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Peace and war: Obama conducts another Afghanistan meeting

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More than a few folks have noted the irony: President Obama conducting an Afghanistan war council just hours after winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

"For Obama, peace in the morning, war in in the afternoon," said a statement from the libertarian Cato Institute.

Today's meeting in the Situation Room -- the fourth in a series -- focuses on the report of Gen. Stanley McChrystal, whose proposed new strategy could [reportedly require deployment](#) of up to 40,000 more troops.



Obama and his team are still in the information gathering process, said spokesman Robert Gibbs, and no decisions have been made about strategy and deployments.

"I still think we're probably several weeks away," Obama said.

As for the overall goals of war and peace, Gibbs said the U.S. is working to "prevent the spread of the type of violent extremism that we see in Afghanistan and Pakistan."

"There are those that sit there in that region of the world and actively are plotting and planning to do America harm," Gibbs said.

Obama himself addressed the issue in his remarks this morning on the Nobel Peace Prize, referencing his planned withdrawal in Iraq as well:

"And even as we strive to seek a world in which conflicts are resolved peacefully and prosperity is widely shared, we have to confront the world as we know it today. I am the Commander-in-Chief of a country that's responsible for ending a war and working in another theater to confront a ruthless adversary that directly threatens the American people and our allies."

(Posted by David Jackson; photo by Pete Souza, The White House)

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