

Mrs. Clinton said the United States did not want to meddle — a line that drew a chorus of “hear, hear” from the unionist side of the chamber — but she gently prodded both sides to settle their differences.

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In this case, the United States stepped into the middle of what politicians describe as a deteriorating relationship between the head of the army, Gen. [Ashfaq Parvez Kayani](#), and President [Asif Ali Zardari](#), by insisting on greater civilian oversight of the military as a condition of the aid.

Now it appears that the [aid bill](#), rather than assisting Mr. Zardari and improving America’s relations with Pakistan, threatens to undermine the president and lay bare the troubles at the heart of the two countries’ alliance.

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Speaking after talks in Moscow with US counterpart Hillary Clinton, Mr Lavrov said every effort should be made to continue negotiations.

His comments appeared to fall short of the tougher commitment sought by Washington towards Iran.

But Mrs Clinton praised Russia for its help on the issue.

Ahead of Mrs Clinton's visit, a US official had suggested she would ask Russian leaders about "specific forms of pressure" that Moscow would be prepared to back if talks failed.

But Mrs Clinton said no requests had been made.

"We did not ask for anything today. We reviewed the situation and where it stood, which I think was the appropriate timing for what this process entails," she said.

-BBC article “US and Russia vow unity over Iran”

Mrs. Clinton insisted the United States did not make any specific requests of Russia at the meeting. But a day earlier, a senior official traveling with her said

that the United States would be looking for “specific forms of pressure” that Russia would be prepared to back “Russia Resists US Position on Sanction for Iran”

Clinton had arrived at the ceremony venue after meeting separately with the Turks and Armenians at a hotel, but abruptly departed without leaving her car when the problem arose.

She returned to the hotel where she spoke by phone from the sedan in the parking lot, three times with the Armenians and four times with the Turks. At one point in the intervention, a Swiss police car, lights and siren blazing, brought a Turkish diplomat to the hotel from the university with a new draft of his country's statement.

After nearly two hours, Clinton and Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian met in person at the hotel and drove back to the university where negotiations continued. It was not clear if there would be a resolution.

In the end, the Turks and Armenians signed an accord establishing diplomatic ties that could reduce tensions in the troubled Caucasus region and facilitate its growing role as a corridor for energy supplies bound for the West.

Turkey, Armenia article

Canada is the United States' No. 1 trading partner, with more than \$1 billion in trade crossing the border each day.

The dispute concerns an American rule requiring that food products be labeled by country of origin. The Obama administration denies that the labeling policy is an act of [protectionism](#), even though it is driving American pork producers to decrease purchases of Canadian hogs, traditionally about 7 percent of the pork consumed in the United States.