

Daily Press Briefing

Richard Boucher, Spokesman
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QUESTION: On a related matter, have you been overwhelmed by a deluge of inquiries or complaints about your decision yesterday to suspend military aid to those 35 countries? And have any of those 35 since shown any willingness to suddenly sign one of these agreements with you?

MR. BOUCHER: This is an ongoing process of signing agreements, negotiating agreements, so there have been a number of developments in that regard. I think we noted that -- somebody asked about Botswana. We had signed with Botswana just yesterday, I think it was, or Monday. And it's an ongoing process of negotiation, so I can't -- I guess I can't say there's been a deluge, but there has been, certainly, any number of agreements that are in some stage or another of the process.

QUESTION: But, I mean, I was particularly interested in any hostile ones.

MR. BOUCHER: I know you would be -- (laughter) -- but we have over 50 agreements already, which is -- everybody, I think, will admit a substantial number, even those who scoffed at the numbers that we had some time ago.

QUESTION: Well, that when you had three.

(Laughter.)

MR. BOUCHER: You've got to start with three if you're going to get to 50. So we're over 50 now. We continue to work on these with other governments. We continue to manage this process in a way that provides the incentive to other governments to work these agreements out with us, that gives the -- those who participate in the treaty itself -- to respect their obligations to the court, but which then respects our decision not to be a party.

QUESTION: Do you have a new, specific number of public and non-public -- and is it correct that -- I guess Botswana and Macedonia would be the last two? Or is that not correct?

MR. BOUCHER: I've got Botswana and Macedonia both listed for June 30th, and a list of 45 publicly identified signers that's current as of today.

QUESTION: So the 45 includes Botswana and --

MR. BOUCHER: That's right.

QUESTION: And there's -- there's seven, is it still seven who -- that are non --

QUESTION: Or was Botswana added and therefore it's six now?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't have an exact number of those who have not talked publicly about their agreements yet.