

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009 3:50 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Last thoughts

Let me know when you are up

----- Original Message -----

From: Shannon, Thomas A
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Sat Nov 14 08:43:30 2009
Subject: Last thoughts

I want to thank all three of you for the tremendous support you have given me and WHA since the beginning of the Obama Administration. I am especially grateful to the Secretary for the confidence she has shown in me, and her willingness to make me part of her team. I consider this an enormous honor and I hope that I have met her expectations. I look forward to continuing to be part of her team from Brazil.

I am preparing a "Last Thoughts" paper for the Secretary, which will look back over the past ten months, identify accomplishments, and point toward what I think needs to come next. I will share this paper with Arturo.

Regarding Honduras, Craig did heroic work there this week, and we are moving toward a potentially big step by Micheletti that would open space for many of our allies to support the elections. As we move forward, it is important to note that the solution to the crisis is becoming more and more Honduran with each step in the process. This is a good thing, because it increases the chances that the resolution will be peaceful, enduring, and a platform for the political reforms that must come next.

It is worth highlighting that the Secretary, through her outreach to both sides and her clear commitment to the future of Honduran democracy, has positioned us as an honest broker in this dispute. The only honest broker. Everyone else in this drama -- from Insulza to the Brazilians to the Albinos -- has other agendas and motives in play. In this regard, we are the only hope of the Honduran people. The internal dialogue taking place, within the de facto regime, among its supporters, and between the Micheletti and Zelaya camps, is the product of our engagement. No one else could have done this. I urge that you keep this in mind as we move forward and as we consider how we will support the November 29 elections.

Finally, I leave behind a great Bureau. I believe it is the best in the State Department. Craig and the other DASes are superb, and I believe we have an extraordinary cadre of Ambassadors. This is a huge resource for the Secretary and the President. Use it.

Again, my deepest thanks to you and the Secretary.