

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Verveer, Melanne S <VerveerMS@state.gov>
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To: H
Subject: NATO

I'm heading back from meetings on women, peace and security at NATO. The chief implementer of WPS at DOD also traveled with me. It was extremely productive. SG Rasmussen chaired a meeting on 1325 today of all the NATO member and partner ambassadors, incl Dalder. The new NATO special rep for 1325 -- the position sponsored by Norway and approved at the Chicago summit --- gave her inaugural address, and my DOD colleague and I discussed the US efforts both generally and in Afghanistan. We were followed by extensive remarks from the NATO ambassadors, all of whom touched on the importance of women's role in security and NATO's mission, as well as applauded US leadership. Many mentioned you in their interventions! The amb's from Serbia, Azerbaijan and Georgia pointed to their own national action plans (their existence was a surprise to us), as well as the new structures they have put in place to implement them. The ambassador from Azerbaijan even said that he is hopeful women will contribute to ending their regional conflict (I will tell Morningstar). The new special rep - a seasoned diplomat who knows her way around NATO --- wanted me to tell you how much you have inspired her --- something I hear everywhere!
I'm confident our NATO visit also served to reinforce the importance of the NAP and the US role with our own people both at NATO and DOD.

I was sorry to miss the discussion with ASSK but there are more events with her tomw. We are working hard on getting the engagement of Burmese women into the formal peace structures being put in place to end the ethnic conflicts.

I also met with Vivian Redding at the EU who, despite her efforts, is unlikely to get a quota for women on public boards of directors adopted. She too expressed her admiration of you and your leadership.

In addition to everything that's been said about Chris Stevens, he really understood the important role the women in Libya were playing in peace and security. Whenever I met with Libyan women at meetings in the region, they went out of their way to tell me how much he supported them and how much affection they had for him. Such an awful loss.

You've been magnificent throughout all this, despite how wrenching it's been.