

RELEASE IN
PART B5

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 4:14 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: UNAMA mandate renewal

Fyi. This resolves - in some respects - the UN mandate issue Lavrov raised.

From: Barks-Ruggles, Erica J
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Mon Mar 22 16:10:52 2010
Subject: UNAMA mandate renewal

Jake -

I am not sure if this answers the question, but the issue is OBE as the mandate was adopted today. [redacted]

[redacted] - Erica

UNAMA MANDATE RENEWAL & RUSSIAN DISCUSSION

On March 22 the Security Council renewed the UNAMA mandate by unanimous consent, but not without a short delay at the request of Russian PermRep Churkin, who called for last-minute consultations prior to the adoption of the mandate. Churkin took the floor in closed consultations to "begin an interactive dialogue" highlighting the drug problem caused by Afghanistan's unabated poppy cultivation, noting it fuels domestic corruption and finances the Taliban. Churkin's "dialogue" was triggered by a front-page Sunday New York Times article titled, "U.S. Turns a Blind Eye to Opium in Afghan Town."

Following the adoption of the UNAMA mandate, the Russian PermRep took the floor in the chamber and noted Russian support for the new UNAMA mandate which has "satisfactory language in all regards." Churkin emphasized that the Afghan-led policy of national reconciliation can not contradict past Council resolutions, including the sanctions regime, and reminded that all who join the reconciliation program must lay down arms, pledge to uphold the Afghan constitution and break ties with terrorist organizations. Churkin reminded Members that drugs represent a "direct threat to international peace and security" and noted that "recent media reports" state that ISAF has "given up" on eradication. He called for ISAF to be "active and robust" in combating drugs.