

11 of 13
DPA
Hoodman
Greece

Note to Mr. Pascoe

Mr. Matthew Nimetz – Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General
for the Greece-FYROM Talks

1. I refer to Mr. Gambari's **note** of 18 January 2007 to the Secretary-General concerning the mandate of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for the Greece-FYROM talks. In this connection, DPA had recommended that Mr. Matthew Nimetz be retained in his current position as the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for the Greece-FYROM talks. DPA had further recommended that a formal \$1 per year contract be issued for Mr. Nimetz.
2. The above recommendation has the Secretary-General's approval.
3. With respect to funding, we note that DPA is ready to explore ways in which resources could be obtained for the Envoy's efforts in the event that political developments require a marked increase in activity and/or funding.
4. As you know, the Secretary-General is scheduled to meet with Mr. Nimetz later in the week.

Vijay Nambiar
Vijay Nambiar
3 March 2007

cc. Mr. Kim
Mr. Sach
Ms. Beagle

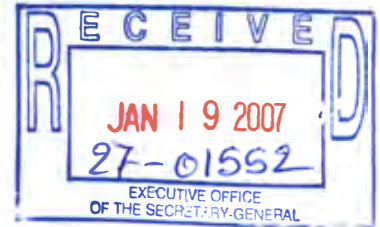
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Note to the Secretary-General

GREECE-FYROM TALKS ON THE NAME ISSUE



Political developments

1. After the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire in the early twentieth century, the region historically known as Macedonia was absorbed into the newer countries of the Balkan region, primarily Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia (and a sliver into Albania). The Serbian share became a constituent republic in modern Yugoslavia. After the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the republic of Macedonia declared its independence in 1991. It adopted a constitution with the name Republika Makedonjia (in Cyrillic script), translated into English as the Republic of Macedonia. Greece objected to this name, asserting that it carried irredentist implications (Greece's Northern province is also called "Macedonia").

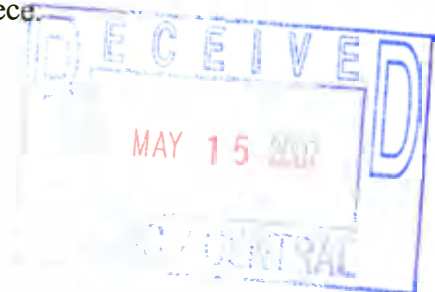
2. In light of the dispute, the new State was admitted to the United Nations in 1993 on a provisional basis under the name of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), in accordance with Security Council resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993).

3. In 1995, given the intensity of the dispute, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Cyrus Vance as his Personal Envoy on this issue. Mr. Vance was succeeded in 1999 by Ambassador Matthew Nimetz. The mandate of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Greece-FYROM talks is based on the above-mentioned Security Council resolutions and on Article 5 of the Interim Accord of 13 September 1995 (S/1995/794), which provided that "The Parties agree to continue negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations pursuant to Security Council resolution 845 (1993) with a view to reaching agreement on the differences described in that resolution and in Security Council resolution 817 (1993)".

4. Mr. Nimetz meets with the parties on a regular basis, occasionally in joint sessions and often individually, either in New York, the respective capitals or elsewhere in Europe. The parties participate through their authorized representatives to the talks; at the present time, they are Ambassador A. Vassilakis of Greece and Ambassador N. Dimitrov of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Analysis of the situation

5. In the course of his tenure, Mr. Nimetz has provided the parties with several ideas for their consideration. In April 2005, he suggested that the constitutional name remain in effect internally but that "Republika Makedonjia -- Skopje" be used internationally. This formula received a positive reaction in Athens but was rejected by Skopje. In October 2005, Mr. Nimetz suggested that alternate names be used internationally. This idea was generally accepted by FYROM but rejected by Greece.



