

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 9:19 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Shannon & Valenzuela -- DeMint Staff Mtg

Fyi

From: Rodriguez, Miguel E
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Verma, Richard R
Sent: Mon Aug 31 18:28:48 2009
Subject: Shannon & Valenzuela -- DeMint Staff Mtg

Cheryl,

Rich and I met this morning with Chris Socha, Senator DeMint's foreign policy staffer. We took the opportunity to discuss the nominations of Tom Shannon and Arturo Valenzuela. As you know, DeMint has been very outspoken regarding Zelaya's ouster in Honduras.

With respect to Tom, it appears as though little has changed – DeMint still appears to be insisting on some amount of floor debate followed by a roll call vote on the nomination. How much time and when is still something that needs to be worked out. We've been following up on our end, but the DeMint camp has slow walked things a bit. We expect to come to some agreement when the Senate reconvenes.

Arturo's nomination is in a different posture. As we approached the Senate's August recess, there appeared to be some loosening of DeMint's hold on him. After speaking with DeMint's staff, we're still hopeful that we could get Arturo confirmed by either voice vote or by unanimous consent when the Senate returns. However, **Chris warned that DeMint is monitoring closely the Administration's position with regards to sanctions. He warned that if a coup determination is made and new sanctions levied, this could very well have an adverse impact on how Arturo's nomination moves forward.**

We wanted to alert you to this latter point because we understand a determination from L could be coming down shortly.

DeMint's staffer explained that the Senator would welcome a call from either S or Deputy Steinberg, and he thought a call could go a long way to freeing up Arturo's nomination. We're preparing a call sheet for Deputy Steinberg.

Thanks.

Miguel E. Rodríguez

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