

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, July 30, 2011 6:41 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Results of the Extraordinary Parliamentary Session on Kosovo
Attachments: Declaration on Kosovo 073011.docx; Declaration on Kosovo 073011.docx

From: Countryman, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, July 30, 2011 06:04 PM
To: Abedin, Huma
Subject: Fw: Results of the Extraordinary Parliamentary Session on Kosovo

In case S wants to glance at this before the call to Tadic
 Tom Countryman, DAS, EUR

From: Palmer, Matthew A (Belgrade)
Sent: Saturday, July 30, 2011 05:52 PM
To: Countryman, Thomas; Dell, Christopher W; Litzenberger, Earle D (Belgrade); Sheehan, Donald M; Warlick, Mary B (Belgrade); Daalder, Ivo H; Glick, Ethan L; Gordon, Philip H; Brush, Jennifer L; Murphy, Michael J; Palmer, Matthew A (Belgrade); alexander.vershbow [redacted] Elizabeth_D. Sherwood-Randall [redacted] <Elizabeth_D. Sherwood-Randall [redacted]>; Meyer, Eugene (Belgrade); Ginkel, John P; Fleming, Mark L; Pfeuffer, Paul; Toussaint, Marianne S; Burger, David; Kaidanow, Tina S; Keefe, Nicolas P; Sexton, Stephen M (Belgrade); Holtzapple, Richard A; Lawrence_R_Silverman [redacted] <Lawrence_R_Silverman [redacted]> Degnan, Kelly C; Bell, Robert G; Blackstone, Robert C; Manso, Joseph X; Shirtz, Carrie A; Alejandro_Baez [redacted] <Alejandro_Baez [redacted]>; Holtzapple, Richard A; Zahner, Luke V; RHoltzapple [redacted] <RHoltzapple [redacted]>; White, Thomas J; Pomper, Joseph M; Rowlands, Ryan (Belgrade); [redacted] <[redacted]>; EUR-SCE-SERBIA-DL
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- Although the Extraordinary session of the Serbian Parliament will likely last for several more hours, the parameters of the discussion and debate are clear and a friendly MP has passed us a copy of the final text that is expected to emerge after the amendments are voted on (attached). Caveat: While we do not expect the text to change, it is possible that the final version will differ in some way from the attached should changes be negotiated in the next hours.
- The key point for us in the Declaration is that the GOS has walked back a half-step from the specific accusation that international forces in Kosovo were violating UNSCR 1244 and endangering the survival of the Serb population. The draft version slated for adoption notes that "certain international missions deployed in Kosovo based on decisions or authorization of the UN, with some of their activities, are violating the status-neutral framework mandated by the (UNSC) Resolution 1244 and supporting acts, thus endangering the rights and the survival of the Serb population and the interests of Serbia in the province."
- The Declaration also offers explicit support for the government's continuing the dialogue with Pristina in pursuit of a compromise solution.
- The government opened the session with prepared statements from the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Defense Minister, Minister for Kosovo, Finance Minister and the Kosovo negotiator (Stefanovic). All were relatively restrained and there was a clear

effort to take the "more in sorrow than in anger" high road. PM Cvetkovic tried to strike a statesmanlike tone and FM Jeremic offered a paean to his own diplomatic efforts in support of Serbia's position. Jeremic asserted that Kosovo's decision to seize control of Gates 1 and 31 on July 25 reflected Pristina's frustration with Serbia's (read: Jeremic's) uniquely successful diplomacy. Jeremic did note, however, that "some of the most powerful countries in the world" were backing Kosovo.

- Presentations by Finance Minister Ciric (on CEFTA), DefMin Sutanovac and Kosovo Minister Bogdanovic were largely a chronological recap of the events of the last five days. Bogdanovic did say, however, that "it looked to the Kosovo Serbs as though KFOR was an instrument of Pristina's policies." Stefanovic offered a call to unity as a sign of support for the Kosovo Serbs.
- None of the speakers from the government mentioned the United States by name.
- Debate was more heated as the opposition leaders spoke. Somewhat surprisingly, however, most of the heat was directed at the government rather than at the United States, the international community, the EU, or NATO. The DSS's Slobodan Samardzic was sharply critical of government policy, including in particular the dialogue with Pristina. The whole arrangement was skewed in Pristina's favor, Samardzic argued, and should be scrapped in favor of new negotiations under UN auspices.
- SNS leader Nikolic sought to avoid all responsibility, insisting that management of the Kosovo crisis remain with the government and not be transferred to the Parliament. Even with 200+ votes for the declaration, Serbia did not know what was going to happen tomorrow on the ground in Northern Kosovo.
- Jagodina Mayor and United Serbia MP Dragan Markovic Palma praised Ambassador Warlick's recent public statements and stressed the importance of Serbia's maintaining good relations with the United States.
- Serb Radical Party MP Krugovic accused Ambassador Dell and ICR Feith of consenting to "the violent operation of the Pristina authorities in northern Kosovo."
- After six hours in the Assembly, a friendly MP took pity on us and slipped us a copy of the marked up declaration that the majority will push through in an series of votes expected later this evening. We will continue to monitor the debate and apprise those copied on this message of any new developments. It is possible that President Tadic will speak at the end of the debate and we will report on his comments (if any) early Sunday am Belgrade time.

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