6. Greece maintains that the name "Republic of Macedonia" is not acceptable and must be changed, but no longer insists on its original position that the name may not contain the word "Macedonia." Skopje opposes changes to the constitutional name of the country, but admits that some variation is possible for official use by Greece, and maybe by others as well.

7. In the past 12 months, Ambassador Nimetz' meetings with the parties have been less frequent due to parliamentary elections in FYROM in July 2006, which resulted in a change of Government, and key local elections in Greece in October 2006. These events limited the parties' flexibility in the talks. Furthermore, during the pre-electoral periods, both Governments were sensitive about publicity on this issue. Nevertheless, Mr. Nimetz was able to hold fairly regular meetings with the representatives of the respective Governments. He also met with FYROM President Crvenkovski and Foreign Minister Milosovski on 20 September 2006, and with Greek Foreign Minister Bakoyannis on 28 September 2006.

8. Mr. Nimetz remains confident that a solution is possible and that the leaders in Athens and Skopje, as well as all major political parties, genuinely desire a solution. Although the time is not propitious for the parties to accept a formulation that will satisfy Governments and public opinion in both countries, Mr. Nimetz nevertheless considers that continued discussions are essential and a breakthrough will eventually come about.

9. In the context of the Security Council's mandate review earlier this year, DPA briefed on Mr. Nimetz's activities. Members of the Council welcomed his efforts to find a solution to the name issue and wished him to continue this work. The parties also explicitly expressed their wish that Mr. Nimetz' mandate be extended.

10. Recent statements by Greek and FYROM high officials indicate that the parties remain entrenched in their positions and are unwilling to compromise. Nevertheless, the situation may change later this year. For Skopje, the name issue may become an obstacle to FYROM's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. Greece renewed its threats to block Skopje's accession to NATO and eventual entry into the EU. Although the EU remains a distant prospect, NATO membership is a real possibility for FYROM. Greece is nervous because of growing recognition of Skopje under its constitutional name of "Republic of Macedonia". Furthermore, FYROM's presidency of the next session of the General Assembly may add to Greece's anxiety about losing political ground on this issue. Thus, there is a possibility that the talks on the name issue may gain new impetus, in which case Mr. Nimetz would intensify his efforts.

11. On 29 December 2006, Mr. Nimetz informed DPA that he had been invited by the FYROM authorities to visit Skopje on 12-14 January 2007. The FYROM Government will pay expenses for the trip. FYROM's sudden decision to name Skopje's airport after Alexander the Great has irritated the Greek side, which is a real setback. Mr. Nimetz has been in contact with the parties on the matter and is going to discuss it in Skopje. Mr. Nimetz indicated to us his readiness to personally brief you on the name issue at a time convenient to you.

Recommendations

12. Members of the Security Council and the parties favour the continuation of the Personal Envoy's mandate, despite the lack of progress. Mr. Nimetz is willing to continue his efforts in 2007. Replacement of the Personal Envoy at this juncture could further decelerate the process. DPA therefore recommends that Mr. Nimetz be retained in his current position as your Personal Envoy for the Greece-FYROM talks.

13. If you concur, a formal contract should be issued for Mr. Nimetz with payment exclusively on a "one-dollar-a-year" basis, plus expenses. So far, Mr. Nimetz has provided his services on a *pro bono* basis and his contractual status has never been regularised.

14. Mr. Nimetz may also need a budget line to cover his travel expenses when they are not covered by the respective Governments. If the talks on the name issue intensify, this budget could also cover occasional travel of an assistant to the Personal Envoy (assigned by DPA) who may be called upon to provide support in preparation for meetings and to keep track of the negotiations.

15. The above expenses may be intermittent and might not occur at all in 2007. In these circumstances, DPA therefore proposes to keep the situation under review. Should political developments necessitate a marked increase in activity and, possibly, funding, DPA will explore ways in which resources could be obtained for this effort as needed.



Ibrahim Gambari

Department of Political Affairs

18 January 2007

cc: Mr. Nambiar
Mr. Kim