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17. We now move into a series of international meetings where Kosovo is high on the agenda. The Foreign Secretary is at the NATO ministerial today from where he has done BBC World At One and Radio 5 Live. The Foreign Secretary will attend the GAERC on 10 December and the European Council on 13/14 December. The UNSC is expected to discuss Kosovo on 19 December – with the Secretary-General in 'listening mode'. It will be important not to be seen by international partners to be prejudicing these talks.

18. There is potentially a period of 'dead time' between 19 December and any eventual 'CDI'. It includes our Christmas holidays and Orthodox Christmas (7 January). We make a recommendation below aimed at preventing Russia/Serbia from stealing a PR march during our Christmas holiday.

19. It is also worth noting that the Foreign Affairs Select Committee will be visiting the region in early January 2008.

Recommendation

20. We recommend that:

- You consider **media interview bids** proactively, including in recess.
- We work with BE Moscow place a **press article by HMA Moscow** in Russian media around 19 December to put our position on record for Russian audiences and to demonstrate continuing effort to bring Russia on board.
- We place a **press article in your name** in Kosovo media around 28 December. This will get wide circulation in regional media.

We will review our activity in the light of the progress of international talks and provide further advice.

ANDY McGUFFIE

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