Gates to Afghanistan

Gates going to Afghanistan as first admnistrative figure to visit since the president's speech. And The Washington Post thought this was breaking news.

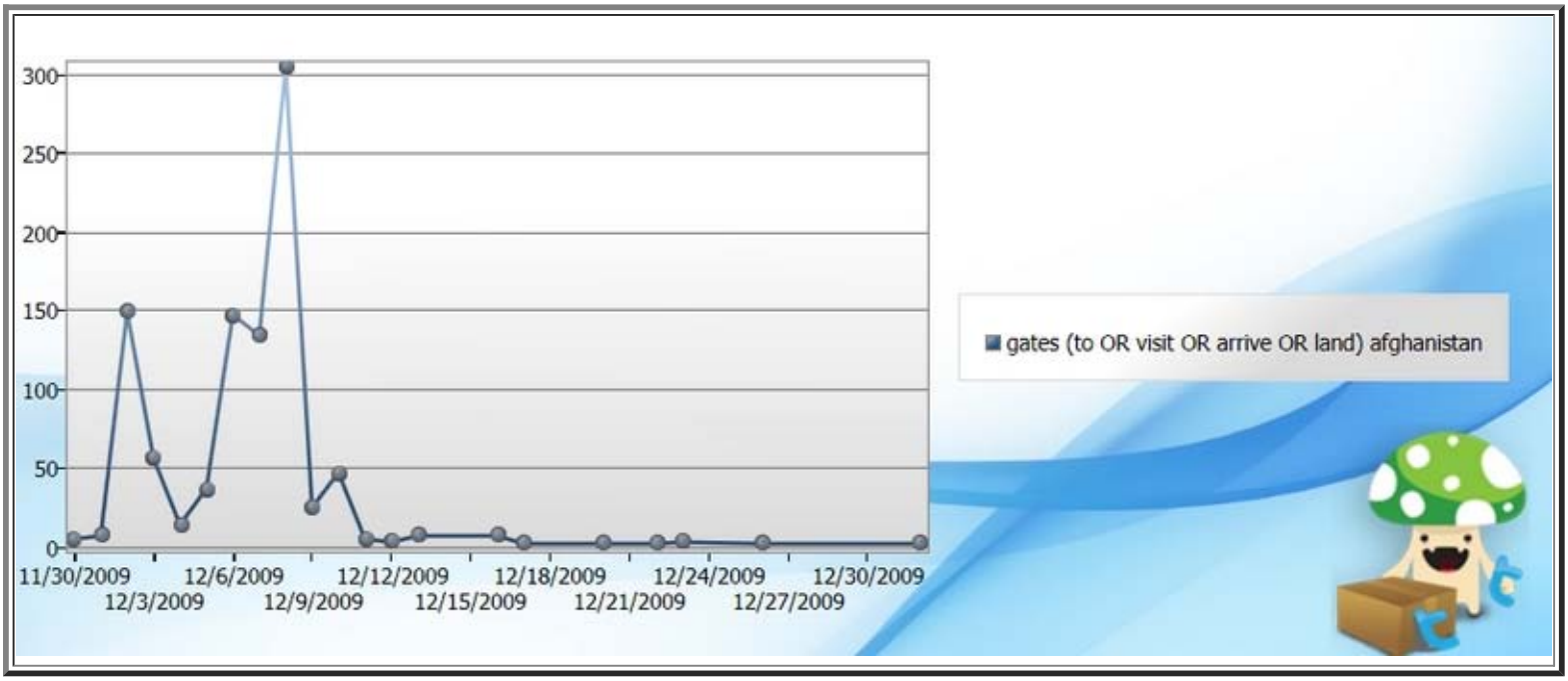
> News Alert
> 11:29 PM EST Monday, December 7, 2009
>
> Pentagon chief Gates makes unannounced trip to Afghanistan
>
> Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates landed Tuesday in Kabul, becoming the first senior U.S. official to travel to Afghanistan since President Obama announced a buildup of troops there. He said a "big piece" of his mission is to tell U.S. troops, “We are in this thing to win.”
>
> For more information, visit washingtonpost.com - http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/46MP2V/KWHUO/RUKZM8/T670V2/FQ365/ID/t

"gates afghanistan" pretty obviously would not do as a search phrase; there are too many times that combination would have appeared in addition to for this trip. So I experimented with connectors, and by looking at the messages and searching with Archivist I came up with "gates (to OR visit OR arrive OR land) afghanistan" That may be a bit more elaborate than was necessary, but it produced the best results referring specifically to the trip.

The first search was 11:30 p.m. Central December 7, 2009, which is one hour later than The Post breaking news report.

At that point 505 messages were found.

At 14:20 p.m. January 1, 2009 939 messages had been found. The Archivist trendline is



There is one spike with a couple of preliminary spikes. Then next to nothing.

The .txt file ready for Excel is gates-to-afghanistan.txt