

EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESS  
UPON ARRIVING AT HEADQUARTERS  
3 MAY 1999 (AM)

Q: Do you see the release of the three American soldiers as a positive gesture on the road to peace, and do you think that the process would be advanced by a reciprocal gesture from NATO?

SG: Let me see that I welcome the release of the three soldiers, I am happy for them and I am happy for their families. But we still have a lot of work to do on the political and diplomatic front before I can say that we are on the verge of a deal.

Q: Mr. Chernomyrdin is going to Washington today, are you planning to see him today or tomorrow?

SG: I do expect him to come to New York to continue the discussions the started in Moscow.

Q: Does that mean tomorrow or today?

SG: I am waiting for confirmation of the time.

Q: What do you believe you have learned from your visits in Germany and in Russia?

SG: I think I came away, and I had the same feeling when I attended the European Summit on the 14th of April, that most of the leaders while they want to be fair do not exclude a diplomatic or political solution and that they would want to pursue it, that's why I left the meeting saying we should intensify our efforts to find a political solution. If anything, the trip to Moscow and Berlin has reconfirmed my belief that we should do whatever we can to find a political solution because the implications of the alternative is too frightening to contemplate.

Q: Mr. Secretary-General, have you decided on a second envoy for Kosovo?

SG: I'll be taking decisions on both envoys very shortly. Thank you.

*yes, off-the-cuff*