

Information for House Oversight and Government Reform Inquiry

1. Information on the US Embassy in Albania's interactions with AEY or its representatives (perhaps involving embassy officials Robert Newsome and Vic Meyer) *Embassy note: We have refrained from putting individuals' names in any of this, for privacy considerations. For the record, however, the second officer is Vic Myev.*
 - A. Embassy representatives from the Political-Economic Section met once in late May, 2007, with two AEY representatives (Divaroli and a second person whose name we do not recall) in response to their request for a meeting. AEY subcontractor Trebicka was also at the meeting. The purpose was to discuss a problem AEY was having with Albanian authorities, specifically the refusal of the GOA to clear a plane AEY had chartered to leave Albania with a shipment of arms for the Afghan military. We subsequently learned that AEY still owed money to the GOA for a prior arms shipment. AEY admitted this. We concluded that the Embassy had no proper advocacy role in a standard commercial dispute between a contractor and the host government and we should only get involved if directed to do so through a front channel cable with DOD clearance.
2. Information on the Embassy's interactions with the Albanian government (Ministry of Defense, MEICO) regarding AEY's contract and activities;
 - A. In the context of facilitating the DOD-led investigation into this matter, Embassy representatives met on at least three occasions with GOA officials, including representatives of MEICO and the MOD. Embassy reps were there in a support role to the DOD lead investigator.

Separately, in April 2007, the Embassy was asked by the Minister of Defense to confirm that the AEY contract was legitimate. We forwarded this inquiry to the DOD, which confirmed that the contract was legitimate. We shared that information with the Minister; he asked no further questions about AEY.
3. Information on any intervention in November or December 2007 by US officials (DOD or State) into AEY's subcontractor's ammunition packaging operation at the airport near Tirana, perhaps involving shutting down the packaging operation because of violations of US laws regarding the country of origin of weapons

A. Again in support of the DOD investigation, Embassy representatives accompanied the lead investigator to the ammunition packaging operation in late October 2007. Neither the Embassy official nor the DOD investigator shut down or interfered in any operations at the facility. It would be more appropriate for the investigator to comment on his findings than for the Embassy to characterize them.

Drafted: PLeonard/RNewsome/PSThiede (4/8/08)

Pol-Econ 2008/OPDC - Correspondence/Information for House Oversight and
Government Reform Inquiry

Cleared:RAO: [REDACTED]

ODC:LHarrison