



Ambassador John D. Negroponte
United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Remarks at UN Headquarters following the Vote on Renewal of the Mandate of
the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina
June 30, 2002

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Remarks by Ambassador John D. Negroponte, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, following the vote on the renewal of the mandate of the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the Security Council Stake-Out, June 30, 2002

Ambassador Negroponte:

Well, you have my statement. I would only say that we regret that we had to veto this resolution but we did hold talks over a fairly prolonged period of time to try to reach some common understanding with how to deal particularly with the issue of immunity from prosecution by the [International Criminal Court](#) of peacekeeping forces from countries which are not party to the International Criminal Court, and regrettably up until now, we have not been able to reach any such common understanding which compelled us to cast the veto that we did today.

Reporter:

You said that you would withdraw the three military observers, the U.S. military observes in East Timor, but you didn't say anything about the police, you won't withdraw the U.S. police in East Timor, and also what impact did this have on U.S. commitment with NATO in the Balkans in Bosnia?

Ambassador Negroponte:

I think a number of these issues are yet to be dealt with in the wake of the veto that we have just exercised, as you know, the Council has just passed a technical resolution that rolls over, or extends if you will, the [Bosnia mission](#) for three days to discuss such issues as steps which need to be taken to wind down the mission transitional arrangements and so forth.

Reporter:

(inaudible) in East Timor as opposed to the other U.S. soldiers and policemen who are already in peacekeeping missions?

Ambassador Negroponte:

Well, you will recall that we had a debate about East Timor and we introduced a resolution with respect to East Timor several weeks ago to raise this same issue of seeking immunity from prosecution for

Americans participating in UN peacekeeping missions. We did not have sufficient time to air that issue in the Timor discussion, but you will recall that after the vote in favor of the Timor resolution, I did say we were laying down a marker that this was an issue that is going to have to be resolved. I would repeat here this evening that it's not a question of one mission or another, it's a question of peacekeeping in general and until we reach some kind of satisfactory resolution of this problem, it is going to come up over and over again. So, hopefully as a consequence of what's happened today, perhaps people can reflect on the implications of this situation and perhaps some impetus might have been given towards an eventual meeting of the mind on this highly important question. Obviously, if we are prepared to veto the Bosnia resolution because of our interests with respect to the ICC, clearly, it is a very, very important question for the United States.

Reporter:

Is the United States ready to give some ground in the next 72 hours?

Ambassador Negroponte:

Well, we've had discussions and I think we have given a fair amount of ground particularly and I made this point in my statement we were more than willing to provide that only countries which are not party to the International Criminal Court would enjoy this immunity. I think that is probably the point that is most importantly at issue. What we do not want to see is American peacekeepers going forth into the world undertaking substantial risk in the pursuit of international peace and security be subjected to the jurisdiction of a Court to which the United States is not a party. That is simply unacceptable to the United States.

Reporter:

(inaudible) for three days, in Bosnia?

Ambassador Negroponte:

Well, as I said this is a technical extension. I think that I will leave my remarks at that and I commend you to my [statement](#) and to the answers that I have given you thus far. Thank you very, very much.

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