

World Powers Agree to Arm Libyan Government



Vienna, May 17 (RHC)-- The United States and other world powers have voiced readiness to supply weapons to Libya's internationally-recognized government to counter militants and rivals.

The U.S., four other permanent UN Security Council members and more than 15 other nations participating at the Libya talks in Vienna said in a statement on Monday that they are seeking exemptions from a United Nations arms embargo imposed on Libya to supposedly help the North African nation fight Takfiri militants.

The powers said they would be ready to “fully support” Libya’s call for receiving training and equipment; however, they reiterated that the UN arms embargo should continue to be reinforced in order to keep lethal arms away from extremists and rival militias vying for power.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was among top officials in Vienna to declare support for Libya’s internationally-recognized government. The forum said it also aims to find a way for the fledgling administration to end its rivalry with a self-declared government in the east of Libya.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, however, cast some doubts on the aims of initiative in Vienna, saying the international community has yet to reach a conclusion that the new government would be able to establish security and stability in Libya.

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