

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 6, 2012 1:56 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Protest in Moscow, Russia Update 5

FYI

----- Original Message -----

From: Nuland, Victoria J
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 01:46 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: Fw: Protest in Moscow, Russia Update 5

----- Original Message -----

From: Solomon, Howard T
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 01:36 PM
To: McFaul, Michael A; Gwaltney, Sheila S; MoscowPoliticalSection; Kruzich, Joseph; Hurley, Michael J; Moscow RSO Supervisors; MSG DET CMDR MOSCOW; Venlet, Douglas J; McCotter, Cade R; EUR-RUS-DL; North, Charles (Russia/DIR); Harutunian, Ruben; 'markogul [REDACTED]' <markogul [REDACTED]>; Gul, Mark O; Johnston, Cory (Russia/ORD); 'Alice_G_Wells [REDACTED]' <A [REDACTED]>; 'Christopher_Mizelle [REDACTED]' < [REDACTED]>; 'Woodward_Price [REDACTED]' < [REDACTED]>; 'Kari_A_Johnstone [REDACTED]' < [REDACTED]>; Nuland, Victoria J; Melia, Thomas O; Keiner, Orly R; Falls, Eric G; Kelly, Ian C; SES-O; 'acrotto@us-state.osis.gov' <acrotto@us-state.osis.gov>; 'robertcotto [REDACTED]' <robertcotto [REDACTED]>; Charap, Samuel G; Moscow ECON AM; Poulton, Lynette J
Cc: Curran, Sylvia R; Turner, Bruce I (St Petersburg); Hubler, Stephen A (St Petersburg); McCabe, P Christopher; Reinert, David M; Alexander, Paige (E&E/AA); Toner, Mark C; Kaidanow, Tina S; Posner, Michael H; Gordon, Philip H; Ellison, Janine M; Russell, Daniel A; Firestone, Thomas A; Arias, Abelardo A
Subject: Re: Protest in Moscow, Russia Update 5

Police sources report over 400 arrests today in connection with protests. More protesters are being detained around manezh square with at least 30 arrested within the last 30 minutes. Echo Moscow correspondent reports police throwing protesters down on pavement face first and some beatings taking place in buses holding detainees. Gazeta.ru correspondent tweeted just now that "police are torturing right on the street."

The Ministry of Interior reports that around 20 police were injured today, at least three of them requiring hospitalization. There are also reports of at least 6 protesters injured, requiring hospitalization.

Tv Dozhd is back on, reports hundreds marched to tretyakovskaya metro shouting slogans, also had run ins with police. Gazeta reporting crowd refusing to break-up at metro.

Protesters attacked an NTV crew, assaulting two of the TV crew and pelting van with bottles, then rocking it.

Around 1000 aggressive protesters including leftists and antifascists (antifa) remain in neighborhood of Bolotnaya in front of Udarnik cinema. According to echo, protesters clashing with police still.

Putin's spokesman Peskov denied that authorities were behind DDoS attacks, telling interfax that the hackers should be punished.

Sergey Udaltsov, Aleksey Navalny, and Boris Nemtsov remain in custody and could face up to 15 days for administrative charges for not obeying police.

Human Rights Ombudsman Vladimir Lukin blames opposition for provoking police by engaging in sit-in/standoff in front of Udarnik cinema without relaying intentions to authorities in advance.

----- Original Message -----

From: Solomon, Howard T

Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 12:28 PM

To: McFaul, Michael A; Gwaltney, Sheila S; MoscowPoliticalSection; Kruzich, Joseph; Hurley, Michael J; Moscow RSO Supervisors; MSG DET CMDR MOSCOW; Venlet, Douglas J; McCotter, Cade R; EUR-RUS-DL; North, Charles (Russia/DIR); Harutunian, Ruben; 'markogul[redacted]' <markogul[redacted]>; Gul, Mark O; Johnston, Cory (Russia/ORD);

'Alice_G_Wells[redacted]' <[redacted]>; 'Christopher_Mizelle[redacted]' <[redacted]>; 'Woodward_Price[redacted]' <[redacted]>;

'Kari_A_Johnstone[redacted]' <[redacted]>; Nuland, Victoria J; Melia, Thomas O; Keiner, Orly R; Falls, Eric G; Kelly, Ian C; SES-O; 'acrotto@us-state.osis.gov' <acrotto@us-state.osis.gov>; 'robertcotto[redacted]' <robertcotto[redacted]>; Charap, Samuel G; Moscow ECON AM; Poulton, Lynette J

Cc: Curran, Sylvia R; Turner, Bruce I (St Petersburg); Hubler, Stephen A (St Petersburg); McCabe, P Christopher; Reinert, David M; Alexander, Paige (E&E/AA); Toner, Mark C; Kaidanow, Tina S; Posner, Michael H; Gordon, Philip H; Ellison, Janine M

Subject: Re: Protest in Moscow, Russia Update 4

Emb observer reports that police have cleared Bolotnaya, in some cases pretty roughly. Lots of scuffles and arrests. Dozens more since last report.

