

U.S. declaration of 'ethnic cleansing' in Myanmar on way

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration moved toward a condemnation of "ethnic cleansing" against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, as officials were preparing a recommendation for Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to unequivocally use the term for the first time. Angry lawmakers on Tuesday demanded an immediate denunciation as they explored a

new, tougher U.S. policy.

Tillerson could receive the recommendation to adopt such terminology as a matter of policy as early as this week, said officials familiar with the process. He would then decide whether to follow the advice of his agency's policy experts, which would raise pressure on the U.S. government to consider new sanctions on a country that had been lauded for its democratic transition.

At a Senate hearing Tuesday, lawmakers pressed Murphy and other administration officials to

hastily clarify their view of the brutal crackdown on Muslims in Rakhine State that has caused more than 600,000 refugees to flee.

Many questions remain about Niger attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. special forces unit ambushed by Islamic militants in Niger didn't call for help until an hour into their first contact with the enemy, the top U.S. general says, conceding many questions linger about the assault that killed four American troops

and triggered a political brawl.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters the American people and the fallen soldiers' families deserve answers about the deadly ambush in the West African nation. But Dunford said Monday that he still lacks many details about how the attack unfolded.

Dunford's description of the assault underscored how long the mid-morning attack dragged on, and that it was many hours before the wounded and killed were evacuated.

Dunford acknowledged that nearly three weeks after the attack, many questions remain.

They include whether the U.S. had adequate intelligence, equipment and training, whether there was an accurate assessment of the threat in that area, and how the U.S. troops became separated in the fight. There is also the question why it took so long to recover the body of serviceman Sgt. La David Johnson, who was missing for two days before his body was found by Niger troops and turned over to the U.S.



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