

RELEASE IN
PART B5

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 10:37 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: 8/10 Senior Staff Meeting

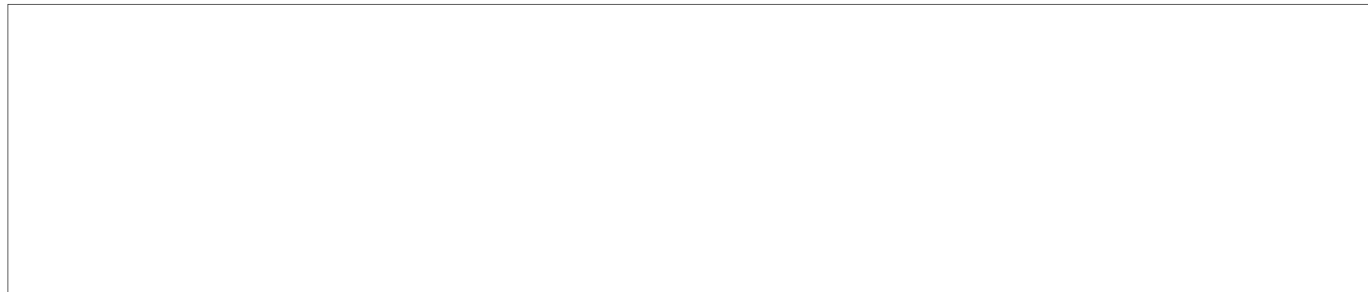
Fyi

From: Smith, Daniel B
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Mon Aug 10 10:30:54 2009
Subject: 8/10 Senior Staff Meeting

Sensitive But Unclassified

Afghanistan

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B5

Nominations and other H issues

- Mike Polt said that the Department has now eclipsed the Bush Administration's record in terms of first session confirmation of State nominees with a total of 85 (vice 73 for Bush).
- Mike noted that there are a total of 33 Codels in motion now.
- Mike said that H is preparing for the 2010 Conference. Jack said in this context that he wants H to alert him and S early on to allow them to engage on matters they care about, even if some matters appear below the threshold for 7th floor involvement. This is a new era, he stressed, and he and the Secretary feel they can be most useful if they know about problems sooner rather than later, and they are prepared to engage whenever necessary. He asked H to put together a "cluster" of issues that S and he care most about and develop a strategy for engagement.
- Chris Hill will be back in Washington in mid-September to testify before Congress. Jack noted that he planned to be in Iraq the week before that to review various issues related to the hand-over of DoD responsibilities to State.

Honduras

- I raised a pending request from OAS for U.S. Milair support for the upcoming OAS Mission to Honduras. Sheba said she wanted to check with Jim (who is in Guadalajara with the President) whether he supported this. She subsequently reported that Jim thought this was a good way for us to gain a little ground by showing support for

the mission, but he wanted to make sure we did not refer to this as the Insulza mission, but rather the "Espinosa/OAS Mission."

Public Affairs

- Robert said he anticipated some questions today about General Jones' weekend interviews where he said we would be willing to talk bilaterally to North Korea, but made it clear this should be in the context of the 6 Party Talks. Some in the press are seeking to make more of this than meets the eye.