



ASPEN INSTITUTE INDIA

**Session on
“Plan B for Afghanistan”
September 30, 2010
WWF Auditorium, Lodi Estate, New Delhi**

Aspen Institute India organised an interactive session on “Plan B for Afghanistan” with Ambassador Robert Blackwill, Former US Ambassador to India. The session was moderated by Dr. C Raja Mohan, Strategic Affairs Editor, Indian Express.



According to Amb. Blackwill Plan B would make clear to all regional states that the US, through its prolonged military presence in Afghanistan, intends to remain as a power and influence in South and Central Asia for many years to come. His Plan B will dramatically reduce military casualties and therefore would minimise US domestic political pressure for a hasty American withdrawal from Afghanistan. It would also substantially lower the American budget expenditure. Most importantly, it may reduce Pakistan's capacity to use American ground rule in South Afghanistan to extract tolerance from Washington regarding terrorism against India. According to him, this Plan B will also allow the administration in Washington to concentrate more intensively on four issues i.e. dangerous nuclear terrorism, the Iranian Nuclear Program, the rise of Chinese Power and the future of Iraq.

