

Russia supports compromise in Kosovo talks

by UPI

MOSCOW - A Russian government minister Friday said Moscow will support any agreement Serbia and its predominantly ethnic-Albanian Kosovo province reach in their talks. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters in Moscow a solution to Kosovo's future shouldn't be imposed on either the Serbian government in Belgrade or leaders of Kosovo's ethnic-Albanians in the provincial capital of Pristina, the Russian Interfax news agency reported. Russia's task in mediating talks between Belgrade and Pristina is aimed at helping the two sides in seeking an agreement and not imposing a solution, he said. Envoys from the European Union, the United States and Russia had separate talks with Belgrade and Pristina officials on the future of Kosovo Thursday in Austria but no breakthrough was announced. The envoys are to submit a report on the Kosovo talks to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon by Dec. 10. Formally still Serbian province, Kosovo has been U.N.-administered territory since 1999 when NATO troops were deployed to contain ethnic conflicts.

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