

Victory & Surrender

February 1, 2019

Former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ryan Crocker sums up in a single word the recently announced framework of an agreement between the United States of America and the Taliban: *Surrender*.

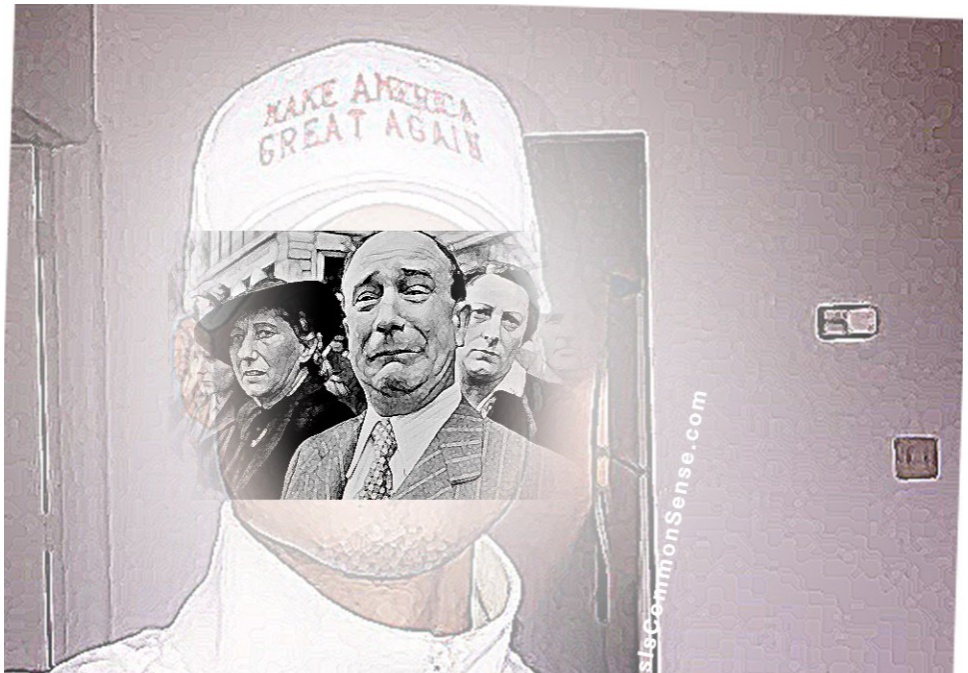
"This current process bears an unfortunate resemblance to the Paris peace talks during the Vietnam War," writes Crocker in a *Washington Post* op-ed. "Then, as now, it was clear that by going to the table we were surrendering; we were just negotiating the terms of our surrender."

He's not wrong.

It may seem strange that, after successfully toppling the Taliban government, a savage

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regime that had given safe haven to Al-Qaeda to launch its 911 attacks against us, we would now, nearly two decades later, be anxious to cut a deal with that same Taliban, even possibly bringing them into a power-sharing role.



Anything to get the heck out of Kabul and back to the good ol' USA. And it is a recognition, right or wrong, that the Afghan government is unsustainable.

The alternative? Keep a significant contingent of U.S. troops in Afghanistan . . . forever. Or until we have fashioned a brand new westernized-Afghanistan that is no possible threat to us.

Yep, forever.

"Winning may not be an available option," contends a new Rand report, "but losing . . . would be a blow to American credibility, the weakening of deterrence and the value of U.S. reassurance elsewhere, an increased terrorist threat emanating from the Afghan region, and the distinct possibility of a necessary return there under worse conditions."

The same mistaken reasons we stayed in Vietnam.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.