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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9901808
RECEIVED: 15 MAR 99 18

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: BYRD, ROBERT C

DOC DATE: 11 MAR 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO
MILITARY POSTURE

CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: REQUESTS OUTLINE OF PLANS FOR US FORCES IN KOSOVO

ACTION: NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

DUE DATE: 26 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
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DOC 1 OF 1

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9901808

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 HURLEY
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 99031518 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 99040517 NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

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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

NFR. OBE. Sen Byrd has received several Kosovo briefings in the 3 weeks since this letter was written. [Signature] 21 APR 99

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DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

1808

STEVEN J. LUHTESE, STAFF DIRECTOR
JAMES H. ENGLISH, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 11, 1999

1999 12 11 11:29

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Based on recent news reports, I am concerned that efforts by your Administration to negotiate a peace accord for Kosovo are starting to unravel. The Kosovo Albanians, despite encouraging signals, have not signed the peace agreement. At the same time, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic appears to be ratcheting up his resistance to a peaceful settlement. Our NATO allies, who would comprise the bulk of the peacekeeping operation currently envisioned, seem to have faded into the background in recent days, leaving the United States to shoulder the burden of attempting to advance the negotiations.

In light of these developments and the overall uncertainty surrounding the situation in Kosovo, the Congress is deeply divided, and rightly concerned, over the possibility of sending American troops into Kosovo or of launching air strikes against Yugoslavia. The possibility of American casualties as a result of either such operation is of extreme concern to me.

This is not an auspicious climate in which to undertake a controversial and dangerous military operation without the express support of Congress and the American people. As I have in the past with regard to Bosnia, I again urge you to seek Congressional support for any decision that you contemplate making to deploy military forces into this region. Congress and the Executive branch share responsibility for a decision of this magnitude.

I understand your concerns over the timing, and the risk of precipitating a Congressional debate in the midst of delicate negotiations. Indeed, I share those concerns. Instead of attempting to block a Congressional debate, however, I believe that it would be wiser for the Administration to provide a foundation for the debate. I encourage you to immediately provide Congress with a report detailing your plans for Kosovo, including the following elements:

The President

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March 11, 1999

- the number of troops to be deployed;
- objectives of the mission and rules of engagement;
- the expected schedule;
- the exit strategy and anticipated withdrawal date;
- estimated cost and source of funding; and
- the anticipated impact on readiness and morale of our forces.

This is all information that Congress has sought on other operations and will most assuredly seek on the Kosovo operation. By providing a detailed policy outline in advance of any decision to deploy U.S. troops, you can be best assured that Congress will debate and determine its position on the basis of fact, not fear or supposition.

I commend you for your determined efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the strife in Kosovo. I cannot overemphasize the importance of working with Congress as you pursue this laudable if elusive goal.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Byrd", with a stylized, flowing script.

Robert C. Byrd

RCB:cc

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 12, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR GLYN T. DAVIES
NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: JANET MURGUIA
Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Attached are copies of letters sent to the President by various Members of Congress. Since these letters address national security issues, we would appreciate your assistance in drafting the responses.

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

The following is a brief description of the letters:

- 1) Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-WV), expressing concern over the Administration's efforts to negotiate a peace accord for Kosovo;
- 2) Sen. Pete V. Domenici (R-NM), concerning the increase in foreign oil imports; and,
- 3) Rep. Constance A. Morella (R-MD) and seven other Members of Congress, regarding the President's trip to Central America.

Enclosures

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER: HURLEY

LOG NUMBER: 1808

DUE DATE: 26 MAR

DATE STAFFED: 15 MAR

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM: SEN. BYRD

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.