

RELEASE IN
PART B5

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2009 11:57 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: 11/9 Senior Staff and Assistant Secretaries Meeting

From: Smith, Daniel B
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Mon Nov 09 11:43:00 2009
Subject: 11/9 Senior Staff and Assistant Secretaries Meeting

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIEDSomalia

- Jack noted that he will attend the PC on Somalia today. There followed a general discussion of the likely outcome and our press guidance. [REDACTED]

Palau

- [REDACTED]

Honduras

- Jack said that he has found \$1.2 million to support elections in Honduras. In the subsequent meeting, he asked Tom Shannon whether the money will truly be needed in light of the situation on the ground. Tom indicated that it would be, though it might be channeled through NGOs. Tom also reported that the talks had continued over the weekend. One idea being floated is the creation of a national unity government, with Micheletti leaving the country in the interim (likely to Panama). Tom said he planned to send Craig Kelly to Honduras tomorrow to continue our mediation efforts.

Iran

- Bill said he would draft a note to the Secretary with the latest on Iran, but essentially the Russians reported no breakthrough.

Congressional Issues

- Jack said that he meets with Senator Lugar tomorrow on the issue of USAID and USDA roles in Afghanistan, and hopes to convince him to remove holds on our money.

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- The House is out this week. The Senate is in for part of the week. SFRC has a business committee meeting tomorrow and we hope to have a number of nominees voted out.
- Tom Shannon will meet with Senator LeMieux tomorrow in hopes of having the hold on his nomination lifted.

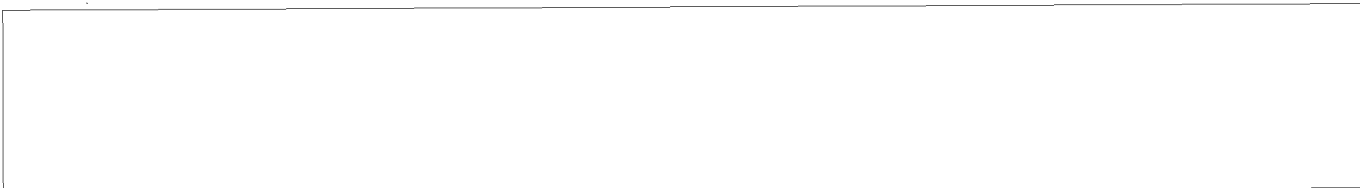
Public Affairs

- PJ noted that 60 Minutes is preparing a story on corruption in Afghanistan, focused especially on the role of President Karzai. Some of Ambassador Holbrooke's staff will brief those involved.

Assistant Secretaries Meeting -- Highlights

Detainees and Malaysia

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EAP

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WHA

- Chavez has ordered 15,000 troops to the border with Colombia to protect against possible aggression by Colombia and/or U.S. Last time he ordered a mobilization of 10,000, only 500 showed up, Tom noted.

Global Women's Issues

- Melanne Vermeer is in New Delhi to launch the Women's Empowerment Pillar of the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue.

South Central Asia

- The Australian FM is in Sri Lanka today to discuss, among other things, the fate of Internally Displaced Persons. He may try to speak to the Secretary later this week (SCA is preparing some points). SCA noted that approximately 92,000 IDPs have left the camps, a third of the total, and most are returning to their villages.

AF

- AF noted that while much of the attention on violence in Eastern Congo has focused on the role of the 213th Brigade, the problem is much bigger and involves internal security forces and police as well.
- AF raised the idea of issuing a statement expressing concerns over the Democratic Republic of the Congo taking over the Kimberley diamond process next year. Jim suggested we join forces with others in issuing a joint statement which would have a bigger impact.

NEA

- Iraqi Parliament approved the draft election law, but the Presidency Council has fifteen days in which to approve or disapprove. Everyone is fairly optimistic it will be approved.

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