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Russia offers to cooperate with US, NATO over **Afghanistan**

2/10/2017

Russian president's special envoy to Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, has said that Russia is ready to restore cooperation with the U.S. and NATO on the settlement of common tasks in Afghanistan, a media report said on Friday.

"We, for our part, are ready to restore cooperation with the US and with NATO countries to settle our common tasks in Afghanistan," Russia's TASS reported Kabulov as saying.

According to the report, Kabulov said Moscow had not yet held official contacts with the Donald Trump Administration regarding the Afghan problem.

"If you look at it in a general context, the current period is far from the best timing for a withdrawal of foreign troops, including the U.S. units, from Afghanistan," Kabulov stated.

He added: "The situation in the sphere of security there is degenerating and a whole set of factors makes the Afghan national security forces incapable of putting up resistance to the armed opposition on their own."

"Given this situation, a hasty pullout of foreign military may bring about unpredictable aftermaths and destroy whatever encouraging achievements of the past few years," Kabulov said.

This comes after Gen. John Nicholson, Commander of NATO's Resolute Support Mission and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, in a U.S. Senate session on Thursday said Russia's involvement has deepened in the country – and with the Taliban.