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US fights for Afghan underground resources

3/13/2013

“Americans have asked Afghans to give them Afghanistan's mining contracts, and I said 'Bring your contracts'... Lots of mines are hidden in Helmand and from the start they have been doing their investigations and finishing their photography. But now they understand that we know about them,” Hamid Karzai said in a Tuesday speech during an official visit to southern Helmand province.

The president went on to say that the US-led foreign forces’ anti-terror war in Afghanistan is not a real one and that the Americans fight for their own interests in the country.

Karzai once again slammed US double standards for holding secret talks with Taliban militants in certain Persian Gulf states and Europe.

“Both Taliban and Americans drink tea and eat chocolate together, but they come and attack civilians in Afghanistan,” Karzai noted.

Karzai had earlier accused Washington of holding unilateral talks with the Taliban militant group, saying that there are “ongoing daily talks between Taliban, American and foreigners in Europe and in the (Persian) Gulf states.”

Referring to two Taliban bombings in Kabul and Khost on March 9, the Afghan president said on Sunday, “Those bombs ... were not a show of force to America. They were in service of America. It was in the service of the 2014 slogan to warn us if they (Americans) are not here then Taliban will come.”

Last month, Afghan media reported that Washington was in contact with the Taliban in Qatar to persuade the militant group to sit at the negotiating table with the Afghan government.

Afghan government officials have not held direct talks with the militants since they were toppled in 2001.

The Taliban have repeatedly refused to negotiate directly with the Western-backed government of President Karzai, demanding the negotiations to be held between the militants and the United States.