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Karzai claims foiling anti-Afghan plot

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President Hamid Karzai on Thursday said his administration had thwarted a conspiracy against Afghanistan with its timely reaction to the way the Taliban's office was opened in Qatar.

Karzai had denounced last week America's support to the Taliban, who hoisted the movement's white flag and used the controversial nomenclature of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan for their bureau in Doha.

His government, asking the insurgent leaders to enter dialogue with the HPC, has hit out at the US for failing to meet its commitments with regard to the opening of the office.

During his biweekly radio speech, the president said: "We sincerely desire peace in the country, but constantly monitor outsiders' activities. We will never let anyone exploit our struggle for peace."

Afghanistan's *High Peace Council* had agreed with the Americans on the opening of the Taliban office for regular peace negotiations, he recalled. But the bureau was inaugurated in violation of the assurances held out to Kabul, Karzai alleged.

"Since the opening of the office was against the agreement and promises we had been given, we firmly opposed it and aborted a plot against Afghans," he said, without elaborating

He called on Taliban to sit across the negotiating table and discuss all issues with their brothers inside the country.

Also on Thursday, US Special Representative James Dobbins told reporters in New Delhi there could be no agreement with Taliban unless they shunned terrorism.

"We certainly agree that there is no prospect for improving relations with the Taliban or, any agreement with the Taliban, unless the issue of terrorism is directly addressed."