FOIA MARKER

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Let me say a few words about the serious situation in Kosovo. As a result of the unconscionable actions of President Milosevic we face the danger of violence spreading to neighboring countries, threatening a wider war in Europe. And we face a humanitarian crisis that is a catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter.

Our goal is full compliance by President Milosevic with the terms of the UN Security Council resolution. Our Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke has just completed three days of talks with President Milosevic to make absolutely clear the steps he must take. So far, President Milosevic has refused to do what the international community demands: end the violence, withdraw his forces, let the refugees return to their homes, give the humanitarian relief workers full and immediate access, and begin negotiations with the Kosovar Albanians on autonomy.

Yesterday, I decided that the United States would vote to give NATO the authority to carry out military strikes against Serbia, if Milosevic continues to defies the international community. In the days ahead, my counterparts in Europe will be making similar decisions. Would we prefer to secure President Milosevic’s compliance with the will of the international community peacefully? Of course we would. Should NATO be prepared to act militarily to protect our interests and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe? The answer is, resolutely, yes.
Let me say a few words about the very serious situation in Kosovo. As a result of the unconscionable actions of President Milosovich we face the danger that violence will spread to neighboring countries, destabilizing the entire region. And we face a humanitarian crisis that is a catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter.
We have gone more than the extra mile diplomatically.

My Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke has just completed three days of talks with President Milosevic to make absolutely clear the steps he must take, immediately. But President Milosevic refuses to do what the international community demands: end the violence, withdraw his forces, let the refugees return to their homes, give the humanitarian relief workers full and immediate access, and begin negotiations with the Kosovar Albanians on autonomy.
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Let me first take this opportunity to say a few words about Kosovo. The situation there is intolerable. We face the danger of spill-over violence that could destabilize countries throughout the region. And we face a humanitarian crisis that is a catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter.

We have gone more than the extra mile diplomatically. My Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke has just completed three days of talks with President Milosevic to make absolutely clear the steps he must take, immediately. But President Milosevic continues to avoid doing what the international community demands: end the violence, withdraw his forces, let the refugees return to their homes, give the humanitarian relief workers full and immediate access, and begin negotiations with the Kosovar Albanians on autonomy.

Yesterday, I decided that the United States would vote to give NATO the authority to carry out military strikes against Serbia. In the hours and days ahead, I expect that my counterparts in Europe will be making similar decisions. [And all of us are beginning to evacuate families and non-essential staff from our embassies and urging our citizens to leave Serbia.] Would we prefer to secure President Milosevic’s compliance with the will of the international community peacefully? Of course we would. Are we prepared to act militarily to protect our interests and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe? The answer is, resolutely, yes.