

U.S. Warns Kazakhstan

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WASHINGTON — The United States has warned Kazakhstan that a planned referendum that could extend the rule of President Nursultan Nazarbayev would be a setback for democracy.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Wednesday that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton conveyed the message in a meeting with Kazakhstan's foreign minister, Kanat Suadabeyev, a day earlier.

Crowley said Clinton urged Kazakhstan to "renew its commitments to democracy, good governance and human rights." ■

(AP)

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