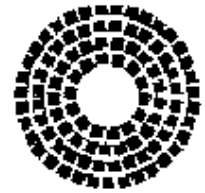




The United Nations

- THE ONE AND ONLY -



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A winding road to the moment of decision

By Martina Farmbauer

After a long and tough debate on Friday night, the topics “Building Peace and Stability in Afghanistan” and surprisingly “Recent Developments in the Middle East” - which was the optional subject - were set on the Agenda for the 4410th Special Session of the Security Council. Afterwards the countries did not waste time: the first working papers emerged soon, some delegates already wanted to move to voting procedure. In the course of the time, however, it became clear that there were two deep conflict lines within the body. One was within the regional groups. The first group consisted mainly of



The forging of new alliances: The delegates from China and Russia, Matthias Kolb (left) and Florian Presser

European countries - and Syria. It seemed that its Delegate Achim Edelmann promoted his countries to be the next candidate for a EU-membership. African and Latin American countries stressed the importance of development as the main pillar of stability and peace in Afghanistan.

While this conflict could be solved Saturday morning, the second between China and Russia on the one side and all the other countries on the other remained. China and Russia lanced a proposal to install „Responsibility Regions“ which should be controlled by in-

ternational stabilisation forces. The vast majority feared the infringement of the Afghan sovereignty and preferred PRTs. Was this the beginning of a new “Axis of – close friends?” as it was called by the Chinese Delegate Matthias Kolb. Until the very end it was not clear if, under these circumstances, the only Draft Resolution could be passed. It took long until the delegates eventually had to cope with their first voting procedure. Nevertheless there was no way of escaping the moment of decision. At 0:24 a.m., 16 were in favour, no one against, China and Syria abstained. Draft Resolution 1/1 passed.

The crucial link to the chair

The topic on Afghanistan was not of major importance for her country, said Claudia Gärtner.. Nevertheless, the Honorable Representative from Angola plays an important role in the

discussion. Due to the alphabetical order, she is the one sitting next to the chair and does not only have to pass the notes that come from the right side - she even has to stand up to do so every time. That means: 30 or 40 times, estimates

Claudia Gärtner. She herself did hold only three speeches. But she does not mind: “I am glad that I can contribute to the proceeding of the body and I hope that my country gets more attention. *maria*



Claudia Gärtner, indispensable for keeping the speakers list



Two for Afghanistan

For two countries, Afghanistan is of a special importance: Germany and Pakistan. In the “United Notions”, Nesrin Semen (Germany), and Sebastian Schindler (Pakistan), talk about their concerns and hopes.

Sebastian Schindler:

Pakistan is very happy that it has been working together with the P5 and Germany because as a neighbor we are very closely connected to Afghanistan: We share a common border of 2400 km, and Pakistan hosts a huge number of Afghan refugees. Thus, Pakistan wishes security, stability, national reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan. Most important points are already included in the resolution.



But in the view of Pakistan, it could be more effective. For example, it should be more concrete concerning the question how many troops should be finally deployed in the country.

Nesrin Semen:

Germany is already very active in Afghanistan, and it is of high importance that the ISAF stays in Afghanistan. It is still not stable enough to give all the responsibility to the Afghan government. Therefore, also in the 4410th special session of the Security Council, we try to gain other countries’ support for the stationing of international troops in Afghanistan. But this is not our only concern.



It is crucial that countries who don’t support the troops help building up infrastructure, administration bodies police and military forces.

What is Bushkashi?

It is not only cruel. In the eyes of a western diplomat, it might not even be a sport at all. Afghanistan, however, identifies with it profoundly. And since Bushkashi, which His Excellency Axel Weber mentioned during his visit of the Security Council, is the national sports, it is - not surprisingly - solely played by men.

In the beginning of the game, it reminds a little bit of Polo, but only in the beginning. Instead of a ball, the players use a

dead goat or ram. The riders form up at the opposite ends of the field, the dead animal lies in the middle. After the start, everybody tries to catch the goat first and, while keeping it in his hands – ride with it around the whole field. The rider who drops the animal – or, more precise, the biggest chunk of it - in a previously designated zone is the winner.

H.E. Weber was referring to Bushkashi because it mirrors the soul of the Afghan

community: Several teams, but at the same time everybody on his own. In Afghanistan, it doesn’t mean a whole lot whether to be a mercenary for the Northern Alliance or the Taliban, because you might change sides the very next day. Only the foreigners have always been the enemy: It is said that during the 1980s, Bushkashi players used Soviet soldiers instead of goats.

Chris Leischwitz

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Editorial Staff:

Martina Farmbauer, Christoph Leischwitz, Ulrich Tausend,



*“I love you all!”
Holy Santa Claus*

“What a difference a day makes” (Matthias Kolb) China seeing itself in New York, missing orientation.

“Erst das Fressen, dann die Moral.”(Anna-Cristina López-Jesinghaus) Brazil expressing the importance of development by quoting Brecht.

“South Africa is willing to fight literacy.” (David Goldner) South Africa will not return to Apartheid, but to illiteracy.

“We have enough oranges.” (Claudia Gärtner) Angola prefers chocolate instead of vitamins.

“We even learned to love the Russian Federation.” (Yannick Christmann) Bulgaria on the path of reconciliation.