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Original OA/ID Number: 2712				
Document ID: 9901147				
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UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9901147
RECEIVED: 18 FEB 99 18

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: HASTERT, J DENNIS

DOC DATE: 12 FEB 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO
CO

MILITARY POSTURE

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: SPEAKER REQUESTS CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE ON DEPLOYING TROOPS TO KOSOVO

ACTION: OBE / ORIGINALS RETURNED

DUE DATE: 02 MAR 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HURLEY

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COMMENTS: IF FINAL REPLY CANNOT BE PREPARED BY DUE DATE, AN INTERIM RESPONSE
MUST BE PREPARED FOR MILES LACKEY'S SIGNATURE.

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTSM

CLOSED BY: NSVJD

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9901147

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 HURLEY
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 99021818 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 99041316 OBE / ORIGINALS RETURNED

UNCLASSIFIED

Hastert letter:

- check with Miles Lackey
- postpone until peace talks are concluded.

remove: postpone until after March 15.

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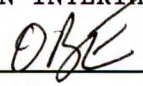
CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
HURLEY

FOR CONCURRENCE
BROWN, K
LACKEY
SCHULTE
VON LIPSEY

FOR INFO
BELL

COMMENTS: IF FINAL REPLY CANNOT BE PREPARED BY DUE DATE, AN INTERIM RESPONSE
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CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

March 5, 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: GREG SCHULTE *JS*

FROM: MICHAEL HURLEY *cmx*

SUBJECT: Presidential Response to Letter from Speaker of
the House J. Dennis Hastert

Attached at Tab I is a Presidential response to a letter from Speaker of the House Hastert on Kosovo policy and his desire to schedule a Congressional debate on deploying troops to Kosovo.

Concurrences by: Miles Lackey, Rod vonLipsey

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Proposed Response
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: Response to Letter from Speaker of the House J.
Dennis Hastert Concerning Kosovo Policy

Purpose

Respond to a letter from Speaker of the House Hastert concerning Kosovo policy.

Background

House Speaker Dennis Hastert wrote to express his understanding that progress toward a Kosovo peace settlement was made at Rambouillet. He thanks the Administration for keeping the House apprised of the negotiations. Speaker Hastert advises of his intention to schedule a House debate on deploying American forces to assist in implementing an agreement.

Your reply summarizes progress made at Rambouillet and details key provisions of the peace agreement. It describes how the United States and allies are using the credible threat of NATO military action to pressure Belgrade to sign the agreement. Your reply also details the conditions under which you would decide to deploy American forces. Your reply also requests that the Speaker postpone scheduling a debate and vote on deployment until after March 15, so as not to prejudice the chance for obtaining an agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Speaker Hastert
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Thank you for your recent letter on events in Kosovo. I deeply appreciate your thoughts as we press forward in our efforts to resolve the conflict, end the suffering, and give the people of Kosovo the self-government they deserve.

United States and allied diplomacy backed by the credible threat of NATO force compelled Belgrade to participate in the Kosovo peace talks at Rambouillet last month. While the talks did not yield an agreement, they were a significant step forward in the peace process. For the first time, Kosovar Albanians came together as a single team and agreed in principle to sign the interim political settlement after consultations in Kosovo. Ambassador Chris Hill has been meeting with members of the Kosovar delegation and sees positive indications that they are prepared to sign when the talks resume on March 15. To advance the process, I asked Bob Dole to travel to the region on March 5 to encourage Kosovar Albanian leadership to agree to the settlement.

When signed and implemented, the settlement will end Serb repression, violence and bloodshed, establish self-government in Kosovo and deeply engage the international community in reconstruction and economic development there. Kosovars will run their own hospitals, go to their own schools, collect their own taxes, police their own streets, and have their own courts. Of paramount importance, the security chapters require the withdrawal of the majority of Serb army forces, except for a limited number of troops serving exclusively as border patrol units, and rapidly-phased removal of all Serb state police.

To date, the Serbs have not agreed to sign but they have agreed to substantial parts of the political agreement on Kosovo self-government. With Kosovar Albanian agreement in hand, we and our allies can focus pressure on President Milosevic, who bears primary responsibility for the current crisis. We are making clear to Milosevic that if his intransigence blocks agreement at the March 15 implementation talks, he will face NATO air strikes.

