

VOLUNTING TELEGRAPH
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D:STALBOTT

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DECLASSIFICATION
AUTHORITY: Geoffrey W.
Chapman, Senior Reviewer,
A/GIS/IPS, 3/21/2019

ROUTINE MOSCOW, PARIS, STRASBOURG

ROUTINE ALLEU

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: COE, PREL, RS

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT'S MEETING WITH DANIEL TARSCHYS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT MET WITH COUNCIL OF EUROPE {COE} SECRETARY GENERAL DANIEL TARSCHYS IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 30. THE MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL AND FOCUSED ENTIRELY ON U.S. AND EUROPEAN POLICIES TOWARDS RUSSIA.

2. TARSCHYS SAID UNTIL CHECHNYA, RUSSIA'S COE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION HAD BEEN ON TRACK AND COE HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS WORKING WITH THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT ON REFORMS. HOWEVER, THE COE PARLIAMENT HAS SUSPENDED RUSSIA'S APPLICATION, RESERVING THE RIGHT TO RECONSIDER IT AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE. TARSCHYS SAID HE DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE COE PARLIAMENT WOULD REQUIRE OF RUSSIA TO RECONSIDER THE APPLICATION, BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD WAIT FOR SOME SORT OF SELF-CRITICISM BY RUSSIA OF EVENTS IN CHECHNYA.

3. TALBOTT SAID RECENT NEWS FROM CHECHNYA WAS NOT GOOD, AND THAT RUSSIA THUS FAR HAD NOT FOLLOWED THROUGH ON ITS AGREEMENT TO AN OSCE PEACEKEEPING MISSION. THE USG IS

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an issue.

SEEKING A SUBSTANTIAL AND OPEN-ENDED CESSATION OF VIOLENCE IN CHECHNYA, EFFECTIVE STEPS TO PROTECT CIVILIANS, AND A REAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE. TALBOTT NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE USG IS NOT INSISTING THAT THE DIALOGUE BE WITH DUDAYEV.

4. TARSCHYS WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE DIRECTION RUSSIA IS HEADED BUT BELIEVED ISOLATING RUSSIA WOULD ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE. HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT'S ARGUMENT THAT THE WEST MUST SUPPORT IT AT ALL COSTS TO PREVENT EXTREMISTS FROM TAKING POWER: THE WEST SHOULD SUPPORT POLICIES RATHER THAN INDIVIDUALS. TALBOTT AGREED, SAYING THE USG CANNOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THERE ARE NO STANDARDS FOR RUSSIA NOR CUT OFF CONTACTS WHEN RUSSIA ACTS WRONGLY. AT THE HALIFAX SUMMIT, THE G-7 WILL SIGNAL THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH RUSSIAN CONDUCT IN CHECHNYA BY LIMITING YELTSIN TO BASICALLY THE SAME TREATMENT HE RECEIVED IN NAPLES {I.E., ATTEND DINNER ON THE EVENING OF THE FIRST DAY, PARTICIPATE IN THE "P-8" MEETINGS ON POLITICAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES THE SECOND DAY}.

5. TARSCHYS SAID IN HIS MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR VORONTSOV, VORONTSOV HAD PROPOSED A TRIAL FOR RUSSIAN "CRIMES" IN CHECHNYA. TALBOTT SAID TARSCHYS SHOULD NOT TAKE THOSE COMMENTS SERIOUSLY, AS VORONTSOV OFTEN SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY. TALBOTT ADDED THAT THE U.S. AND EUROPE MIGHT NOT WANT DEFENSE MINISTER GRACHEV PUT ON TRIAL BECAUSE WE MIGHT BE EVEN LESS HAPPY WITH HIS REPLACEMENT.

7. TARSCHYS PRESENTED TALBOTT WITH A COPY OF A 40-PAGE LETTER SIGNED BY YELTSIN AND CHERNOMYRDIN LISTING REFORMS RUSSIA AGREED TO MAKE TO MEET COE STANDARDS. (NOTE: THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN SHORTLY BEFORE THE CHECHNYA OPERATION BEGAN).

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