

RELEASE IN PART B5

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2009 12:20 AM
To: H
Subject: FW: A request for Monday

Per my prior email

Cdm

From: Connelly, Maura
To: Barks-Ruggles, Erica J
Cc: Bakshi, Amar; Blair, Oni K; Goldberger, Thomas H; Bass, Warren; Holmstrom, Todd C; Schlicher, Ronald L; Rudman, Mara
Sent: Sat Oct 17 18:09:41 2009
Subject: Re: A request for Monday

Erica, we are of course always ready to help. But I have to say the way in which these papers have been tasked has been, frankly, chaotic. For two Fridays in a row we were sent taskers after 9 or 10 pm with short deadlines, and fulfillment of one set of requirements has only led to another. We also note that there has not generally been an effort to distinguish among bureaus in terms of substantive responsibilities and NEA has repeatedly had to refer USUN-W to other bureaus, especially PRM and somewhat mystifyingly, IO.

I am honestly not quite sure what is needed now. There is already an IO-drafted paper on Israel in the UN that I cleared Friday evening. Are you asking us to script her on that topic for her meetings? I doubt very much that Ambassador Rice's interlocutors will seek to draw her into a discussion of the Israeli or Palestinian economies and I can't think why she would raise that topic with them and what policy points we would expect her to make in the context of her visit. If you really need background papers on the two economies, we can give you them.

B5

We'll work on the BCLs at OOB Monday with input from posts. Our aim is to provide Amb Rice maximum support. Best,
Maura

From: Barks-Ruggles, Erica J
To: Connelly, Maura
Cc: Bakshi, Amar; Blair, Oni K; Goldberger, Thomas H; Bass, Warren
Sent: Sat Oct 17 15:40:52 2009
Subject: A request for Monday

Maura –

Your folks have been terrific (especially Oni and Tom's team) in working with us yesterday and today to get papers ready for the trip. We continue to scrounge up the last bits and pieces from the field and here, but we've given the main briefing books to Amb. Rice who is digesting them now, and we'll get her add ons tomorrow.

After going through things briefly with her this afternoon, there is one request that we have on the substantive front. We'd like to get (at whatever classification level is appropriate) really two additional meaty papers for her meetings with Netanyahu and Liberman. These would supplement the material in her book. We are aware that these will be tough meetings, but we also view them as a good opportunity to also cover a lot of ground. There are a lot of issues not in the current papers that could come up: from Israel in the UN system, to Iran, to settlements, to the current Temple Mount crisis, to the Israel and Palestinian economies, to the security barrier, etc.. Tom and his team may have additional issues they'd like her to raise as well. She'd like to be over prepared for these meetings and realizes that the SBU format has not given your team the latitude to get that done.

In these two cases could we get classified supplemental for her BCLs with lots of background, TPs, etc. Please blow off any length requirements, etc. – longer and more comprehensive is better in this case.

We know that doing these over the weekend is unreasonable. We can arrange to get these to her after she lands in Israel. Would it be possible – on the high side – to get these two additional pieces by COB Monday?

- Erica

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