

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2009 9:52 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Sunday Update

From: Kelly, Craig A
To: Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J; Mills, Cheryl D; Burns, William J; Steinberg, James B
Sent: Sun Nov 15 21:51:19 2009
Subject: Fw: Sunday Update

Below is Amb Hugo Llorens' Sunday update. Things appeared to be moving briskly tonight, and the military is playing a positive role in nailing down the step-aside. Our main de facto contact (and their lead negotiator for the Accord) wants me to come down Tuesday. Hugo supports -- we will work tomorrow to refine the mission. I would also see Z to urge him to get back in the game -- see below.

Best,

ck

From: Llorens, Hugo
To: Aguilera, Patricia; Amselem, W Lewis; Brands, William R; Cue, Lourdes C; [REDACTED]; drestrepo [REDACTED]; Eugene Gray [REDACTED]; Gonzalez, Francisco J; Gonzalez, Juan S; Henshaw, Simon; Jacobson, Roberta S; Kelly, Craig A; Otero, Maria; Paul Trivelli [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; SES-O; Shannon, Thomas A; Sullivan, Jacob J; Swisher, Robert W; Valenzuela, Arturo A; Webster, Christopher W; Williams, Bisa; Wolfe, David C; Zambrano, Maria Gabriela
Sent: Sun Nov 15 13:03:59 2009
Subject: Sunday Update

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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Saturday Night Surprise: The one constant with Z is his unpredictability and his love of surprises. The Saturday night letter sent to President Obama was vintage Z. As was the case with his decision to pull out of the Tegucigalpa-San Jose Accord (TSJA), Z took this action with minimal consultation with his advisors. (Note: Z's Minister of Governance Victor Meza and his lead negotiator in the Guaymuras Dialogue told me this morning that he was completely surprised, stressed that Z never hinted that he was considering this option, and admitted that he learned about the letter from media reports. End Note). The letter, which criticizes U.S. policy and alleges that the U.S. has changed policy course in mid-stream is designed to enhance pressure on the Administration and separate us from the rest of the region. It also signals that Z has made the clear determination to oppose the elections and label the vote illegitimate. Most importantly, by renouncing restitution he has made the decision to be the eternal victim of the coup at the expense of an Accord that provided a possible mechanism for his restoration (more likely after the elections) and a chance to resolve the crisis in a manner that could reestablish a measure of balance and reconciliation to this crisis-ridden nation.

At the same time, Z's unilateral decision to renounce reaching any deal with the de facto's and any claim to be restored to the presidency has possible advantages. M has all along stated that he would willingly resign and would not stay one more second than necessary if it was for the good of the country. His one condition has been that Z also renounce his claim to restoration. Paradoxically, Z's announcement may meet that political condition and establish the path for M's quick resignation. The replacement of the M regime has been a consistent U.S. policy objective that would send a powerful message to the region that those who perpetrated that coup would not be able to get away with it. We need

to leverage Z's "Saturday Night Surprise" to aggressively push this concept. There appears to be movement in that direction here in Tegucigalpa but it is not appropriate to discuss in this channel. We are in touch with Pepe Lobo, Elvin Santos, former President Flores, and General V. We are also in close touch with the OAS's Enrique Correa here in Tegucigalpa on this issue, who is himself in close contact with Secretary General Insulza. We will speak to others in the course of the day.

The clock is ticking. All the good polling suggests that the mass of the Honduran people are looking forward to the elections as a means to move beyond M and Z. Z's letter may provide the set of conditions that could potentially contribute to a solution. We must retain the initiative and seek to dramatically change the political equation in our favor this week.

Hugo Llorens

Ambassador

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