

“Master Diplomat” arrives

Solana confident of US, UK resolution.mp3



Tue Jul 25 00:35:42 2006

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EU's Solana in surprise visit to Beirut

16 Jul 2006 14:52:54 GMT

Source: Reuters

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(Adds detail from Brussels)

BEIRUT, July 16 (Reuters) - European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana arrived in Beirut on Sunday, the fifth day of the worst fighting between Lebanon-based guerrillas and Israel since 1982.

Lebanese officials said Solana was set to meet Prime Minister Fouad Siniora shortly.

Solana, who will hold a news conference after the meeting, may also talk with the head of Lebanon's parliament, an EU official said in Brussels.

The EU has called Israel's attacks in Lebanon, prompted by the kidnap of two Israeli soldiers by the militant Hizbollah group, "disproportionate" and urged both sides to show restraint.

Solana is due back in Brussels for a meeting of EU foreign ministers on Monday.

AlertNet news is provided by **REUTERS**

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EU Envoy Pessimistic About Cease-Fire

The Associated Press
Monday, July 17, 2006; 8:08 AM

BRUSSELS, Belgium -- A senior European Union official returned Monday from the Middle East and said he is pessimistic about the chance of a cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah militants.

Javier Solana, the EU's foreign and security chief, said the best that could be hoped for was a "de-escalation" of the fighting. He was to brief a meeting of EU foreign

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European Union Foreign Policy chief Javier Solana, left, points to a document in the hands of Lebanon's Prime Minister Fuad Saniora, right, at the government house, in downtown Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday, July 16, 2006, after

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Tuesday, June 6, 2006

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Iran: Solana Delivers EU Offer On Nuclear Program

By [Brefni O'Rourke](#)

Javier Solana (right) and Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larjani in Tehran today (Farsi)

PRAGUE, June 6, 2006 (RFE/RL) -- EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana met today in Tehran with senior Iranian government officials and presented them with fresh proposals aimed at persuading Iran to abandon its uranium-enrichment program, which is seen by the West as a step toward a nuclear arms program.

The new proposals have been agreed on by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States -- as well as Germany.

The contents of the package remain secret, but reports say it contains a wide range of concessions, including an offer to supply at least one light-water nuclear reactor, trade deals, technology transfers, as well as the opportunity to buy Airbus and Boeing airliners.

U.S. Changes Tactics

Another major incentive is that the United States has expressed a willingness to talk directly with Iran about the nuclear dispute. This would mark the first face-to-face talks between the two countries since Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979.

After two hours of talks with Solana, Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larjani indicated progress had been made. "We had constructive talks with each other," he said. "They presented proposals which they had worked

"If you make a wrong move regarding Iran, definitely the energy flow in this region will be seriously endangered." -- Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

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Ahmadinejad's Letter To Bush



(Farsi)

PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT: On May 8, the Iranian government announced that President Mahmud Ahmadinejad had sent a letter to U.S. President George W. Bush. The letter was the first direct communication between leaders of the two countries since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. RFE/RL has posted the English version of Ahmadinejad's letter that was posted on the Iranian president's website.



DANISH CARTOON CONTROVERSY

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Published: 02/14/2006 12:00 AM (UAE)

Solana seeks to calm anger

By Mariam Al Hakeem, Correspondent

Riyadh: The European Union's foreign policy chief Javier Solana has assured Muslims that Europe will make efforts to prevent a repeat of the cartoons issue.

Solana, who embarked on a Middle East tour to repair the damage caused by cartoons slandering the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), also expressed his displeasure over the handling of the issue by European countries.

"Be sure we are going to do our utmost for this not to happen again, because we need each other ... I don't think honestly it will happen again," he said.

"There will be fruitful and positive actions from the European Union and Denmark in favour of the Islamic world," Solana

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Letters expose EU divide on Solana Middle East role

26.07.2006 - 09:57 CET | By Mark Beunderman

EUOBSERVER / BRUSSELS - The Finnish EU presidency has sent a muted response to French president Jacques Chirac's request for a stronger role for EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana in the Middle East, highlighting internal EU divisions over Mr Solana's position.

Mr Chirac last Thursday (20 July) sent a letter to Finnish prime minister Matti Vanhanen calling for a stronger, leading role by Mr Solana in brokering a lasting ceasefire in the region amid continuing violence between Israel and Islamist Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon.

The letter states that the EU's top diplomat should step up efforts to "find the necessary interlocutors and very swiftly contribute to proposals with the aim of gathering conditions for a broad and lasting ceasefire in the region."

Mr Solana's "mission" should highlight "the efforts the European Union can make to achieve a de-escalation of violence as well as the conditions for a sustainable ceasefire."

"Our citizens would not understand it if the European Union...which has always made its original and balanced voice heard in the Middle East, does not act on the political level with regard to the drama which is taking place," Mr Chirac wrote.



Javier Solana - not all member states want a stronger "Mister EU" (Photo: Italian EU Presidency)

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