According to Emb observer, the crowd is much more aggressive as well. As police boats come by on the canal, crowd is pelting them with bottles. Crowd is also cheering as protesters rip off helmets of police and toss them in river.

Around 5,000 left in some places around the sq, as many of rest were forced out to adjoining streets. Emb observed protesters giving instructions to crowd to depart and attempt to regroup at Manezh sq (other side of Kremlin).

WashPost correspondent told our press officer that crowd was slightly less than winter, but less playful. Also reported more police brutality, as if almost to make a point to protesters.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov tweeted that the police acted very "softly", and he wished they would have been harsher.

----- Original Message -----

From: Solomon, Howard T

Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 10:52 AM

To: McFaul, Michael A; Gwaltney, Sheila S; MoscowPoliticalSection; Kruzich, Joseph; Hurley, Michael J; Moscow RSO Supervisors; MSG DET CMDR MOSCOW; Venlet, Douglas J; McCotter, Cade R; EUR-RUS-DL; North, Charles (Russia/DIR); Harutunian, Ruben; 'markogul[redacted]' <markogul[redacted]>; Gul, Mark O; Johnston, Cory (Russia/ORD);

'Alice_G_Wells[redacted]' <[redacted]>; 'Christopher_Mizelle[redacted]' <[redacted]>; 'Woodward_Price[redacted]' <[redacted]>;

'Kari_A_Johnstone[redacted]' <[redacted]>; Nuland, Victoria J; Melia, Thomas O; Keiner, Orly R; Falls, Eric G; Kelly, Ian C; SES-O; 'acrotto@us-state.osis.gov' <acrotto@us-state.osis.gov>; 'robertcotto[redacted]' <robertcotto[redacted]>; Charap, Samuel G; Moscow ECON AM; Poulton, Lynette J

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Subject: Re: Protest in Moscow, Russia Update 3

Emb observer reports that police allowed many of protesters into sq, but scuffles continue in some places.

Massive arrests reported on twitter and by media on scene. By some accounts over 200, including opposition leaders Navalny, Udaltsov, and others.

Novaya gazeta reports Udaltsov arrested while on stage (evidently he made his way in).

Reports of police beating protesters, and police being injured as well in tussles and as objects thrown at them. Ioffe witnessed someone dragged by neck.

Emb observer reports people beginning to depart, so numbers down.

----- Original Message -----

From: Solomon, Howard T

Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 10:07 AM

To: McFaul, Michael A; Gwaltney, Sheila S; MoscowPoliticalSection; Kruzich, Joseph; Hurley, Michael J; Moscow RSO Supervisors; MSG DET CMDR MOSCOW; Venlet, Douglas J; McCotter, Cade R; EUR-RUS-DL; North, Charles (Russia/DIR); Harutunian, Ruben; 'markogul[redacted]' <markogul[redacted]>; Gul, Mark O; Johnston, Cory (Russia/ORD); 'Alice_G_Wells[redacted]' <[redacted]>; 'Christopher_Mizelle[redacted]'; <[redacted]>; 'Woodward_Price[redacted]'; <[redacted]>; 'Kari_A_Johnstone[redacted]'; <[redacted]>; Nuland, Victoria J; Melia, Thomas O; Keiner, Orly R; Falls, Eric G; Kelly, Ian C; SES-O; 'acrotto@us-state.osis.gov' <acrotto@us-state.osis.gov>; 'robertcotto[redacted]'; <robertcotto[redacted]>; Charap, Samuel G; Moscow ECON AM; Poulton, Lynette J

Cc: Curran, Sylvia R; Turner, Bruce I (St Petersburg); Hubler, Stephen A (St Petersburg); McCabe, P Christopher; Reinert, David M; Alexander, Paige (E&E/AA); Toner, Mark C; Kaidanow, Tina S; Posner, Michael H; Gordon, Philip H; Ellison, Janine M
Subject: Re: Protest in Moscow, Russia Update 2

Emb observer reports tension rising in crowd and clashes with police as police are not allowing opposition leads to enter area where stage is.

Protesters divided by police are trying to break through police lines, with some hooded youth throwing things at them.

Julia Ioffe, new Yorker reporter tweeted that two police told her aerial observation estimates 70,000 protesters.

One photographer reported killed after falling 5 stories from a balcony.

