

RELEASE IN
PART B5,B6

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2009 8:31 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Honduras Update

From: Kelly, Craig A
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma
Cc: Shannon, Thomas A
Sent: Fri Nov 06 08:26:36 2009
Subject: FW: Honduras Update

Cheryl:

I know Tom is doing a note to you, but I wanted to you see this, just in from Hugo Llorens. We may be asking S to call Z, and perhaps M.

ck

SBU
 This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Llorens, Hugo
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2009 8:21 AM
To: Aguilera, Patricia; Amselem, W Lewis; Brands, William R; Cue, Lourdes C; Doug Fraser
 [redacted] drestrepo [redacted] Eugene Gray ([redacted]); Gonzalez, Francisco J;
 Gonzalez, Juan S; Henshaw, Simon; Jacobson, Roberta S; Kelly, Craig A; Otero, Maria; Papp, Andrew W; Paul Trivelli
 [redacted] SES-O; Shannon, Thomas A; Webster, Christopher W; Williams, Bisa
Cc: Task Force Honduras
Subject: Honduras Update

B6

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Following a full day of negotiations with both Honduran commissioners (Ambassador Jorge Arturo Reina and Arturo Corrales), we were able to get the two sides at the table to agree to issue a statement that both sides remained committed and working towards the goal of creating a Government of National Unity (GNU). Both sides also agreed that discussion of the lists would begin this morning and that a final cabinet would be composed and be ready to announce as soon as they had come up with a final list. Unfortunately, likely influenced by ALBA members and buoyed by the Rio Group's support, Z insisted that without a clear path to restoration, he would not agree to form the GNU. Z pressed OAS officials (Jose Bordon and Enrique Correa) and me that restitution had to be granted immediately (linking Articles 1 and 5 of the Accord). He later modified his demand that the Verification Commission approach the National Congress and insist that a date be established for congressional consideration of restitution. Z refused to consider issuing the statement and discuss the cabinet lists. By contrast, M agreed to issue the statement that had been jointly drafted by Reina and Corrales and also said he had developed a list of potential cabinet ministers and even instructed his current regime cabinet members to present their resignations.

We were able to convince Ambassador Reina that the "step-by-step" approach was best. We insisted as per guidance by President Lagos and Secretary Solis that if agreement was reached on a GNU, the next logical step would be to find the mechanism to swear-in the new cabinet. Once the new cabinet was sworn-in, this would require M to step down. We made the case that once M and his regime no longer existed, than Z had the best chance for Congress to deal with the restitution issue in a rational manner, which provided the best prospects for a successful vote. Unfortunately, Reina and Rodil Rivera Rodil (who attended several of the negotiations) were not able to bring Z around. I discussed the issue with Z several times, including an early telephone conversation at 1330 this morning. He insisted that he did not believe that M would step down. He said that efforts to placate M would only lead to the loss of prestige of the OAS and the democratic community.

In the absence of an agreement, M convened a press conference last night at 12 AM and announced that he had formed a GNU – but did not give the names. The presumption here was that M would run the GNU; however he did say that he remained open to receiving names from Z. I've also heard that M has offered the key Ministry of Governance to Juan Ferrara, an old friend, and someone who is highly respected for his integrity. I advised Ferrara to be cautious since agreement had not been reached by both sides on a cabinet.

We (with the OAS) plan to convene both sides to the table this morning and attempt to focus efforts on Accord implementation back on track. We will urge them to agree to issue a statement that although there are difference they remain committed to resolving them and to implement the Accord in good faith. I plan to meet with Z people in a few minutes and hopefully we can get the two sides together this morning.

Hugo Llorens
Ambassador
U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa, Honduras
504 236-9320 ext. 4268

B5