

RELEASE IN PART
B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2009 8:30 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Honduras: Maybe, maybe

Fyi

From: Kelly, Craig A
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: Smith, Daniel B; Macmanus, Joseph E
Sent: Sat Aug 29 16:53:56 2009
Subject: Fw: Honduras: Maybe, maybe

Attached is from Lew Amselem, our rep to OAS. He gives a readout of his conversation today with Arias Accord negotiator Jon Biehl. Some nice comments about S from Biehl and Arias. I will forward another note from Hugo Llorens with similar message. Best, ck

From: Amselem, W Lewis
To: Task Force Honduras; Otero, Maria
Sent: Sat Aug 29 13:54:22 2009
Subject: Honduras: Maybe, maybe

From: amselem [redacted]
To: Amselem, W Lewis
Sent: Sat Aug 29 13:51:00 2009
Subject:

B6

Biehl called a little after 1:30 pm to say the meeting with the de facto envoys had been abruptly cancelled -- but for perhaps a positive reason.

Micheletti has asked about half the team to return to Tegucigalpa (Corrales stayed, as "he seeks to confirm that he will not lose his visa"). In the phone call he got from the de facto envoys as they headed for the airport, Biehl said he detected a positive attitude. The envoys seemed confident they would get M to sign the SJ Accord. The envoys promised to call Biehl late this afternoon with the news from Honduras. If, if, if, if, the news is positive, Biehl and OAS Political Director Victor Rico will leave for Tegucigalpa tomorrow morning to meet Micheletti, make sure this is not another time-wasting tactic, and get something in writing from him that he agrees to the Accord and will sign it.

Just before speaking to me, Biehl had spoken with Arias who expressed cautious optimism that we might have a break-through. Arias told Biehl to tell us, that if that happens the United States gets the credit.

Arias said the US has played the game exactly right, with the appropriate mix of carrots, sticks, toughness, unified message, even-handedness and, above all, good timing. Arias said the Europeans have been calling him over the past two days, and have fallen into line with the US; the Swedes, as head of the EU, and have told him that they will take their cue from the US and will support US actions. Arias, Biehl said, was extremely complimentary of the "great political instincts shown by Secretary Clinton."

With fingers crossed, the old rabbit's foot out of the box in the attic, I will be sacrificing a chicken in the backyard to Moloch . . .