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May 17, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am requesting that the leaders of the National Front (also known as the Northern Alliance) of Afghanistan be invited to the NATO summit in Chicago May 20-21. This meeting is to reaffirm the delicate balance between NATO's withdrawal of all combat troops from Afghanistan by 2014 while remaining committed to a long-term partnership with the Afghan people. The National Front represent 60 percent of the Afghan people and must be at the table when the future of their country is being discussed and decisions made that will affect their lives and communities.

Ten years have passed since the Taliban regime in Afghanistan was toppled in retaliation for helping al-Qaeda launch the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. As we attempt to transition to an Afghan-centered security force, it should be remembered how that earlier victory was won. The Taliban were defeated by the Northern Alliance, a coalition of Tajiks, Uzbeks, Turkmen and Hazara who had been fighting the Taliban since 1996. They are the ones who rallied to us after 9/11 because they are motivated to defend their people against the Islamic extremists. It is not clear that the government of Hamid Karzai has the same firm commitment or the same active support of the Afghan people.

If Karzai is only being propped up by foreign troops and money, he will fall shortly after 2014. The U.S. needs allies who are rooted in the battle against the Taliban and against the ambitions of Pakistan to dominate Afghanistan. The Northern Front represents such a force and must be included in the formation of our future strategy for keeping Afghanistan free. It is not too late to bring the National Front to Chicago and I urge you to expedite the invitation.

Sincerely,

Dana Rohrabacher
Chairman
Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee
House Foreign Affairs Committee