Dion hier et j'espère que nous...que nous parlerons dans quelques journées pour discuter plus de cette question. Et j'ai encouragé Monsieur Dion de prendre le temps pour examiner toutes des considérations et de prendre sa décision finale.

MODERATOR: Campbell Clark, Globe and Mail.

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REPORTER: Prime Minister, last week your communications director told CTV News that the government had not been informed by the military of the suspension of transfers of detainees, and she later said the same thing to the Globe and Mail. Did she make those statements on her own initiative, or did she discuss them with others in your office and had them authorized?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: As I think Sandra indicated, that was not what she intended to convey, and she clarified the record on that as soon as she could. And I think that's the way to handle that kind of situation.

REPORTER: And Mr. Manley's report has recommended greater candour, and so have several experts that have followed the Afghan mission closely. Will you start to make military and foreign affairs officials available to the public, the press on a regular basis to discuss what's happening there?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: We'll certainly look to doing that more regularly. We've been trying to do that a little more in recent times, and I we should do that more regularly.

JOURNALISTE: (Inaudible) de TVA. Monsieur le Premier ministre Harper, j'aimerais ça essayer de clarifier une situation (inaudible) un élément très élémentaire en démocratie. Vous aviez rencontré récemment plus souvent qu'à l'ordinaire la presse parlementaire, qui a la responsabilité dans ce pays de couvrir la politique fédérale. Ce que je veux savoir, c'est s'agit-il de votre part d'une volonté (inaudible) d'être différent, comme homme d'état en 2008, ou si c'est parce que pendant les fêtes vous avez attrapé une sorte de virus démocratique? (RIRES)

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TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Je pense que j'ai eu un bon temps avec ma famille pendant les vacances, les fêtes, et évidemment que j'ai l'intention de continuer à diriger le pays selon ma meilleure capacité.

JOURNALISTE: Mais la relation d'un dirigeant d'un pays avec la presse pour que la population du Canada soit bien informée, est-ce que c'est important pour vous?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Évidemment c'est toujours dans l'intérêt du gouvernement que la population est bien informée.

MODERATOR: Bruce Cheadle, Canadian Press.

REPORTER: Prime Minister, much has been made of the rancour and partisanship of the past year and a half in Parliament. I'm wondering whether on this issue you're discussing behind closed doors with Mr. Dion the path ahead, trying to get some kind of consensus. Can you see this expanding to other areas of government as you move into the third year of what seems to be a locked-in stalemate in minority Parliament?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, you know, I think it's always more in the government's interests than anybody else's to have a relatively pleasant and non-partisan atmosphere in Parliament. On the other hand, in fairness, it's always the role of the opposition to challenge the government and to challenge the government's standing as a government. So I think that's just the reality. I...you know I tell people I've been around here a long time and heard a lot of talk about, you know, back in the old days when there was this atmosphere of civility in Parliament. I've been kicking around federal politics a long time. I never remember that period. I've read a lot history books. I've never read about that specific period, and you know, I could even point out the film "The Madness of King George" and you know,

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300 years ago we didn't have that kind of civil atmosphere either. In fact, it was worse then. So look, I think we have to be realistic. I would just say on this the stakes are high. I think they're high for everybody. I think they're high not just a government, but I think they're high for any party that ultimately wants to form government. I think what anybody has to think about in a minority Parliament where you could face an election any time isn't simply whether this is a good position to attack a government on but if you were to be the government, is the position you're articulating a position you could actually govern on, and that's what I hope at least the official opposition will contemplate.

REPORTER: A quick supplementary, if I can ask about this idea of a signature aid project. Many critics have waded in, saying that would undermine the Karzai government in some way, that (inaudible). Do you have any thoughts on this idea of a signature project?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: We're going to talk more about it in cabinet before responding. I do think, though, and this goes beyond Afghanistan, I do think though it would be, you know, frankly, an improvement to Canada's approach to aid if we were sometimes more visible. We do a lot of aid as a general rule through multilateral efforts and worthy third-party non-profit organizations, but I also think the country's interests in Afghanistan and elsewhere would be served if we had a higher Canadian profile to some of the things we're doing.

MODERATOR: Prime Minister, I know you said 20 to. Can you entertain a couple of quick questions?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Yeah, sure.

MODERATOR: Ok.

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JOURNALISTE: Monsieur Harper, Alec Castonguay, Le Devoir. Monsieur Manley a aussi demandé de ré-équilibrer la mission, qu'il y avait peut-être un accent un peu trop militaire avec 2500 soldats alors qu'il y a à peine 47 civils qui travaillent en Afghanistan pour le gouvernement canadien. Est-ce que vous avez l'intention d'avoir plus d'effort sur le développement, sur la reconstruction, et donc d'équilibrer un peu la mission actuellement?

TR. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Oui, et je pense que le rapport montre aussi que le gouvernement a tenté d'équilibrer, de plus équilibrer la mission, mais c'est important de répéter les recommandations. Et ce ne sont pas seulement d'augmenter les efforts non-militaires en Afghanistan...à Kandahar, mais aussi d'augmenter les efforts militaires, et en effet, de doubler les forces de combat présentes à Kandahar. Alors...et je pense que c'est important de le répéter. Le choix donné par le panel, ce n'est pas un choix de diminuer la mission militaire. C'est le contraire. La décision est de rester là, d'augmenter notre présence et d'augmenter nos efforts dans tous les façons: le développement, l'aide, la gouvernance et aussi, et l'entraînement des forces afghanes, mais aussi des efforts militaires en même temps.

MODERATOR: Mike Blanchfield, Ottawa Citizen.

REPORTER: Prime Minister, the report talks about, specifically about helicopters and the need to get that done. The government has a schedule of defence about getting something online by 2011, I believe. NATO's been discussing helicopters for years. They never seem to have enough. We've seen the threat of roadside bombs to Canadian troops, obviously. Is there anything that you can do personally that can speed up the

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acquisition of helicopters or to get, rent them, lease them, get some kind of short-term solution while you move ahead with this?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, first all, let's be clear in both the terms of the helicopters requested in the report as well as the UAVs, the government has these on order, has had them on order for some time. The reason for the delay in getting them is this is some of the most sought after military equipment on the planet, and there's a lot of orders in for these. That said, I think the report is clear: to be effective we have got to get those in the field. I've certainly discussed, as I say, with the Chief of Defence Staff whether he's concluded we've got to get those in the field much more quickly than we have previously decided. He shares that recommendation and that's obviously part of the case we're going to be making to NATO, that to be effective we've got to have those kind of capacities and we've got to get them in a relatively short timeframe.

REPORTER: He also mentions you taking the lead diplomatic efforts and what do you think about our efforts so far to persuade other NATO allies, and what can you do differently and what can you do personally between now and Bucharest, because...?

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Well, as I said, I will be talking to and communicating with individual leaders in the weeks to come. We have obviously been pushing NATO for some time to do more on Afghanistan. I think our case is helped by the report and I think our case is always helped by identifying very clearly what specific help we require and when we require it. So I think we've got a very good report in that regard and a very clear case to put to our allies. And I think it's absolutely correct in terms of its conclusions. Kandahar once again is the centre of the Taliban

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insurgency. There are long-term efforts to regain power in the country, and if NATO cannot put all the necessary troops and equipment in Kandahar province, I don't think it's ultimately going to do it anywhere.

MODERATOR: Thank you Prime Minister.

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER: Yeah, thank you.

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