

RELEASE IN PART
B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2009 12:17 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: A little positive reinforcement to pass on to the S

See below

From: Slaughter, Anne-Marie
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Sat Mar 28 09:56:08 2009
Subject: A little positive reinforcement to pass on to the S
Pamela was at the dinner.

From: Pamela Starr [redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2009 3:33 PM
To: Gonzalez, Francisco J
Subject: Congratulations!

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Francisco,
Just wanted to congratulate you and the entire team on a striking success. The Secretary's visit was jaw-dropping from the Mexican perspective. I have never seen such a positive reaction to a visit by a high ranking US government official. My personal favorite: Estamos hillarizados por estos días.
There is obviously also a "show me the money" aspect of the reaction, but even Mexico's newspaper of the traditionally anti-American left editorialized about "Good Clinton, Bad Napolitano".
And inside President Calderon's circle they are thrilled with Wednesday's meeting.
Many congratulations.
OK, I will stop bothering you with my emails and allow you to get back to doing your job.
warm regards,
Pamela

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>>> "Gonzalez, Francisco J" <GonzalezFJ@state.gov> 3/23/2009 8:45 AM >>>
Pamela,

Many thanks for this. Your insights and suggestions are very helpful. While the Mexico left me with the impression that we're aiming in the right direction (Leslie Bassett, Robert Jacobson and Tom Shannon are excellent), we could

never do too much to get the relationship to work better for both countries. Regarding the suggestion on the dinner with women politicians, a similar event with Mexican women during the visit is already in the works.

Again, many thanks for this and lets stay in touch.

Francisco Javier Gonzalez

S/P

(202) 647-2236

From: Pamela Starr [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 2:38 PM
To: Gonzalez, Francisco J
Subject: Follow-up on March 12 Dinner on Mexico

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Dear Francisco,

I am sorry we did not have the chance to chat last week prior to the dinner, although I did see you at the end of the table so now at least have a face in my head to go with your name.

I am writing you in the "follow-up" spirit that Sec. Clinton presented at the end of the dinner. I thought that a few insights gleaned from having been in Mexico all this week might be of use to the secretary, although after my breakfast with Leslie Bassett on Wednesday I am more convinced than ever that the Secretary is receiving high quality information about Mexico from her embassy here. So there may not be that much for me to add, nevertheless...

I had breakfast Thursday with President Calderon's main foreign policy adviser, Rafael Fernandez de Castro, a very old and good friend. He made two points I think are worth relaying to you and Anne-Marie:

- 1) As I mentioned at dinner, Mexico is impatient and President Calderon frustrated (more so now after the trucking spat). To the extent that secretary Clinton can bring something tangible -- a sort of down payment on the kind of relationship we would like to build with Mexico -- it would help enormously. In that context, Rafael reminded me that President Calderon would very much like to be remembered as Mexico's first "Green President" (and is in something of a competition with the Mayor of Mexico City on this score).
- 2) Rafael also related a very useful conceptualization of President Calderon the man that I think will be of use to you: he is a social conservative, Mexican nationalist (which by definition carries with it some anti-US sentiments) but also harbors profound liberal values -- he is a true democrat (not all Mexican politicians are) and a strong supporter of free trade and of a market economy that is largely free but regulated where required (which by definition carries some sympathy for US values and Democratic party values). It is this dichotomy that defines him as a person and makes him intelligible as a politician.

I also met with two female Senators who suggested to me the possibility of arranging a meeting between Sec. Clinton and Mexico's female governors (2) and senators (about 20). In an obviously male-dominated society, they have been working hard to promote women's issues and they think that the symbolism of a meeting with the secretary would help their cause enormously. I agreed to pass the suggestion along in part because I am impressed by how these women -- from political parties that otherwise find it very hard to collaborate -- are cooperating across party lines to promote women's issues. This kind of cross-party cooperation is much less common than it ought to be in Mexico's still formative democracy. And it is obviously in the US interest to encourage this kind of behavior and thereby help solidify democratic practices in Mexico. I know it is very late in your trip-planning to make this suggestion, but if there is not time for such a meeting this trip, maybe for the next one.

I hope these musings were of some use.

Warm regards,
 Pamela

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