

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 1, 2012 12:05 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw:

FYSA - we're working this. This just posted in English-language rag, Aftenposten English.

From: Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 11:58 AM
To: Nuland, Victoria J; Reines, Philippe I; Gordon, Philip H
Subject: Fw:

Guys - what gives? First, who authorized McDermott to speak? Second, Phil, why didn't this come up in prebrief? Third, how are we going to fix?

From: Valliani, Amira
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 11:56 AM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject:

Director Sullivan, I wanted to call this urgently to your attention. This is the Norwegian Josh Rogin.

HILLARY SNUBS JONAS ON SVALBARD

What's next - Article V?

Special to Aftenposten by Tor Andre Flo

OSLO - Fresh off of securing American support for Norway's claim in a dispute Russia under the Svalbard Treaty, Foreign Minister Jonas Stoere had a rude shock when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declined to reaffirm that support in a press conference today.

The Svalbard treaty of 1945 guarantees Norway's territorial integrity and delimits boundaries with Russia. It left open certain territorial claims that have now become relevant because of technological advances in mining and drilling. Russia and especially returning President Vladimir V. Putin have been aggressively pushing Russia's claims.

In the face of increasing pressure, Stoere sought a meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon on the margins of the NATO Summit in Chicago. At that meeting, Gordon delivered a diplomatic note offering a clear position for the first time that the United States supports Norway's claim. Stoere returned to Oslo triumphant.

Fast forward to Friday June 1 in Oslo. Stoere teed up a reporter to ask Clinton to state the position publically at a press conference following a global health summit. Clinton declined to do so, leaving Stoere befuddled. Indeed, her answer seemed to imply that this was Norway's problem and not the United States'. Clinton's non-response has raised questions about Stoere really got the commitment he claimed.

Ole Gunnar Skoljskaer, a policy analyst at the Centre of Peace and Security Studies in Bergen, said Clinton's comments would raise a lot of eyebrows.

"Not supporting Norway on this is like not supporting Article V," he said. "We need to understand the U.S. position."

Reached for comment as Clinton departed for Tromso, U.S. Embassy spokesman Patrick McDermott said, "The Secretary misspoke. Clearly the U.S. supports Norway's position under the Svalbard Treaty."

Unaware of the events in Oslo, Putin's traveling spokesman Dmitri Peskov also spoke to the issue from the plane to Berlin. "This is, as they say, cut and dried. No one supports Norway's claim. No one."

So where does this leave the issue? Foreign policy observers are keen to find out.