

Pascual, Carlos E.

To: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @WHSR - WH Situation Room; @VP - VP Natl Security Affairs;
@NESASIA - NE/South Asia
Subject: FW: RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. RECALLED [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High
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PLEASE PASS TO SANDY AND JIM

The Russians are trying to find a way to protest the strikes in Iraq, and they are being a bit schizophrenic in their posturing. Recalling Vorontsov for consultations was a relatively low-key protest. According to the British, Yeltsin angrily told Chirac yesterday that he may send planes and ships to the region (unclear what that might mean), and he was shown on TV today reviewing maps with a military representative.

Despite such posturing, the Russians did not cancel today's PJC with Defense Ministers. Although they stopped Minister Sergeyev from attending, they still held the meeting with their ambassador in the chair. In addition, the Russian DCM told me they are buying Vorontsov a two-way ticket, even though he is scheduled to leave permanently early next month.

To some extent, Yeltsin may feel a bit of superpower envy, and he hates not being consulted. Primakov is probably just pissed because he takes all Iraq issues personally. The Vice President went a long way to get Primakov over his outrage in his call today. But we need to manage Yeltsin, sick as he is. For this reason, the letter Clinton-Yeltsin letter on its way to you is particularly important. Strobe has asked that we do all we can to get it out tonight.

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

From: Campanella, Anthony
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 1998 5:50 PM
To: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary; @WHSR - WH Situation Room; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @PRESS - Public Affairs; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs; Black, Steven K.; Saunders, Richard M.; Fuerth, Leon S.; Marty, Joseph H.; Riedel, Bruce O.
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Paul Simons of State Deptmt reported that the Russian DCM called Ambassador Sestanovich to tell him that the Russian Ambassador to Washington has been recalled. There was no reason given, but STate assesses that it is in regards to U.S.-UK actions in the Gulf.