

RELEASE IN PART B6

**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2009 2:10 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: fourth speechwriter update

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**From:** Muscatine, Lissa  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2009 12:11 PM  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Subject:** fourth speechwriter update

FYI:

I have now seriously reviewed 9 candidates (and explored a handful of others who, for various reasons, I didn't feel would be what we were looking for). Two have accepted other jobs that were already on the table before I spoke to them (and for which they were better suited). One ([redacted] who I love) has decided her legal future requires her to come here in a capacity other than speechwriting, and I think she's right about that. [redacted]

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None of these candidates is over 32 years old. The best writer among them is the youngest – 24. She is intellectually extremely mature and the only professional writer in the group. [redacted]

[redacted] On the other hand, she's extremely smart and an excellent writer.

I have two more candidates who are working on second rounds of mock speeches. I need to see how quickly and effectively they grasp directions and feedback. Hopefully one of them will work out for us.

One other prospect materialized yesterday; am waiting to get a better feel for her suitability. I'm also re-mining journalistic contacts to see if I can possibly find a more seasoned writer from a newspaper or magazine who wants to make the switch to government. So far that has proven futile; the few journalists who I've reached out to were not interested in coming.

Will keep you posted.