



Speaking on the morning show on TV Prva, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Ivo Dacic said that he will have a hard time desisting from engaging in de-recognition of Kosovo and pointed out that he informed the U.S. special representative Richard Grenell that Pristina continued its campaign for further recognitions.

He said that he showed Mr. Grenell a letter that Kosovo Foreign Minister sent to her Bosnia and Herzegovina counterpart worded in a way implying that the Washington agreement supports Kosovo independence since Israel recognized it.

"I assume that a similar letter may have been sent to other states. It validates our suspicion that not only they are not going to honor the agreement but that they will not stop with their recognition campaign. I made this letter available to Grenell through President Vucic. The word is that he called Hoti and not mincing the words asked him why they violated the agreement", Minister Dacic said. He said that Pristina did not have a problem signing something and then going back on its word, as in the case of the Community of Serb Municipalities," Dacic emphasized.

Commenting the statement of Miroslav Lajcak that the technical negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina on Monday will not address the Community of Serb Municipalities, Dacic said that he would ask Mr. Lajcak when this issue will be addressed and that this question should be answered by the EU.

"The fact that the reaction of Brussels is lacking is astonishing as they are supposed to guarantee the agreement signed seven years ago by Hashim Thaci, Catherine Ashton and I", Dacic said.

According to him, Serbia today is a reliable partner and it is general knowledge that even though a tough negotiator, Serbia honors the agreements once they are reached.

Minister Dacic said that he met Mr. Grenell when he came to Belgrade with DFC delegation.

"I am a bit of a wisecracker. When I met Grenell at an event hosted by President Vucic I told him I hoped he had a good time in Pristina. After all, they have Biden Boulevard and a monument to Clinton... I reminded him that Pristina is the only place in the world where they celebrate Clinton's birthday. It was a clear message since the delegation included Trump

Administration," Dacic said.

Minister Dacic said that special representative Grenell's idea that the buildings of the General Staff and the Ministry of Defense, destroyed in NATO airstrikes be jointly restored, was good.

"It is a good idea on Grenell's part and it will have a resounding positive effect. That is a change indeed".

He also said that the idea to restore or build something new on that site is unquestionably positive, adding that hidden political agenda should not be read into it. He recalled that at one point before he became U.S. President, Donald Trump had an idea to build a hotel there.

"I don't think he forgot this idea", Dacic said adding that there are views that this site should remain a monument even though a hotel is a possibility.

Speaking of Montenegro, the Minister said that the winning coalition would shoot itself in the foot if they were to tighten the relations with Serbia. He said that Serbia did not interfere in the election process in Montenegro while Edi Rama, Ramush Haradinaj and the Muslims did.

"Why DPS did not tell Rama "to stay away from Montenegro because it is not their Greater Albania fiefdom". What happened to the august principles of DPS? They are not bothered by Haradinaj and Rama but they are bothered by Vucic", Dacic said.

He said that DPS suffered an election defeat from its own people and pointed out that Serbia was not interested in who will hold power in Montenegro but in the position of the Serbian people there.

"We want good relations with Montenegro. To us, they are a brotherly nation and state. Whether we are going to live in one or two states, well it better not be in three," Dacic said.

Asked which third state he had in mind, Dacic said that all kinds of divisions are possible if you follow the logic of separatism. He said that this refers not only to Serbia but to Montenegro as well if the logic of separatism is followed and if a secession of one part of territory is recognized.

"It was not them who recognized Kosovo and separated it from Serbia", Dacic said adding that the Patriarchate of Pec and Monastery Decani were in Montenegro when we entered the First World War.

He said that he did not know Zdravko Krivokapic, Montenegrin Prime Minister designate, that the Government in Montenegro has not been formed yet and that the way things stand, he will probably be Prime Minister. He said that he had a feeling that attacks are coming from Montenegro against Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic and him, in particular.

"Some of those officials who won are trying to prove themselves and demonstrate that this is not Serbia that there are differences in terms of Serbs", Dacic said. He is of the view that it was unnecessary and that these harmful statements are due to the lack of political experience.

"The political coalition that won the elections would shoot itself in the foot if they are to tighten the relations with Serbia", Dacic concluded.