----- Original Message -----

From: Solomon, Howard T

Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 09:42 AM

To: McFaul, Michael A; Gwaltney, Sheila S; MoscowPoliticalSection; Kruzich, Joseph; Hurley, Michael J; Moscow RSO Supervisors; MSG DET CMDR MOSCOW; Venlet, Douglas J; McCotter, Cade R; EUR-RUS-DL; North, Charles (Russia/DIR); Harutunian, Ruben; 'markogul[redacted]' <markogul[redacted]>; Gul, Mark O; Johnston, Cory (Russia/ORD); 'Alice_G_Wells[redacted]' <[redacted]>; 'Christopher_Mizelle[redacted]'; <[redacted]>; 'Woodward_Price[redacted]'; <[redacted]>; 'Kari_A_Johnstone[redacted]'; <[redacted]>; Nuland, Victoria J; Melia, Thomas O; Keiner, Orly R; Falls, Eric G; Kelly, Ian C; SES-O; 'acrotto@us-state.osis.gov' <acrotto@us-state.osis.gov>; 'robertcotto[redacted]'; <robertcotto[redacted]>; Charap, Samuel G; Moscow ECON AM; Poulton, Lynette J

B6

Cc: Curran, Sylvia R; Turner, Bruce I (St Petersburg); Hubler, Stephen A (St Petersburg); McCabe, P Christopher; Reinert, David M; Alexander, Paige (E&E/AA); Toner, Mark C; Kaidanow, Tina S; Posner, Michael H; Gordon, Philip H; Ellison, Janine M
Subject: Re: Protest in Moscow, Russia Update 2

Sorry, as I hit send, our emb observer called in with the following and additional info came in on media:

Number of protesters has grown significantly, maybe up to 50,000 in comparison with previous demonstrations. Udaltsov says 100,000.

There appears to be standoff with police, as they are not letting people onto Bolotnaya, causing tens of thousands to accumulate on bridge leading to square.

----- Original Message -----

From: Solomon, Howard T

Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 09:25 AM

To: McFaul, Michael A; Gwaltney, Sheila S; MoscowPoliticalSection; Kruzich, Joseph; Hurley, Michael J; Moscow RSO Supervisors; MSG DET CMDR MOSCOW; Venlet, Douglas J; McCotter, Cade R; EUR-RUS-DL; North, Charles (Russia/DIR); Harutunian, Ruben; 'markogul [redacted] <markogul [redacted]>; Gul, Mark O; Johnston, Cory (Russia/ORD); 'Alice_G_Wells [redacted] <[redacted]>; 'Christopher_Mizelle [redacted] <[redacted]>; 'Woodward_Price [redacted] <[redacted]>; 'Kari_A_Johnstone [redacted] <[redacted]>; Nuland, Victoria J; Melia, Thomas O; Keiner, Orly R; Falls, Eric G; Kelly, Ian C; SES-O; 'acrotto@us-state.osis.gov' <acrotto@us-state.osis.gov>; 'robertcotto [redacted] <robertcotto [redacted]>; Charap, Samuel G; Moscow ECON AM; Poulton, Lynette J

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Subject: Protest in Moscow, Russia Update 1

Between 10-20,000 protesters (police estimate around 8,000, independent media 20,000) turned out for the "million-man march" in Moscow today.

The crowd, made up of a variety of groups including Left Front, Solidarity, anarchists, and a few nationalists, among others, is now filing into Bolotnaya square now, sight of previous demonstrations. Protesters are demonstrating against what they perceive to be the illegitimate election of Putin and tomorrow's inauguration. Numbers may increase at Bolotnaya.

-Emb observers report no confrontations as of now, but there is a heavy police presence at Bolotnaya and around the Kremlin and Manezh sq, where some of the protesters have promised to go after Bolotnaya. Media reports several detentions of protesters carrying tents.

-opposition leaders Udaltsov, Navalny, Nemtsov, and Yashin have called for a "sit-in", sitting along with several hundred, threatening not to leave.

RESPONSE

-Simultaneously, authorities have organized a pro-Kremlin rally of the All-Russia Popular Front. Organizers promise up to 50,000. Some reports that participants may be being bussed in by state enterprises. The Patriarch appeared appealing to supporters to not believe "those who promise something new, which no one knows."

-Law enforcement authorities have impeded hundreds of protesters in the region attempting to come to Moscow to participate in the opposition protest. For example, 5 chartered buses were stopped leaving Petersburg, a train station was evacuated in Ufa, and buses were stopped coming from Astrakhan.

-over a dozen metro stations have been closed downtown.

-independent media internet sites, such as Echo Moscow, Dozhd tv, and kommersant have come under DDOS attack.

-draft authorities are mounting a major operation to examine all young people detained today to see if they should be conscripted for military service. Public statements, probably meant to intimidate young people, have focused on the fact that these draft authorities are working to fill posts far from Moscow.