

RELEASE IN PART
B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2009 3:01 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: fyi, gibbs excerpt from 6/30

Read traffic all the way down

From: Sullivan, Jacob J
To: Kelly, Ian C (PACE); SPOX; Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Thu Jul 02 14:56:29 2009
Subject: RE: fyi, gibbs excerpt from 6/30

Thanks. Adding Cheryl. S will be doing regular SVTCs with Hill and she'll be back in Iraq before long.

From: Kelly, Ian C (PACE) [<mailto:KellyIC2@state.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2009 2:43 PM
To: SPOX; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: FW: fyi, gibbs excerpt from 6/30
Importance: High

As I told Jake and PJ, I was bit surprised that CNN (Charley Keyes) asked me at the podium if the Dept. was concerned that the VP was seeming to be on the ascendent in foreign policy.

I talked to him off the record, and he admitted that he gets a "steady drumbeat" of requests from producers to find out "if Hillary is holding her own" in the intragency battles, and particularly if there's infighting between her and White House.

He said what specifically prompted his q at the briefing on whether the VP was beginning to usurp S's role in foreign policy was Gibb's announcement Tuesday that the VP was taking lead in Iraq policy (below).

I emphasized to him that the Sec is very engaged and involved in Iraq policy, noting she was on a conference call today with Chris Hill.

Think much of this is the perennial Washington story of who's up and who's down, but it still bears careful watch. Ian

From: Keyes, Charley [<mailto:>]
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2009 2:35 PM
To: Kelly, Ian C (PACE); Yehl, Ashley C (PACE)
Subject: fyi, gibbs excerpt from 6/30
Importance: High

QUESTION: And yesterday, you said that you'd try to get back to us on vice president's role in Iraq policy.

GIBBS: Sure.

QUESTION: Can you fill us in on that?

president to oversee the -- the policy and in working with General

Odierno and Ambassador Hill in -- in working with the Iraqis toward overcoming their political differences and achieving the type of reconciliation that we all understand has yet to fully take place, but needs to take place.

QUESTION: Well, what does -- what does that mean, "oversee"? In what way will that change or enlarge his interaction with the president, with General Odierno or Ambassador Hill?

GIBBS: Well, I -- I mean, obviously, he spends a fairly decent amount of time with the president.

QUESTION: Right.

GIBBS: I think the meetings that I've been in, in different parts of the building on Iraq, the vice president has always been an active participant. I think, given his knowledge of the region, the number of times he's been there, he's perfectly suited for this type of role.

QUESTION: I guess what I'm getting at, does it mean travel? Does it mean briefing? Does it mean doing some of the things he's done more publicly, for example, on the stimulus?

GIBBS: My sense is, it probably means many of those things. Again, I think what we want to ensure happens is that, as we reach these milestones and these important dates, that we not forget that work has to be done to get our troops back and to achieve that political reconciliation. This is somebody who can oversee that at the White House and ensure that we're making continued progress toward those goals.