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**TAKING GUANTANAMO DETAINEES "OPENS DOOR TO PARTNERSHIP" - FM**

13.07.2016

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B92

Serbian First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic made this statement late on Tuesday.

"Serbia has thus joined a group of 17 European countries that have done the same - among them the UK, France, Albania, Kazakhstan, Slovakia, Georgia, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland, Portugal, Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia and Estonia," Dacic said in a statement.

Serbia has in no way put its state interests or national security in jeopardy and it has also opened the door to development of its partnership with the U.S., he said.

"Resetting our relations with the US is in our national interest in our quest for common denominators for the future, despite the differences that exist between us," Dacic said.

The minister also addressed "the opposition attacks on the government due to this gesture" as "a part of everyday political folklore."

"They are forgetting that the Democratic Party government authorized (then Serbian President) Boris Tadic to sign a unilateral agreement giving immunity to U.S. armed forces, which does not apply to the Serbian army, with Condoleezza Rice," said Dacic.

SOURCE: TANJUG

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