We have also made it clear that NATO Secretary General Solana may authorize air strikes against Serb targets for Belgrade's failure to comply with its October commitments. We are concerned about Belgrade's recent build-up of forces in and around Kosovo and have warned Milosevic of the consequences should he launch an offensive. NATO is poised to carry out this threat.

If the parties reach agreement, NATO is preparing to help implement the settlement. Europeans will provide the bulk of the force, but U.S. troops would be necessary to give the parties, particularly the Kosovar Albanians, confidence in the settlement. Before approving the participation of U.S. forces, I would ensure that a NATO-led force in Kosovo has a clear and achievable mission, is deploying into a permissive environment with the consent of the parties, has robust rules of engagement, and has a realistic exit strategy.

I appreciate being advised of your intention to schedule a House of Representatives debate on deploying American troops to Kosovo. I respectfully request that you postpone holding the debate and a possible vote until after March 15, the date the formal peace talks resume. Milosevic is likely to read any division in the U.S. government as an indication that the United States will not act to compel him to reach agreement. Scheduling a vote at this time could seriously undercut the chance for a peace agreement. There will be ample opportunity for the issue to be debated and voted on following March 15. In any event, I will not make a final decision on deployment without further consulting Congress.

We are committed to ending the violence and repression in Kosovo. The March 15 implementation talks offer an important opportunity to end the conflict and it is up to both sides to grasp its importance and begin to build a better future.

I will consult closely with you in the days ahead as the talks proceed and NATO completes its planning. Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

J. Dennis Hastert
Fourteenth District
Illinois



1147
(202) 225-0600

Office of the Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
February 12, 1999

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C.

FEB 12 PM 8:03

Dear Mr. President:

I understand from your senior advisers that there has been significant movement at the negotiations in Rambouillet, France, regarding a peaceful settlement in Kosovo.

First, I want to thank you for keeping the House of Representatives apprised of developments in these negotiations. In particular, your advisers have conveyed to us the seriousness of this issue and your personal attention to the question of whether or not the United States should deploy American troops to Kosovo in support of a final agreement.

As you know, there have been many questions raised here in the House of Representatives regarding the possible deployment of young Americans to Kosovo. Some believe it is the right thing to do in light of the tragic events in Kosovo. But others have conveyed strong reservations about such a deployment, expressing a broad range of concerns that you will need to address. Like you, they represent the families of the sons and daughters who will be placed in harms way if a final decision is made to deploy our troops in Kosovo.

For all of these reasons, I believe that the House of Representatives should have an opportunity to fully debate this issue prior to any final decision on deploying American troops to Kosovo. I have spoken with members of my own leadership on this issue, as well as Minority Leader Gephardt, and it would be my hope that we could bring this issue to the floor as soon as possible and without prejudice in a fair and open debate. However, at the request of your senior advisers I have agreed not to publicly announce at this time that the House of Representatives will consider this matter. At the same time, I hope you will respect my wish that the executive branch not make an announcement regarding a final decision on the deployment of American troops to Kosovo until the House of Representatives has had an opportunity to fairly consider this matter.

I look forward to working with you on this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Office of the Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

FAX COVER LETTER

ATTENTION: LARRY Stein

FROM: Policy Office Staff

☐ Ralph Hellman

☒ Bill Inglee

☐ Amy Jensen

☐ David Thompson

☐ Chris Scheve

☐ Tim Kurth

☐ Katherine Kless

☐ Shay Mason

DATE: 2/12/99

FAX NUMBER: 456-6221

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (Including Cover): 2

Comments:

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 18, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR GLYN T. DAVIES
NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: JANET MURGUIA
Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Attached is a copy of a letter sent to the President by Rep. J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL). Since this letter addresses national security issues, we would appreciate your assistance in drafting the response.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please call Eli Joseph at x67500.

Enclosure

FEB1812:17

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER: HURLEY

LOG NUMBER: 1147

DUE DATE: 2 MAR

DATE STAFFED: 18 FEB

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM: REP. HASTERT

PREPARE A RESPONSE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OR NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE WITHIN 10 DAYS. IF A LETTER DOES NOT REQUIRE A RESPONSE, PLEASE RETURN IT TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (RM 379) WITH THIS FORM, ANNOTATED ACCORDINGLY.