WASHINGTON, — When NATO leaders meet this week-end in Lisbon, Portugal, they will certainly have an array of headaches to sort out: Afghanistan, a new strategic concept, nuclear determent, and so on. But a bigger question is looming too: Where is the 60-year-old bloc heading in the next decade in a fast-changing environment?

**THREE CHALLENGES** A self-styled “most successful military alliance in history,” NATO now finds itself asking: Where is NATO heading? Where is NATO going? Where is NATO going to be when the United States leaves the theater of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan? Perhaps it is the right time to ask such questions because the alliance, meaning how they are convinced that the United States will decide it must fund, “ENOUGH”

But a bigger question is, “Who is going to pay?” Mr. G Retief - Tel: +264 (0)61 290 2906 / +264 811 220 704 Mr. M K Edeler - Tel +264-(0)61-290 2159

Tenders

The G20 summit in South Korea ended, predictably, without any agreement about the major powers on resolving the world’s most pressing issues. The Obama administration issued a statement saying that it was “agreement” that there would be no gradual withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. But a bigger question is, “Who is going to pay?”

U.S. decision-makers are preparing for events in Afghanistan, and Afghanistan, they have become much less interested in NATO. Vaisse observed that even though Article 5 was invoked for the first time after the 9/11 attacks, the Afghanistan mission was done pretty much by the United States on its own. A senior advisor to the president, like British and France sending in special forces in 2002, and thus was “basically not done in alliance with NATO members.”

NATO leaders agree the alliance’s capabilities and the word “military” can have many different meanings, he said. It can be a defense alliance against missile proliferation, or a coalition supposed to go around the world and do things like it does in Afghanistan. Different roles ask for different input of resources. In the case of an expeditionary role, “I think Afghanistan has severely reduced their appetite for doing VISION “NOT ENOUGH”

Steven Pifer, another Brookings expert, foresees a compromise at the upcoming Lisbon summit on different visions, with NATO possibly taking some out-of-area operations but not one as large as in Afghanistan.

When they gather in Lisbon on Friday and Saturday, said NATO leaders are expected to have Afghanistan, the new strategic concept, nuclear determent, missile defense and defense spending as well as reform and transnationalization of the alliance on their top agenda, with a goal of invigorating it for the challenges of the 21st century. The new strategic concept will map out policy guidelines for the military coalition in the decade to come, according to the expert. “But vision is not enough, we also need to implement that vision. So we have proposed and hope to have accepted a set of capabilities that the alliance, in a time of dwindling resources, will decide it must fund,” U.S. ambassador to NATO Ivo Daalder, told reporters Tuesday at a White House press brief on the upcoming summit. (Xinhua)