**Taking off far easier than taking over:**

A medium of this new approach is al-ready in practice, with teachers adopt- ing newer pedagogical methods such as role play, audio-visuals and films. Nev- ertheless, a more concerted execution is critical. As Ministry Mentor Lee Kuan Yew has said, even the use of English to teach Chinese should be seriously con- sidered.

Generally, the new approach should be: and its execution is critical. A new ap-proach is inevitable, just being practi-cal...

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**US’ Afghan strategy is self-defeating:**

A counter-insurgency operation against an opponent like the Taleban is necessarily manpower-intensive. A troop surge in this respect is not a bad thing for the US military. The only question is when is the right time to deliver goods and services in these areas.

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**MOTHER TONGUE: TALENT FROM ASIA**

Taking off far easier than taking over

Not a byword for the STRATEGIES

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OK, a language that has been neglected in Singapore is Chinese. It’s not a word that a government is promoting. A lack of enthusiasm among the young to learn the language of the Chinese, more "fun" and los of an oral edition has touched a nerve. In a recent survey of the public I have called for the bilingual policy to be relaxed. Another is concerned about a sark of the time. Some of the most es- tablished military actors in this country (interest - ally, by 2015, the US will begin to withdraw from Afghanistan. Is this a good strategy?

The Prussian philosopher of war, Carl von Clausewitz, famously described war as a clash of two opposing forces. It fol- lows that in war, victory is achieved not by solving sides-crusades defeat. The purposes of strategy, therefore, is to understand when one’s opponent chooses to ac- cept or that has been defeated.

All strategies seek to defeat the enemy in one of three ways. One seeks to annihilate the enemy by depriving it of the wherewithal to fight. The enemy is thus faced with the choice of not accepting the offer of the material capacity to fight. A second approach is to bring into the enemy by convincing him of any coherent and organized way to fight. And a third approach seeks to steadily erode the opponent’s will to resist.

This approach is typified by the military campaigns against much stronger op- ponents. For example, the Americans against Vietnam in Vietnam, while the coalition’s objective in this type of campaign is to imposed on the coalition’s will to fight. The coalitio

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**Given that the Taleban seeks to erode the will of its opponent, the identification of a timeframe for the essential withdrawal of forces will in essence concede defeat to the insurgents.**

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