

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Crowley, Philip J <CrowleyPJ@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 11:30 PM
To: H
Cc: Koh, Harold Hongju
Subject: Merry Christmas

We had a little fun at today's briefing. Our friends in the media have been bugging us regarding your holiday plans, so we announced your departure from Washington in the following way:

"...And finally, a few of you have asked about the schedule of the Secretary of State over the next few days. I can tell you this morning the Secretary departed Washington and she stopped at the North Pole for an important bilateral meeting with a well known international figure. During the meeting, in a formal demarche, sung to the tune of Twelve Days of Christmas, the Secretary outlined her aspirations for the new year. They include, and feel free to hum along: open and accountable governments, Middle East negotiations, more civilians in Afghanistan, empowerment of women, fewer nuclear weapons, respect for human rights, resolution of historic grievances, treaties through the United States Senate, Six-Party Talks, dialogue with Iran, enough food for people of the world to eat, climate change legislation, and lastly, a championship for the Boston Red Sox. Okay, that last one's not on her list, but Harold Koh and I thought it was important that we mention that here."

It is a privilege to be a part of your team. We wish you, the President and Chelsea all the best during the holiday season and look forward to great achievements in 2010, with one tiny exception.

PJ