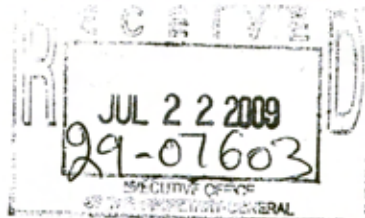


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Note to the Secretary-General

Russian démarche on future UN role in Georgia/Abkhazia ✓

1. Ambassador Churkin came to see me yesterday evening at his request to discuss our proposal for a future UN role in Georgia/Abkhazia.
2. He stressed that while Russia had no objection, in principle, to having Johan Verbeke continue to act on behalf of the UN, any such engagement should be low key, even "semi-formal". Russia was strictly opposed to any new senior appointment with regard to Georgia/Abkhazia and the Geneva process. Ambassador Churkin proposed that, once Mr. Verbeke would end his engagement, the UN's involvement in the Geneva process might best be led by a serving official rather than a new appointee. He clarified that Russia had no objections to the UN's continued role in the Geneva process.
3. Ambassador Churkin insisted that the precise roles and mandate of the four to five staff assisting Mr. Verbeke under our proposal on a future role be clarified in writing. As long as their role was strictly technical, linked to their supporting role for the Incident Prevention and Resolution Mechanism, Churkin seemed amenable to the proposal.

A L R

Alain Le Roy
21 July 2009

cc: Mr. Pascoe

