

November 15, 1995

NOTE FOR: TONY LAKE

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FROM: DON KERRICK

SUBJECT: Talking Points for Meeting with President Izetbegovic

Have attached Dick Holbrooke cleared talking points for your meeting with President Izetbegovic.

Will set aside ample prebrief time in Dayton to get you up to speed on issues and situation at time of arrival. Ground truth changes rapidly.

You should expect minimum of one meeting with Izetbegovic, Milosevic, and Granic. Others situation dependent.

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LAKE TALKING POINTS

- o Have come to Dayton to support and reinforce Dick Holbrooke's message. Not here to negotiate. Holbrooke is President's negotiator - Secretary Christopher returns tomorrow.
- o Because only few hours left, have come here at President's request to ask you to take last steps for peace.
- o President fully supports your quest for justice and just peace that preserves single Bosnian State, effective central government, and permits refugees to return.
- o President faces rising Congressional opposition to deployment of U.S. troops to implement settlement, but determined to make all out effort on grounds not just in U.S. interest, but in Bosnian people interest as well.
- o Fully appreciate political risks you face in agreeing to peace plan that you will have to justify to people of Bosnia.
- o If we are successful at Dayton, the President will help you make case that peace achieved at Dayton was just.
- o U.S. role in Dayton more than mediators. Seeking best deal possible for you.
- o Territorial proposals are not perfect, but support goals set forth in President Clinton's peace initiative.
- o Provides you with substantially more than 51%. Likely best deal possible. More fighting will be costly with no guaranteed results. Time for peace.
- o President wanted me to personally tell you, that he knows this is extremely difficult, but that he is disappointed that after 16 days, Dayton has failed to produce agreement.
- o Many in U.S. could use failure in Dayton as excuse to disengage from peace process and abandon moral position we have defended to this point.
- o Delays and failure mean Congressional support for U.S. participation will continue to erode. If we fail to reach agreement lift option will be less likely.

(If needed, as decided at time of meeting)

- o If your government unwilling to complete peace agreement that Serbs can accept and one that is backed by Contact group, there will be no:
 - U.S. forces on the ground,
 - NATO implementation, and
 - economic aid and reconstruction package.
- o And, Congress will not approve, nor could we ask for, U.S. program for equip and train we are formulating for you.
- o Further, UNPROFOR will withdraw. Bosnia could find itself without any form of military support from the West and no formal lift.
- o If this process does not conclude satisfactorily in Dayton, next phase may reconvene in Paris or elsewhere. U.S. will be far less able to influence outcome, and this will work to disadvantage of Bosnia.
- o Much at stake for you, Bosnia, U.S. and President. Encourage you to think carefully about Dayton and prospects for future after peace in Bosnia has had opportunity to take root with U.S. and international support.
- o A very good result is within reach; do not let it slip away.

(Additional information and specifics to be supplied in Dayton prebriefs)