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The Frontier Post

HI delegation may visit Kabul

3/22/2012

A powerful delegation of Gulbadin Hekmatyar-led Hezb-e-Islami is likely to visit Kabul in the near future for peace negotiations with Afghan government, a peace negotiator said Wednesday.

Muhammad Ismail Qasimyar, member of High Peace Council and advisor on international relations, told Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) in an exclusive chat that it might be a powerful delegation or the Hezb-e-Islami leadership itself to visit Kabul.

"According to reliable information, Hezb-e-Islami has expressed readiness to visiting Kabul for talks. As per principles the negotiations should be held with the High Peace Council. The precise time and date is unclear. However, it will not be far away," he said. "We hope that the talks between Hezb-e-Islami and Afghan government will be held effectively and they would get ready to reconciliation in the larger national interest."

Qasimyar did not divulged further details but the Hezb-e-Islami had previously said that they would sit on negotiating table with Kabul administration after the withdrawal of foreign forces. He hoped that terms for peace talks would be set aside until all parties to the conflict sit on the negotiating table.

He went on to say that 2014 has been set as timeframe for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and there seemed no need for foreign forces' stay after all the responsibilities are transferred to Afghan security forces.

The reports of likely talks between Hezb-e-Islami and Afghan government came at a time when armed Taliban said in statement last week that they had suspended negotiations with United States. They claimed that United States had no clear stance on talks and was not firm on their promises.

Political analysts are of the opinion that the Taliban announcement of suspending talks with US had regional aspect while Hezb-e-Islami's willingness to negotiations is also a good step. He said "Showing willing to talks by Hezb-e-Islami is a good step as their rigid stance in the past had lots of shortcomings. Hezb-e-Islami is trying not to lag behind Taliban and could join the government by keeping in view the situation."

A delegation of Kabul had also visited Kabul sometimes ago and besides meeting the High Peace Council, also met several political leaders, President Hamid Karzai, NATO commander and US ambassador to Kabul.