



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Farewell

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 23, 2009

Comments in response to farewell remarks by the Permanent Council Chairwoman Mara Marinaki

Thank you, thank you, for raising this in a breach of normal protocol.

For quite some time now I've felt a bit like that ancient statue in Rhodes with feet in two different sides of the harbor. You all among the permanent representatives, certainly for the last six months, but even before that, have welcomed me among your midst and given me incredibly good advice, friendship, and support. I thank all the Permanent Representatives for that, but also the Deputy Heads of Mission who I think are very much the backbone of the daily work in this organization, and whose ranks I count myself among. Thank you all for your friendship. I hope that in leaving at least I could have imparted a little bit of knowledge about my home state and a few dance steps from the Western United States to most of my deputy colleagues. Also, I feel very much aware that I am simply the front man for a U.S. Mission team, which is one of the largest, but I think also one of the most active missions here in the OSCE and I am very grateful to all of them for their work. I am grateful to the Secretary General for his leadership to the Organization, to the Secretariat for all of their labors, to the interpreters whose time I have so much dominated for certainly the last six months, but even more before then, and to our Austrian hosts who provide such a wonderful facility to us here, but also a wonderful city and wonderful country to live in.

I feel quite sad to be leaving because I think you all are entering a fateful period for this organization, an organization I deeply believe in. The Corfu Process and whatever comes out of it, could lead either to an OSCE which is further marginalized in European security, or one that reclaims its rightful place in this region. It'll depend a lot on our countries and our ministries, and our leadership back home, of course, but I think it really depends even more on the people in this room and the work that you all are able to do. I feel strongly as I get ready to depart that our problems in the OSCE are not because we set our sights too high, it's perhaps because we set our sights too low. It's not because we aspire to too much, but in this room sometimes we aspire to too little. I simply encourage all of you to continue the hard work and to set your sights high.

This day is a sad one. It ends for me, and for my family, a grand European chapter in our life. Twenty eight years, six postings in this region. I have seen nations unravel; I have seen freedom take root and spread. I have seen social and political upheavals in Europe; wars erupt, but also courageous efforts to put countries

back together and to create fragile stabilities to replace unrest. We've seen the most successful long-term disarmament process in the history of mankind. We've seen large scale wars, but---thankfully in my lifetime, and I think very much due to the work of this organization---large-scale war in Europe today is almost unthinkable: the OSCE should be proud of that. But that chapter is coming to a close; and it's back to America for me. And if I could just take a few moments to misquote, and I apologize to the great American poet, Henry Van Dyke, a small bit of a poem which pretty much reflects how I feel. He said:

"I know that Europe's wonderful, yet something seems to lack!
The Past is too much with her, and the people looking back.
But the glory of the Present is to make the Future free –
We all love our lands for what they are, but for what they still can be.

So it's home again, home again, America for me!
My heart is turning home again and there I long to be,
I want a ship that's westward bound to plough the rolling sea
To a land of youth and freedom, beyond the ocean bars,
Where the air is full of sunlight, and the flag is full of stars."

Mara, Godspeed to you, and to all the rest of you in this room.