

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2009 8:51 PM
To: H
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: Fw: Meeting with Honduran de factos

Fyi

From: Kelly, Craig A
To: Macmanus, Joseph E; Slaughter, Anne-Marie; Crocker, Bathsheba N; Mills, Cheryl D; Koh, Harold Hongju
Sent: Tue Aug 18 20:03:34 2009
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To All:

We spent about 90 minutes with the four de facto representatives. I invited them to make their points first (they often complain that people don't listen to them). They focused on the abuses Zelaya committed before June 28, pointing out that the San Jose Accord, while key to a solution, would not restore the institutional damage done to Honduras.

I said that clearly the San Jose Accords were necessary but not sufficient to clean up all the broken crockery in Honduras. But they ARE necessary – and urgent. Only by implementing the agreement can Hondurans repair the other damage with the support of the international community – which is essential for the country's success. I then reviewed all the carrots and sticks we discussed this morning. I cited the Secretary in underscoring urgency. Other countries join us, I emphasized, in seeing the mixed messages coming out of Tegucigalpa as a deliberate delaying tactic designed to move the country toward elections without Zelaya. The United States and others are losing patience with these tactics and want to see solid commitment to the Accord now.

The de factos acknowledged that the world perceives them as delaying and that they need to move quickly. I said they should commit publicly to the San Jose Accord when the OAS FMs are in Honduras next week. They said that made sense.

Then they brought up another issue. The San Jose Accord grants political amnesty but not amnesty for other crimes. They can arrest Z for corruption as soon as he returns to the country. I pushed back hard, saying no one – Arias, the OAS, the United States – understands the San Jose Accord as leading to Z's immediate arrest. The understanding is that he would resume limited functions with a national unity cabinet until he hands over power to an elected successor. To say they will arrest Z is to ensure that he does not return, and thus the collapse of the Arias plan. They seemed to back off slightly, but this remains a problem.

We are working already with other FMs and with Arias to make sure the de factos know this is a non-starter. I plan to call the de facto delegation chief back Wednesday to cite my conversations tonight with others in the region and urge him again to talk to Arias directly about this.

Meanwhile, we are pocketing their promise to agree asap to the San Jose Accord.

ck